

2023 New Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Application

Garfield Scholars' Academy

Name of Proposed Charter

Initial Application - **Deadline May 15, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.**

Applications will not be accepted after this time.

Final Application - **Deadline July 17, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.**

Applications will not be accepted after this time.

Any application that is substantially incomplete will not be forwarded to the authorizer for consideration. An application will be considered substantially incomplete if it does not provide enough information to enable staff at the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education to provide a meaningful review.

Division of Elementary and Secondary Education

Charter School Office

Four Capitol Mall

Little Rock, AR 72201

501-683-5312

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name of Proposed Charter:	Garfield Scholars' Academy
Primary Contact for Application:	Joy Thomas Sawyer, EdS
Primary Contact Phone:	501-253-3707
Primary Contact Cell:	501-253-3707
Primary Contact Email:	77joy.lyn@gmail.com

Name of sponsoring entity:

Garfield Education Foundation

The sponsoring entity is eligible to apply for a public-school charter under the following category:

- A public institution of higher education
- A private nonsectarian institution of higher education
- A governmental entity

X An organization that is nonsectarian in its programs and operations and is, or will be, exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code

Name of Charter Management Organization:

N/A

Other Schools Managed by the CMO:

Name of School	Location	Year Established
N/A		

1. Describe the public hearing which was held for the purpose of assessing support for the establishment of this public charter school. Include the number of attendees and the feedback and/or public comments that were received.

On March 14th, 2023, an initial presentation was requested and presented at the March City Council meeting by the Mayor of Garfield, Gary Blackburn. Subsequently, the required public hearing was called by the proposed Director of the Garfield Scholars' Academy on **Tuesday, April 25th, 2023**. Notices were published on 4/2, 4/9 and 4/16 in the Sunday edition of The Northwest Arkansas Democrat Gazette. The hearing was also promoted online through social media for the cities of Garfield, Gateway and Avoca who are all currently served by the Garfield School. The City of Garfield included information about the meeting in their water bill for April to residents.

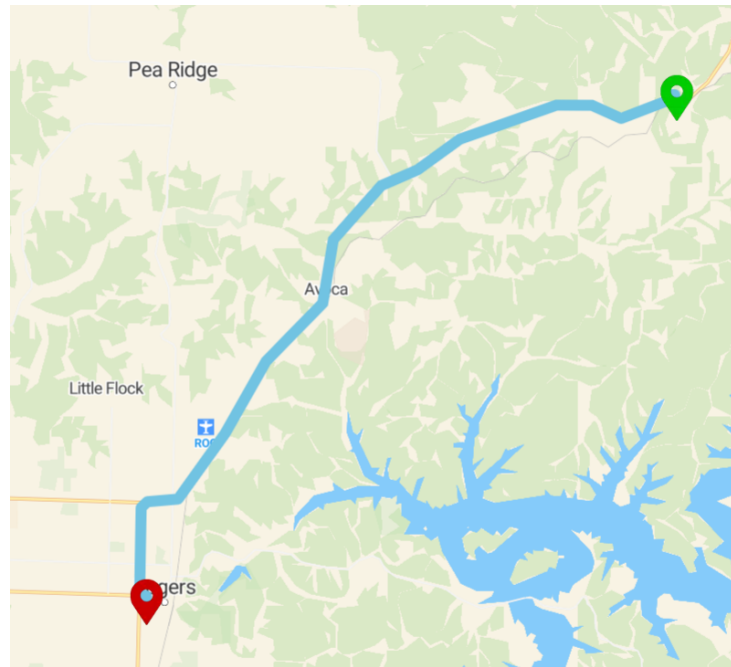
The Garfield Mayor, City Council and Community Stakeholders have been actively supportive of the Garfield Scholars' Academy from the beginning. We reached out to Senator Joshua Bryant who attended our public meeting. Twenty-six people and representatives from local news media were in attendance. A television interview of the proposed Director of Schools was conducted with KNWA-TV, outlining the relevant geographic need for a charter school in Garfield.

The superintendents of the Rogers Public Schools and Pea Ridge Public Schools were notified by email on Monday, April 3 of the intention to apply for an open-enrollment charter school in Garfield, AR. Dr. Jeff Perry, Rogers Public Schools, responded on that same day that he was in receipt of the email. Keith Martin, Pea Ridge Public Schools did not respond to the email so a letter was sent via USPS with a return receipt on Wednesday, April 5th. The letter was delivered and signed for on Friday, April 8th. These notices and the returned receipt are attached.

The proposed mission, vision and curriculum overview were presented, along with the existing educational challenges in this community calling for an open-enrollment public elementary school option. Time was allotted for questions from the public. Two surveys, one for parents/guardians and one for community members were distributed on relevant social media outlets for the public-at-large. Results of the surveys were presented containing ideas from the community. The Slides presentation, attendance pages and relevant survey results regarding community support have been included in the attachments.

2. Describe the educational need for the charter in the geographical area to be served. Include quantitative data related to academic achievement.

On January 18, 2023, the Rogers Public School Board of Education reached the decision to close Garfield Elementary School after the 2023-2024 school year. This will create an educational desert for the students living in the small communities surrounding Garfield. There is both an educational need and a community need for the school to remain open as a charter school. The closure of this school creates a hardship for the families of these young students as the nearest elementary school in the Rogers Public School District is approximately 13 miles from their current campus. (See Map Attachment) Students who may be accepted as “school of choice” students in the Pea Ridge School District would still have a 10-12 mile drive to school. Travel time to and from school for students would increase to as much as or more than one and a half hours one way each day if they continue enrollment in a Rogers Public School. Providing a free public option to this community will allow students to, among other things, arrive at school awake, alert and ready to learn. Additionally, the distance to the school where students will be relocated will negatively impact parental involvement in their student’s’ education. In many cases parents would have to travel 30 minutes to an hour home after work, retrieve their child(ren) and then, turn around and drive the same distance to attend any school events. This creates an education desert for the students who live in the Garfield school zone. Having a public charter school option in this community will allow long-standing community relationships between the school and families to continue into the future.



