



Arkansas Department of Education  
Charter Authorizing Panel  
Attention: Darrell Smith (ADE)  
Dustin Wood (ADE)

Re: Non-Renewal and Dissolution of Hope Academy of Northwest Arkansas Charter

April 1, 2025

At a special board meeting on March 31, 2025, the school board of Hope Academy of Northwest Arkansas voted unanimously to dissolve and not renew the charter for Hope Academy, effective the last day of school of the 2024-2025 school year. We appreciate the assistance and guidance of the Charter Authorizing Panel and the Department of Education throughout our initial 5-year charter.

To continue providing much-needed programs for Arkansas children impacted by trauma, the Hope Academy model will transition from a stand-alone charter school to a shared services model. This new model will integrate trauma-centered services into preK-12 schools across the state and provide individualized, neurobiologically-responsive programs specifically designed to support students affected by adverse experiences, including abuse, neglect, and household dysfunction.

The comprehensive model includes trauma-informed educator training while also integrating classroom behavior support and wraparound services for families. This holistic approach ensures that educators feel empowered and supported, leading to improved teacher retention and a more positive and effective learning environment. A pilot program is underway with a full rollout expected in the 2026-2027 school year.

Sincerely,

Rebekah Mitchell, CEO  
Northwest Arkansas Children's Shelter and Hope Academy

Douglas Hes, Superintendent  
Hope Academy