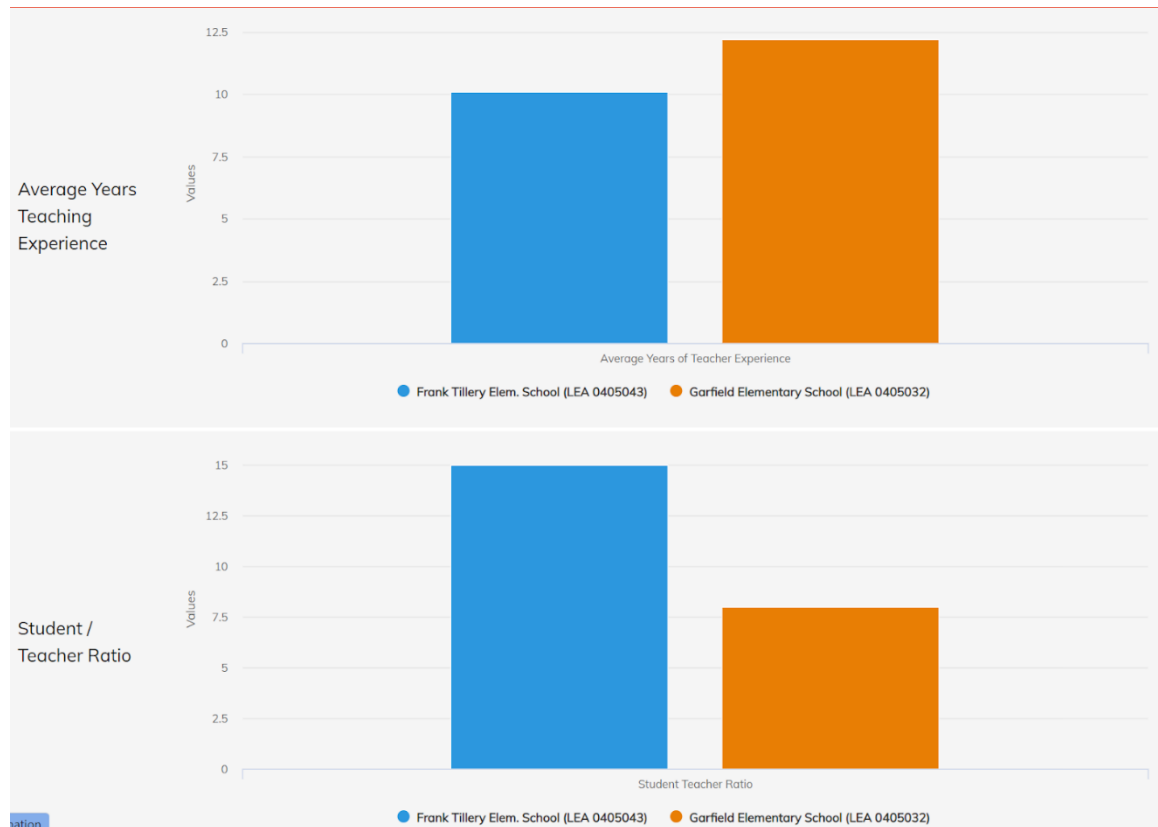
from 18432 Marshall Street, Garfield, Arkansas 72...
to 211 South 7th Street, Rogers, Arkansas 72756, ...

← Search again

18 mins (21.91 km)

Currently, Garfield Elementary School is achieving the Report Card grade of a B. In the 2021-22 school year, the performance in Mathematics at Garfield for 3rd and 4th grades were higher than both the state and the relocation school, Frank Tillery Elementary. I seek to continue and improve this performance level by ensuring that students arrive at school alert and ready to learn, parents have many opportunities to be involved in their child's education and community members act as mentors so those students whose parents can't be as involved as they would like to be for whatever reason have someone in their corner helping them to succeed.

Due to the COVID pandemic, there are no ACT Aspire scores on the report card for the 2021-22 or the 2022-23 school year.



Smaller class sizes and a higher average years of teaching experience give students access to more expert individual attention. All current Garfield teachers will be given the opportunity to remain employed at Garfield.

3. Describe in general terms, the area within the boundaries of the school district where the applicant intends to obtain a facility to be used for the open-enrollment public charter school.

The current facility operating as Garfield Elementary School at 18432 Marshall St., Garfield, AR 72732, is the proposed location of Garfield Scholars' Academy. This historic school building is located 13.6 miles from the nearest elementary within the Rogers Public School system. Pea Ridge School District Primary School is 11 miles away. Students served by this building live as many as 20 miles away from the nearest Rogers Public School where they would be relocated. This building serves the communities of Garfield, Gateway and Lost Springs Village. It is also near Avoca and other areas of rural Benton County in NWA.

While the city of Garfield has been promised acquisition of this property by the Rogers School District, we will plan for an alternative site if this does not occur. Should the current school building not be available, we will seek use of a church or municipal facility to partner with until funding can be secured for a new building. Our first choice, however, is to be able to continue school operations in the current elementary school location.

SCHOOL INFORMATION

	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029
Grades to be Offered	K-5	PK-6	PK-7	PK-8	PK-8

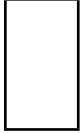
Enrollment Cap	200	250	280	310	340
-----------------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------

Charter Site Address:	18432 Marshall Street
City:	Garfield, Arkansas 72732
Chief Operating Officer:	Joy Thomas Sawyer, EdS
Phone:	501-253-3707
School District Where Charter Will be Located:	Rogers Public Schools
List the districts from which the charter school expects to draw students:	Rogers Public Schools Pea Ridge Public Schools

4. What type of educational model will the school follow?

Traditional

- 100% Virtual-
- College Prep
- Credit Recovery/ALE
- Community School



Other:

5. Provide the mission statement of the proposed charter school:

The mission of Garfield Scholars' Academy is to empower our scholars to be purposeful learners, critical and creative thinkers, motivated citizens and leaders, and determined lifelong learners. The mission will be accomplished by:

- Involving each learner in their education through individual goal setting
- Providing opportunities to think critically and creatively to solve real world relevant problems
- Developing self-awareness and a sense of self-worth to build confidence and become successful
- Recognizing and celebrating "Ah-Ha" moments so students can see that learning is relevant and fun
- Involving parents and community in all aspects of education and to create a community where learning is valued and respected.

We are committed to creating strong partnerships with families and all community members to ensure each scholar reaches their full potential.

We are committed to creating an equitable, inclusive, learning environment for students that is character-focused and addresses the unique skills and needs of our students. Small group and multi-sensory learning will be applied to daily classroom offerings that tap into students' best learning styles and strategies. This is a strength-based model which capitalizes on students' best way to learn rather than how they are deficient or don't fit the "norm".

6. Provide a list and brief description of the programmatic features that the school will implement to accomplish the mission as it pertains to its educational model.

Core Values:

- A. School will be a safe, encouraging, positive environment in which students can learn and reach their full potential.
- B. Learning will address the needs of the whole child in ways they learn best: emotional, social, cognitive/academic, physical, and character-building.
- C. Garfield scholars will participate in personal goal setting, fostering involvement and personal responsibility in the learning process.
- D. Educators and scholars will work in collaborative, cross-grade level teams to inform and scaffold student learning.
- E. We recognize the value of parent and community support and participation in the local school and will strive to foster open communication and strong relationships with all stakeholders.
- F. Data-driven decisions will address student achievement, identification of student strengths and deficit areas, and guide selection and implementation of intervention measures.

Programmatic Features:

- A. Naturalistic, Hands-on Approach to Learning
 - 1. Science labs, Math labs and Indoor/Outdoor Learning Labs
 - 2. School-wide Gardening/Greenhouse
 - 3. Entrepreneurial Opportunities
 - 1. Farm- to- Table Program
 - 2. Farmer's Market
 - 3. School Store
- A. Family/Community Involvement for Learning
 - 1. Parent and Community Engagement Activities
 - 2. FACE (Family and Community Engagement) Committee
 - 3. Community Teachers (AQT)
 - 4. Parent Universities on "How to Support Your Scholars' Learning at Home"
 - 5. Volunteer Options
- B. Strength-based, Individualized Approach to Learning
 - 1. Inclusive Classrooms
 - 2. Annual Individual Student Success Plans
 - 3. Frequent Monitoring of Progress
 - 4. Use of RTI model to identify students at risk
 - 5. CARE (Collaborative Assessment Responsive Education) team
 - 6. Character-building and personal goal setting fostering personal involvement, responsibility and accountability
- C. Integrated Curriculum
 - 1. Traditional Instructional Approach with Strong Foundation of Core Content
 - 2. Multisensory Instruction to Support Neuro-diverse Learners

3. TEAMS Approach for Enrichment and Extension (Technology, Economics, Agriculture, Mathematics, and Science)

7. Establish performance criteria that will be used to measure the school’s progress in improving student learning and meeting or exceeding the state educational goals. The mission of the school should be reflected in the performance criteria.

Goal	Measuring Instrument
75% of scholars K-5 will achieve a year’s growth overall on the MAP Reading assessment by the end of the 2024-25 school year.	NWEA MAP Reading
75% of scholars K-5 will achieve a year’s growth overall on the MAP Math assessment by the end of the 2024-25 school year.	NWEA MAP Math
75% of all non-exempted populations in grades 3-5 will be proficient or better in all areas on the annual state assessment at the end of the 2024-25 school year.	ATLAS Assessment

CURRICULUM

8. Will the school provide the required courses as outlined in the Standards for Accreditation and the 38 Required High School Course Offerings? If not, explain what changes will be made. What additional electives will be offered?

Yes, Garfield Scholars' Academy will align the curriculum with the standards set forth by the AR Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. DCTE standards will be embedded in curriculum offerings.

9. Describe the process that will be used to ensure all curriculum materials used in the educational program are aligned with the Arkansas Academic Standards?

All curriculum will be aligned to AR State Standards and reviewed by a committee of teachers and the Director of Schools. The Board will approve curricula prior to implementation. We will work to partner with Rogers Public Schools to ensure that our curriculum is vertically aligned so that Garfield Scholars' Academy scholars can easily transition to secondary levels within the Rogers Public School system.

10. Describe how reading instruction and literacy will be addressed. Address each of the following questions.

a) What curricula are used that are aligned to the Science of Reading and are there any limitations to the selected materials?

The Garfield Scholars' Academy will use DESE- approved curricula that align with all AR State Curriculum Standards. Specifically, in grades K-3, we will use Foundations Reading Curriculum to introduce and strengthen phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, and vocabulary leading to comprehension skills. This teaches accuracy of decoding, spelling, and handwriting in a carefully integrated and scaffolded sequence. Additionally, a program such as Wit and Wisdom, will be added into K-5 literacy instruction to foster knowledge-building, development of reading and writing skills, and mastery of ELA skills. In Grades 4-5, we will use a program aligned with the Science of Reading from the Arkansas DESE Literacy Curriculum Approved Programs.

b) What is the plan for ensuring that all teachers will be trained in the Science of Reading?

At the Garfield Scholars' Academy, all new teachers hired will have completed Science of Reading training no later than May of their first year of teaching. We will utilize professional development funding under Ark. Code Ann. § 6-20- 2305(b)(5) provided to an open-enrollment public charter school in the first year of operation and in our second through fourth years, as we add grade levels each year respectively.

c) Will there be Science of Reading assessors in the charter school?

We will utilize the professional development funding under Ark. Code Ann. § i6-20-2305(b)(5) to train the Director of Schools and at least one other school leader of the Garfield Scholars' Academy to become an assessor of Science of Reading for our school as soon as possible after the charter is approved.

STUDENT SERVICES

11. Describe how the school will provide comprehensive counseling services for all students. Include a description of the services, who will be providing the services, how the provider(s) will be trained, and the time allotment to carry out the counseling program.

Garfield Scholars' Academy will seek to hire a certified school counselor for direct services to students, including classroom guidance, individual student planning, responsive services, and system support, as well as indirect services on behalf of the student. We will also utilize private sector counseling services such as Ozark Guidance Counseling - Rogers-Bentonville Children's Services and ReWild the Child as a resource on the school campus to meet the needs of our students and families in the community.

As outlined in Act 190, the counseling team and faculty will establish a developmentally appropriate guidance program to aid students in educational, personal/social, and career development. We will establish counseling protocols, review mandatory reporting regulations, and steps to follow when a scholar is in crisis or at risk. Appropriate time will be allotted for the counselor to engage in direct and indirect services for students (90%) and engage in administrative duties (10%).

GSA will implement a weekly program to build strong character, emotional resilience, self-regulation and high levels of self-efficacy among scholars.

GSA will partner with 4 Paws Across America to create a therapy dog program. Therapy dogs will be used to increase attendance, reduce tardiness, provide confidence to scholars in reading, promote community involvement, incentivize learning and teach emotional regulation among students who suffer with anxiety.

12. Describe how the school will provide library media services for all students. Make sure to address the following questions.

a) How will access to materials that support curriculum, research, and recreational reading be provided to students and teachers.

New resources, technologies, books, and curriculum support materials will be curated through grant funding and by the Garfield Education Foundation nonprofit organization supporting our school. All teachers and students will have access to these materials in our school Library Media Center. The Garfield Education Foundation will seek additional grants and funding to purchase electronic devices for classroom use.

b) If there will be no librarian who will provide instruction in the use of the library and the Library Media Standards, and how will they be trained to teach the standards?

Our plan is to hire a part-time library media specialist or someone who is an AQT, proficient in the delivery of these standards. One of the special rotations will include a weekly visit to the library where students will not only have the opportunity to select new literature but have instruction on these library media standards.

c) If there is no librarian, who will provide professional development in new and emerging technologies, integration of technology into the instructional programs, and in the laws and policies pertaining to the use and communication of ideas and information, including copyright law?

If the librarian is not available to teach emerging technologies, the Director of Schools for the Garfield Scholars' Academy will ensure that technology integration is provided to teachers via professional development. Professional development opportunities are available on the DESE website.

d) Will the school have written policies for selection, removal, and retention of materials as well as a policy for addressing challenged materials, and who will be responsible for implementing those policies?

We will be selecting all new materials secured with funding from the Garfield Education Foundation. As required by Act 372, a committee of all stakeholders representative of the school's population and the community will select appropriate titles for our media center. If a title is challenged, it will be brought to the Director and

a committee of teachers for review. If a majority decision cannot be reached, the final decision will be deferred to our Board of Directors.

13. Describe how the school will provide special education services for all students. Address each of the following areas.

a) Describe how you will identify students who have a disability and may need special education and related services (Child Find).

An experienced licensed special education teacher will be part of our Garfield Scholars' Academy staff to serve our scholars with special needs. General education classroom teachers will utilize the Response to Intervention (RTI) model to identify students at risk, requiring tier 2 & 3 support, and time bound progress monitoring enabling the learner to excel. If these methods do not produce adequate progress and growth, the CARE (Collaborative Assessment Responsive Education) team will decide if a special education referral is the next step. GSA leadership understands that some students will present with an immediate need for special education services. The RTI process will not block a referral for special education services.

The special education teacher, school counselor and administration will work with parents and teachers to ensure that there is no gap in services for students new to GSA.

This plan will enable these learners to reach their potential in their LRE (Least Restrictive Environment) and receive a tailored educational experience designed specifically to meet their individual needs.

A written Child Find plan will be developed and maintained which outlines the systematic and continued efforts of Garfield Scholars Academy to annually provide notice to parents of identification and evaluation activities and scheduled school screenings in accordance with Arkansas law. Garfield Scholar's Academy will send out a notice to parents and the community regarding services provided. Non-English language speakers will be provided information in their native language.

b) Describe the Least Restrictive Environment continuum available.

The LRE (Least Restrictive Environment) will be described and outlined in the IEP (Individualized Education Program) as mandated by federal law or IDEA. A student with a disability identified in an IEP or 504 will be educated in the general education classroom alongside their age-appropriate peers as much as possible. Small group or one-on-one instruction will be utilized if the learner's thinking or learning difference is so severe that the service cannot be appropriately provided within the general education setting. A full continuum of IDEA services (FAPE, Child Find, LRE, Referral Process, Annual Comprehensive Evaluation, Related Services, Due Process, and IEPs) will be provided for any student for whom this need is determined in accordance with all state and federal laws and timelines.

c) Describe your plan for adhering to all federal and state special education laws and rules.

Two people with special educational backgrounds have been appointed to the Board of Directors. The Garfield Scholars' Academy's Director of Schools will serve in the capacity of the Special Education Designee.

A CARE team will be selected and composed of the special education teacher, counselor, classroom teacher, Director of Schools, and a Board representative with special education background. The student's parent/guardian will also be a part of the team. The CARE team will ensure all state and federal special regulations and laws will be prioritized, implemented and followed.

d) Describe how you will provide related services such as Speech-Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and Physical Therapy. (Medicaid cannot be the sole funding source for related services. The district must have their own Medicaid number if related services are billed through Medicaid. The charter is responsible for paying Medicaid match.)

GSA will contract with outside service providers for OT, PT and Speech services based on the needs of our enrolled students. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act prohibits discrimination based on a disability. Garfield Scholars' Academy will ensure any evaluation is scheduled in a timely manner and a decision is made based on the scholar's needs. The necessary accommodations needed to grant the child access to the appropriate therapies and level of educational services will be implemented to ensure the scholar reaches their full potential. GSA understands the financial obligation and responsibility to fund necessary therapies for its scholars along with Medicaid.

14. Describe how the school will provide dyslexia screening and services for all students.

New students K-2 will take the NWEA dyslexia screener and DIBELS to identify neurodivergence. We will locate, identify, and refer children to provide early intervention screening required by the Child Find program.

GSA will provide an approved K-12 dyslexia intervention program for its scholars.

Our educators will utilize the RTI (Response to Intervention) process to further identify struggling scholars. We will provide Tier 1 and 2 support and time bound progress monitoring enabling the learner to excel. If these methods do not produce adequate progress and growth, the CARE (Collaborative Assessment Responsive Education) team will decide if a special education dyslexia referral is the next step.

15. Describe how the school will provide for the needs of English Learners.

a. How will you be screening, placing, notifying parents/guardians of placements, and annually reviewing English Learners/Former English Learners as per the Arkansas English Learner Entrance and Exit Procedures?

Upon enrollment in our school, we will conduct a home language usage survey to identify students that may need to be screened for English Learner Services. If a student is identified as an English Language Learner in need of services, these services will be provided, and parents will be notified. An LPAC (Language Proficiency Assessment Committee) will meet and determine appropriate instructional scaffolds, testing accommodations and instructional planning to develop English proficiency.

GSA will seek to hire teachers with an ESOL certification or coursework. GSA will provide ongoing professional development for teachers who are teaching ELLs.

Ann The ELPA 21 screener and summative assessment of English Language Proficiency which measures the English Language Proficiency standards shall be administered annually. 5.11.1 All English Learners in grades kindergarten through twelve (K–12) shall participate in the English Language Proficiency Assessment. Based on student performance levels established by DESE that indicate the English Learners level of English Language Proficiency, it may be recommended that a student exit from the program.

b. How do you plan to provide English Language Development and Access to Core instruction aligned with the Arkansas English Language Proficiency Standards to each English Learner?

The Director of Schools will participate in the work of each LPAC supporting our Emerging Bilingual students. Additionally, we intend to hire teachers who are currently certified or have coursework and/or training in ESOL strategies. Our staff will embed intentional, dedicated ELD instruction throughout the mainstream content class and provide the necessary scaffolds and curriculum support for the English language learner within the regular classroom. If needed, ELS will be pulled-out to receive targeted individual or small group instruction for a portion of the day.

c. How will you communicate information to limited English proficient parents in a language and manner they can understand about any program, service, or activity that is called to the attention of parents who are proficient in English?

We will seek volunteers for parent/teacher conferences who can translate for non-English speaking parents. We will seek to partner with local community leaders to locate bilingual volunteers.

Parent notifications will be published through ParentNotices for field trips, parent conferences, and other important notifications. Additionally, written communication in the parents' primary language will be provided.

16. Describe how the school will address the needs of gifted and talented students.

The Director of Schools, Joy Thomas Sawyer, holds a master's degree in Gifted Education and 17 years of experience as a teacher/coordinator for gifted programs. She will provide professional development for teachers regarding students who are gifted. Current laws will be followed to assess, identify, and serve gifted students, as well as students who show potential for giftedness in grades 3-5. Enrichment will be part of the regular curriculum. Teachers will be trained to use a checklist to aid in identifying students who are gifted. Whole group enrichment for K-2 will be delivered in accordance with compliance with GT Program Standards.

17. Describe how the school will address the needs of students who meet the criteria for an alternative learning environment.

The Garfield Scholar's Academy is requesting a waiver for an alternate learning environment. We will create a student action plan if a scholar is exhibiting two or more characteristics of a student needing an ALE. We will work diligently with the scholar, family, teaching staff, and counseling team to create a plan to foster growth and understanding. The intended result will be to move the child out of crisis behaviors toward self-awareness/monitoring. If student behavior reaches a point that it is not safe or prevents others from learning, the scholar will be removed from the classroom and provided with a quiet place in which he/she can regain self-control and then return to the classroom.

18. Describe the transportation services that will be provided by the school.

At this time, we are evaluating the need for transportation. Garfield Scholars' Academy is working toward providing care for students before and after school daily if transportation cannot be obtained in the first one or two years of operation.

A survey is currently being circulated to assess the need for transportation. This question will also be addressed on the enrollment form.

If transportation is found to be a need, every effort will be made to either obtain a bus or van or contract with an outside provider such as Ozark Transit. GSA understands its responsibility to provide transportation to the homeless and students with disabilities if transportation is required in their IEP.

19. Describe how the family engagement coordinator (staff member) will develop opportunities for parents and guardians to engage with school staff regarding school operations and the progress of their child.

In compliance with Ark. Code Ann. 6-15-1701 et seq., we will involve our parents and families in Garfield Scholars' Academy. We will appoint a staff member to take on this task. Research shows that a scholar's success is directly related to the depth of involvement of his/her parents/guardians. All our staff will have access to resources for calls and messaging, email, and publication tools for newsletters to create clear paths for communication between home and school.

Our teachers will be encouraged to share information via GSA social media and the school website. Teachers will hold at least two scheduled parent/teacher conferences per year minimum.

We will develop a strong FACE (Family and Community Engagement) Committee. This collaborative committee's goal will be to draw families into our school by

encouraging volunteer opportunities within classrooms, library media center, community garden, business partnerships, and other opportunities that will come out of the committee discussions. We will create a calendar of events designed to draw in families for quarterly school-wide events. Additionally, monthly events will be planned with a narrower focus to draw in community members and parents/guardians.

All of these engagement ideas will be published online annually as our District Engagement Plan by August 1st. According to Arkansas Standard 3-B.2., at least one "Report to the Public" meeting will be held to ensure parents, community members and students are aware of how school policies, the GSA handbook, programs, finances, and goals will be handled at our open-enrollment school.

We will establish a FACE leadership team to aid in the decision making and gathering of input from the community on issues of significance that will be part of our governing structure.

All volunteers will be screened with our planned Raptor driver's license screening system to maintain the security of our building.

20. Describe the plan for developing and implementing Student Success Plans that assist students with achieving readiness for college, career, and community engagement.

As students grow and develop, challenges may present themselves that require a more structured approach or plan for achieving success. These success plans will be created with a minimum of three people: the Director of Schools, the classroom teacher, and a parent or guardian. Additionally, the child and any other concerned child advocate the team feels would be of benefit can be included. These dynamic plans will address the area(s) of concern, team developed ideas for increased success, timeline for target strategies, goals for growth, and be reviewed annually.

21. If a waiver of teacher licensure is requested, describe the process for vetting applicants.

a. How will Arkansas Qualified Teacher requirements be ensured for core areas of Math, Science, English, Social Studies, Elementary Ed., Art, Music, and Foreign Languages?

We will not ask for a waiver for teacher licensure in any core content areas.

If it becomes necessary to hire someone using AQT standards in areas other than core areas, GSA will advertise for these positions using its website, social media, and

other relevant sources to find the person best qualified for the position. Any applicants considered will have to pass all background checks. All applicants will be screened by the Director of Schools and a certified teacher committee. Final interviews and selection will be conducted by members of the Board of Directors.

22. If a waiver of class size and teaching load is requested, describe how this will be used.

We are not anticipating a waiver for increased class size beyond that which is allowable by the state. If class size exceeds allowable numbers, GSA will apply for a temporary waiver while GSA seeks a viable solution.

23. Describe how food services will be provided for students.

a) Do you have a plan for the service of meals through the USDA National School Lunch Program (NSLP)? Would the meals be prepared on site or vended. Explain how you would contract and pay for services.

The Garfield Scholars' Academy will prepare and serve meals onsite daily for both breakfast and lunch in the existing kitchen and cafeteria, which is fully functional and has a valid ADH food permit. Currently, Rogers Public Schools reports Garfield Elementary has 69.83% of the enrolled students receive a free or reduced meal plan. We will secure funding in compliance with the National school lunch state categorical funding under Ark. Code Ann. § 6- 20-2305(b)(4) for the first year of operation by filing our eligibility data by October 1, 2024. We understand that this code requires that the previous year's data will be used to calculate funding unless a grade level is added, then we will revert to having the October 1st deadline requirement. GSA will use an approved record-keeping system such as the FSS Reporting System and will ensure food service workers are able to maintain all standards and assurances of meeting the required child nutrition guidelines. We will participate in the National School Lunch Program allowing students who qualify for free and reduced meals to receive them. Students who do not qualify will be able to purchase lunch and breakfast.

GSA plans to seek a Farm-to-Table program. We will partner with our community to develop a greenhouse/garden where students will be involved in growing and harvesting food and preserving food to be consumed/utilized during the school day.

b) Please affirm that you understand that if you provide meals, you must complete an Agreement and Policy Statement with the ADE, DESE, Child Nutrition Unit (CNU). This means that if the Charter has a facility, it must pass inspection

with the Arkansas Department of Health. You must have an employee designated as the Child Nutrition Director, a person serving as the certified food protection manager at each site.

We affirm that we understand the above and plan to comply. We will assign an employee as the Child Nutrition Director to comply with all regulations for food service and safety.

c) Describe the process for establishing meal eligibility and eligibility verification for students, and procurement and purchasing of food.

At the time of enrollment, each family will be presented with the opportunity to fill out the confidential eligibility form for the free and reduced meal plan. It is understood that children from families with incomes below 130 percent of the poverty level are eligible for free meals. Those with incomes between 130 percent and 185 percent of the poverty level are eligible for reduced-price meals. Children from families with incomes over 185 percent of the poverty level pay full price, though their meals are subsidized to some extent. Our Board of Directors will utilize a cost analysis process to establish the cost for the full price meal but will operate our meal service as a nonprofit program.

SCHOOL GOVERNANCE AND OPERATIONS

24. Describe the governing structure of the open-enrollment charter school including board composition, selection process, length of term and responsibilities.

As the sponsoring entity for Garfield Scholars' Academy, the Garfield Education Foundation will support and guide our mission and vision in every decision we make.

The governing structure will be:

1. Garfield Education Foundation Board of Directors- Length of term 3 year initial commitment, may serve more than one term by vote of the Board, composition of the Board will reflect a one parent and one community representative

Responsibilities:

- Approval of purchases over \$1000
- Approval of major renovation projects
- Approval of staff salaries
- Hiring/Firing decisions
- Fundraising for Garfield Scholars' Academy
- Annual budget review and approval
- Oversight of school expenditures, staffing needs, and physical plant

2. Director of Schools- Hired by the Board to serve in the role of Principal of the Garfield Scholars' Academy

- Responsible for daily operations
- Point of contact for DESE office
- Garfield Education Foundation Board member
- Special Education Designee
- Annual reporting to the Board regarding student achievement and participation in goal setting for Garfield Scholars' Academy
- Reporting financial decisions and statements to the Board
- Daily/weekly deposits of money into school bank account
- Fundraising projects
- Outsourcing of needs
- Approval of emergency renovation or repair projects
- Negotiating terms
- Daily purchases under \$1000 (check signed, along with CFO)
- Receiving and inspecting goods and services related to the school
- Oversight of all professional development for teachers and staff
- Oversight of teacher quality and student achievement
- Oversight of required reporting to federal, state, and DESE entities
- Oversight of record-keeping and processes"
- Student behavior intervention strategies
- Participation in curriculum selection
- Teacher evaluation

25. Identify the positions that will have final decision-making authority for the school in the areas of (1) finance and purchasing; (2) student discipline; (3) hiring and firing of staff; and (4) hiring and firing of the school director or superintendent.

The Garfield Education Foundation Board of Directors will have full control of the hiring and firing of the Director of Schools, and all staff members.

The Board of Directors will approve an annual budget and any purchase over the amount of \$1000. (While we understand that many charters have a starting approval amount of \$5,000, Garfield Scholars' Academy intends to operate within a tight budget with fiscal transparency.)

The Director of Schools will have the authority to administer student discipline.

The Director of Schools will oversee daily purchasing within budget guidelines. All purchases will require the signature of the Director of Schools and the CFO.

Initially, hiring and firing decisions will be made by the Board with recommendations from the Director of Schools. Future hiring decisions will involve the selection of a committee of faculty to conduct any initial interviews with prospective employees. The Director of Schools will then recommend 3 applicants in order of preference to the Board of Directors for review. The Board of Directors may accept the first choice of the Director of Schools or may ask to conduct a final interview with each applicant. The Board of Directors would then choose one of the three pre-screened applicants.

The Director of Schools will collect documentation and make recommendations to the Board of Directors regarding the termination of any employee. The Board of Directors will review documentation and ask any questions for clarification. The Board of Directors may choose to also hear from the employee for whom termination is recommended.

26. How will the charter ensure that there is a separation of power between the sponsoring entity, charter management organization, school board and superintendent?

Garfield Scholars' Academy does not have a Charter Management Organization or Superintendent.

The following items constitute standard operating procedures for the Garfield Education Foundation Board providing oversight for the Garfield Scholars' Academy:

- The Garfield Education Foundation Board members will not be related (immediate family) to the Director of Schools.
- If a member of the Board is also employed by the Charter School, they may not vote on matters pertaining directly to that employee.
- Decisions for the Charter School will be made by the Board in matters of finances, budget, hiring decisions, curriculum, and equipment acquisition.

- The Director of Schools has the latitude to make daily operational decisions for purchases under \$1000. Over this amount, must have Board approval.
- All personnel matters will be brought forward by the Director of Schools to the Board for their consideration.

27. Explain the charter's conflict of interest policy and identification procedures.

The Garfield Education Foundation Board will adhere to the following standards regarding conflict of interest to demonstrate transparency and equitable treatment of all matters regarding Garfield Scholars' Academy:

A Garfield Education Foundation Board member will

1. Not represent special interests or partisan politics.
2. Not give the impression to the public that they have the authority to make decisions or act on behalf of the Board or school administration.
3. Not solicit or accept anything of value in return for taking positions on matters before the Board.
4. Strive to make unbiased decisions regarding Board business, always keeping the welfare and best practices for students at the forefront of decision-making.
5. Not use his/her position to promote personal financial interests or the financial interests of family members, friends, or supporters.
6. Not give the impression that his or her position on Board matters can be influenced by anything other than a fair presentation of all sides of the question before them.
7. Be familiar with and adhere to those provisions of Arkansas education law that define school board member powers and govern school board member compensation.

Complaints of conflict of interest will be addressed in the following ways:

1. A complaint against a Board member must be in writing and signed by the Complainant.
2. The Board will hold a meeting giving the Complainant an opportunity to present their conflict-of-interest claim.
3. At the conclusion of the meeting, a unanimous decision must be made to do one of the following:
 1. Table the claim until the next Board meeting to allow time for investigation and further fact-finding.
 2. Issue a public finding that the conflict-of-interest charge is not supported by the evidence and is therefore dismissed.

3. Issue public finding that the conflict-of-interest charge is supported by evidence and the board member must disqualify him or herself from voting or otherwise participating in the board deliberations or decision related to the issue, as required by Arkansas statute.
4. Issue a public finding that the conflict-of-interest charge is supported by the evidence and the board member should be formally censured or subject to removal from the board.
4. The Director of School, who also serves as a board member, shall not participate in voting on matters that are directly related to the Director of Schools' hiring/firing, compensation, or other personnel matters.

Avoiding Conflicts

When a board member becomes aware that he or she is in a position that creates a conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict of interest as defined by state law or this policy, he or she will declare the nature and extent of the conflict or appearance of conflict for inclusion in the board minutes and will abstain from voting or participating in the discussion of the issue giving rise to the conflict.

28. Describe the student recruitment process and timeline that will provide an equal opportunity for all parents and students to learn about and apply for admission to the proposed public charter school.

Within 60 days of charter approval, a bulk mailing will be sent to all households within the current Garfield school zone which will include a QR Code to register for GSA beginning in the 2024-25 school year. Notice of charter approval will appear in the newspaper. Local TV news stations will also be notified. The charter approval will also be announced on all of GSA social media and on the local city social media pages. GSA will prioritize enrollment to those students and their rising kindergarten siblings who are currently enrolled in Garfield Elementary School for the 2023-24 school year. Once these students are enrolled, GSA will take applications on a first come, first served basis until we meet class size in each grade level. If the cap number is exceeded, the remaining spots will be filled via a lottery. The deadline to complete an initial application will be in January 2024. After the registration deadline, GSA will continue to take applications until each class is full or until the charter cap is met.

29. Describe the procedures for conducting the annual single lottery enrollment process, including how students will be placed on waiting lists and how parents will be notified about each child's selection or order on the waiting list.

If a lottery is required, all applicant names (over and above the prioritized applications) will be placed into a random name generator program. This list of potential scholars will be checked for sibling prioritizations. At that time, parents will be notified by letter that their students have been or have not been selected via a lottery to attend GSA. Parents of those selected will have a predetermined window of time to accept or decline enrollment. If an enrollment opportunity is declined the next applicant on the list will be notified. Should a scholar leave GSA after the school year begins, administration will ensure that the parent or guardian of the first student on the waiting list is contacted and given an opportunity to take advantage of the empty spot.

30. Will any of the enrollment preferences outlined in Ark. Code Ann. § 6-23-306(14)(C), will be utilized by the charter school. This includes children of founding members of the charter and siblings of enrolled students. If so, please explain the policy.

In the first year, students who are currently enrolled in Garfield Elementary School and their rising kindergarten siblings will have priority in registration. We will also prioritize the employee's children.

Beginning in year two, only those students of current employees and siblings of current students will be considered for prioritization.

31. Explain how students leaving the charter during the school year will impact students on the waiting list.

Parents and/or guardians of students on the waiting list will be notified when an opening becomes available. The first student on the waiting list who could occupy the seat of the student who is leaving will be contacted. A predetermined time period will be given for a parent/guardian to accept or decline enrollment.

32. Provide a list of staff positions that will be employed in the school business office. Include the responsibilities of each position.

GSA will seek to employ one full-time secretary/registrar with experience in running a school office. This person will be responsible for general office duties, keeping spending records and budget reports, registering students and maintaining all student records.

33. Describe the plan for managing procurement activities. Specify the types of financial decisions to be made at the school level, board level and charter management organization level.

School level purchasing decisions of \$1000.00 or less will be made by the Director of Schools. Payments will require the signature of both the Director of Schools and the CFO. Purchases of \$1000.00 and above will be approved by the Board in advance of the purchase. Payments will require the signature of both the Director of Schools and the CFO. A numeric purchase order system will be in place for record keeping.

34. Describe the process by which the school governance will adopt an annual budget.

A proposed budget will be submitted to the Board in April of each year. The proposed budget will undergo a 30-day review by all Board members. In May, the proposed budget will be discussed by the Board with any questions or revisions being addressed at that time. The final budget will be approved by the Board in June each year.

35. Describe the way an annual audit of the financial and programmatic operations of the school will be conducted. If the school wishes to request that the authorizer allow a licensed accountant or licensed certified public accountant, rather than the Legislative Auditor, to perform the first-year audit, identify the accountant by name, firm, address, and phone number. The named accountant must meet the requirements of ADE Rules Governing Publicly Funded Educational Institution Audit Requirements, including the prohibition on auditors providing non-audit services (such as accounting or consulting services) to auditees. A school's preference as stated in this application may not be changed without prior approval of the authorizer.

We will use the Legislative Auditor to perform the first-year audit.

36. If the facility to be used by the school has been identified, list the owner(s) of the facility, and describe their relationship with employees or directors of the sponsoring entity or charter management organization.

The building is currently owned by Rogers Public Schools. There are no relationships between employees or directors of the sponsoring entity.

37. If the facility to be used by the school is not currently in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), provide a list of items that will need to be addressed to bring the facility into compliance.

This facility will need a chair lift and stair modifications to meet ADA compliance standards.

Currently, the 1st floor is fully accessible. GSA will seek state and federal funding to remedy the issues upon acquisition of the building to accommodate all students.

38. Are there any alcohol sales within 1,000 feet of the facility?

There is a convenience store next door to the school that began selling beer and wine when Benton County went "wet". There is no alcohol sold in this location.

39. Describe the potential impact of the proposed public charter school on the efforts of affected public school districts to comply with court orders and statutory obligations to create and maintain a unitary system of desegregated public schools.

There are no court orders or statutory obligations regarding desegregated public schools.

40. List the services that the CMO will provide to the charter and the annual cost of the services.

Garfield Scholars' Academy does not have a CMO.

WAIVERS

Complete the following tables indicating all sections of Title 6 of the Arkansas Code Annotated, the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education rules, and the Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts from which the public charter school seeks to be exempted to meet the goals of the school.

Please use the waiver list provided below. This list includes the appropriate waiver topic and citations to the applicable Arkansas Code Section, Rules, and Standard to fully effectuate the requested waiver.

Each of your waiver requests must include a rationale. Failure to provide a rationale will result in your application being marked as incomplete.

Waiver #1 Topic	Alternative Learning Environment
Arkansas Code Annotated	Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-1005(b)(5) 6-18-503(a)(1)(c)(i) 6-48-102 6-48-103
Standard for Accreditation	2-1.1
ADE Rules	DESE Rules Governing Student Special Needs Funding – Section 4
Rationale for Waiver	Garfield Scholar's Academy requests a waiver from ALE due to its smaller size. We will provide RTI and counseling services to meet all student needs and avoid the need for ALE. If a student needs to

	<p>be removed from a class due to behavior, the Director will provide a quiet area for the student to regain self-control before returning to class. In extreme cases, GSA will work with a school-based committee including parents, teacher, counselor, Director and any other pertinent personnel to design a behavioral plan that serves to achieve the best possible outcome for the scholar. The behavioral plan will be closely monitored and adjusted as needed.</p>
--	--

Waiver #2 Topic	School Superintendent
Arkansas Code Annotated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6-13-109 • 6-17-427
Standard for Accreditation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4-B.1 • 4-B.2
ADE Rules	DESE Rules for Governing Superintendent Mentoring Program
Rationale for Waiver	<p>Enrollment will be too small to support the salary requirements for a superintendent. The Board will serve as the governing entity in place of the superintendent. Board members will receive specific training through the APSRC.</p>

Waiver #3 Topic	School Board of Directors and Election Laws
Arkansas Code Annotated	§6-13-601 et seq. (with exception of §6-13-612, 618, 620, 622, 623, 625, 626, 628 and 629) §6-13-619 (c) and (d) School District Board of Directors §6-14-101 et seq General Application of Election Laws.
Standard for Accreditation	
ADE Rules	
Rationale for Waiver	<p>Standard for Accreditation ADE Rules Rationale for Waiver</p> <p>Garfield Education Foundation (GEF), a 501c3 non-profit, seeks a waiver from the selection, board size, qualifications, powers, terms and vacancies of a School Board of Directors. GEF Board of Directors will oversee the Garfield Scholars' Academy (GSA). These board members are not selected by the public. The Garfield Education Foundation Board, currently consisting of five (5) members, with By-Laws permitting appointment of five (5) to twelve (12), will serve in that capacity. Any interested party may nominate an individual for a position on the Board of Directors by submission of a nomination in writing to the Board. Upon nomination, the Board will investigate the nominee's qualifications and interest in the position. Upon motion by a Director, the nomination may be brought to the floor during a regular or special meeting of the Board of Directors for a vote. A simple majority approval is required for acceptance of the nomination and appointment of the nominee to a position as a Director. Director terms shall be for a period of 3 years, starting January 1-December 31. The first year of any new member may be a partial year if their term does not begin on January 1. Since By-Laws state additional members are chosen at the discretion of the</p>

	<p>existing board, we request a waiver for school election (§6-14-101 et seq.). GEF's board is made up of business leaders, educators, and parent representatives with a common vision and goal. We ask for a waiver regarding physical attendance of board meetings due to additional responsibilities, work schedules and feasibility. Our members currently reside in Garfield, Benton, and Rogers. This has necessitated the use of electronic media, such as conference calls and ZOOM, for GEF's regular meetings. We request permission for Garfield Scholars' Academy School Board meetings to be a mixture of in-person and electronic attendance (following State and Federal guidelines as closely as possible). We will require the Professional Development of our board members. GEF shall govern the school with fiscal accountability and regulations per the law.</p>
--	--

<p>Waiver #4 Topic</p>	<p>Visual Art or Music/Fine Arts (AQT)</p>
<p>Arkansas Code Annotated</p>	<p>Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-16-130(a)(3)</p>
<p>Standard for Accreditation</p>	
<p>ADE Rules</p>	<p>DESE Rules Governing Visual Art and Music (Rule 3.03)</p>

<p>Rationale for Waiver</p>	<p>These part-time positions will be filled based on one day of instruction each due to our predicted student enrollment. Every effort will be made to secure a licensed teacher for these positions. However, if one cannot be secured, GSA would like to hire someone who meets AQT standards.</p>
<p>Waiver #5 Topic</p>	<p>Library Media Specialist (AQT)</p>
<p>Arkansas Code Annotated</p>	<p>Ark. Code Ann. § 6-25-104(a)(1)</p>
<p>Standard for Accreditation</p>	<p>Standard 4-F.1</p>
<p>ADE Rules</p>	<p>DESE rules governing educator licensure</p>
<p>Rationale for Waiver</p>	<p>This part-time position will be filled based on one day of instruction each due to our predicted student enrollment. Every effort will be made to secure a licensed teacher for these positions. However, if one cannot be secured, GSA would like to hire someone who meets AQT standards.</p> <p>The school will have access to Chromebooks to leverage programs that will enhance library and media lessons. The school will partner with the public library literacy and media-related materials. Additionally, all core teachers will participate in professional development to support the library media standards taught by the part-time library media specialist. The Director of</p>

	Schools for the Garfield Scholars' Academy along with the Library Media Specialist will ensure that technology integration and Library Media Standards are implemented and monitored for program fidelity.
--	--

Waiver #6 Topic	Physical Education (AQT)
Arkansas Code Annotated	Ark. Code Ann. § 6-16-132
Standard for Accreditation	Standard 7.01.1
ADE Rules	DESE rules governing educator licensure Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing Nutrition and Physical Activities Standards and Body Mass Index for Age Assessment Protocols in Arkansas Public Schools
Rationale for Waiver	This part-time position will be filled based on one day of instruction each due to our predicted student enrollment. Every effort will be made to secure a licensed teacher for these positions. However, if one cannot be secured, GSA would like to hire someone who meets AQT standards.

Waiver #7 Topic	Health and Safety Services
Arkansas Code Annotated	§6-18-706
Standard for Accreditation	2.E.1
ADE Rules	Rules Governing Public School Student Services
Rationale for Waiver	GSA is requesting a waiver of hiring a full-time licensed registered nurse. The school plans to partner with a local health facility, retired nurse in the community or hire a part-time nurse that will provide an RN 2-3 days a week or ½ days, to administer health services to students.

Waiver #8 Topic	Personnel Policies – Teacher Excellence and Support System (TESS)
Arkansas Code Annotated	Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-17-2801, et seq

Standard for Accreditation		
ADE Rules	DESE Rules for Educator Support and Development	
Rationale for Waiver	<p>As a small new school, GSA administration will be collaborating closely with teachers to develop and implement a strong curriculum. This will require close monitoring of teacher implementation and effectiveness through the PLC process. Administration will be visiting classrooms and planning with teachers daily to ensure fidelity to the program. We are seeking this waiver for the FIRST YEAR ONLY to allow our teachers to build relationships with administration and each other to be true to the PLC process. This will allow teachers to try innovative teaching strategies in a risk-free and supportive environment.</p>	

Waiver #9 Topic	
Arkansas Code Annotated	
Standard for Accreditation	

ADE Rules	
Rationale for Waiver	

If you have more than 10 Waivers, please delete this statement and copy the entire table above and paste it into the document.

**Waiver Topic Names with Arkansas Code Annotated, Standards, and DESE Rules
(when applicable)**

<u>178 Instructional Days – standard only</u>	<u>Acquisition of Commodities</u>	<u>Adopt School Calendar</u>	<u>Alternative Learning Environment (ALE)</u>	<u>Arkansas History</u>
Standard 1-A.4.1	Ark. Code Ann. § 6-21-303	Ark. Code Ann. § 6-10-106	Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-15-1005(b)(5) 6-18-503(a)(1)(C)(i) 6-48-102 6-48-103 DESE Rules Governing Student Special Needs	Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-16-124(a)(2) 6-17-418 6-17-703 Standard 1-A.1.2.8

			Funding – Section 4	
			Standard 2-I.1	

<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Board of Directors</u>	<u>Body Mass Index (BMI) Assessment</u>	<u>Class Size & Teaching Load</u>	<u>Classified Employee</u>
	<u>Ark. Code Ann. §§</u>			<u>Minimum Salary</u>
Ark. Code Ann. §	6-13-608	DESE Rules Governing Nutrition and Physical Activity and Body Mass Index for Age Assessment Protocols in Arkansas Public Schools, Section 5.02.5, 12.00	Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-812	Ark. Code Ann. §§
6-18-213(a)(2)	6-13-611			6-17-2201, et seq.
	6-13-612(c)		Standard 1-A.5 (Class Size)	6-17-2403
	6-13-613		Standard 1-A.6 (Teaching Load)	
	6-13-615		DESE Rules Governing Class Size and Teaching Load	
	6-13-616(a)			
	6-13-617			
	6-13-618			
	6-13-619(a), (c), (d)(1)(A), (d)(4)			
	6-13-620(5)			
	6-13-622(b)			
	6-13-630			
	6-13-631			
	6-13-634			
	6-13-635			
	6-13-1303			
	6-14-101, et seq.			

<u>Clock Hours</u>	<u>Comprehensive School Counseling Program & School Counselor</u>	<u>Credit for College Courses</u>	<u>Curriculum – Advanced Placement Courses</u>	<u>Curriculum – Career & Technical Education</u>
<p>-</p> <p>Standard 1-A.2</p>	<p>Ark. Code Ann. §§</p> <p>6-18-2002(2)(A)</p> <p>6-18-2003(a)(2)(A)</p> <p>Standard 4-E.1, 4-E.2</p>	<p>-</p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-223</p>	<p>Ark. Code Ann. §§</p> <p>6-16-1203(a)</p> <p>6-16-1204(a), (c), and (d)</p> <p>DESE Rules Governing Grading and Course Credit – Sections 4-1.00 & 6.00</p> <p>Standard 1-A.1.3-10</p>	<p>Standard</p> <p>1-A.1.2.7 (5-8)</p> <p>1-A.1.3.9 (9-12)</p>

<u>Curriculum = Concurrent Credit</u>	<u>Curriculum – CPR</u>	<u>Curriculum – Fine Arts</u>	<u>Curriculum – Foreign Language 9-12</u>	<u>Curriculum – Visual Art or Music</u>
<p>Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-16-1203(b) 6-16-1204(b) and (e)</p> <p>DESE Rules Governing Grading and Course Credit – Sections 5.00</p>	<p>-</p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. § 6-16-143</p> <p>Standard 1-C.2.5</p> <p>Under Ark. Code Ann. § 6-23-401(b) this is NOT waivable unless the charter is fully virtual.</p>	<p>-</p> <p>Standard</p> <p>1-A.1.1.5 (K-4)</p> <p>1-A.1.2.5 (5-8)</p> <p>1-A.1.3.6 (9-12)</p>	<p>Standard 1-A.1.3.5</p>	<p>Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-16-130(a) – elementary 6-16-130(b) – grades 7-8 and some 6th grade</p> <p>DESE Rules Governing Visual Art and Music</p> <p>Standard 1-A.1.1.5, 1-A.1.2.5, & 1-A.1.3.6</p>

<u>Eye and Vision Screening</u>	<u>Financial Management – Business Manager</u>	<u>Flag Display</u>	<u>Flexible Schedule</u>	<u>Food Services</u>
<p>-</p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. §§</p> <p>6-18-1501</p> <p>6-18-1502</p>	<p>Ark. Code Ann. §</p> <p>6-15-2302(b)</p>	<p>Ark. Code Ann. §§</p> <p>6-16-105</p> <p>6-16-106</p>	<p>Ark. Code Ann. §</p> <p>6-16-102, except (a)(5)</p>	<p>Ark. Code Ann. §§</p> <p>6-18-705 (breakfast program)</p> <p>6-20-701, et seq. (school lunch program)</p>
<p>DESE Rules Governing Eye & Vision Screening Report in Arkansas Public Schools</p>	<p>DESE Rule Governing the Arkansas Fiscal Assessment and Accountability Program – Section 12</p>			<p>DESE Rules Governing Nutrition and Physical Activity and Body Mass Index for Age Assessment Protocols in Arkansas Public Schools</p> <p>Standard 3-D.1</p>

<p><u>Gifted and Talented</u></p> <p>-</p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. §§</p> <p>6-20-2208(c)(6)</p> <p>6-42-109</p> <p>DESE Rules Governing Gifted and Talented Program Approval Standards</p> <p>Standard 2-G.1</p>	<p><u>Grading Scale</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-902(a)</p> <p>DESE Rules Governing Grading and Course Credit – Section 2-2.01</p>	<p><u>Health Services – School Nurse</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-706</p>	<p><u>Health and Safety Services</u></p> <p>Standard 2-E.1, 2-E.2</p>	<p><u>Instructional Day (includes delay/early release of school and recess)</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. §§</p> <p>6-16-102</p> <p>6-10-126 – Delay or early release of school due to emergency circumstances</p> <p>Standards</p> <p>1-A.4.2</p> <p>1-A.4.3 (Recess)</p>
<p><u>Instructional Materials</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. § 6-21-413</p> <p>DESE Rules Governing Instructional Materials –</p>	<p><u>Leased Academic Facilities</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. §</p> <p>6-21-117(2)-(5)</p>	<p><u>Library Media Services – includes standard for balance of instructional materials</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. § 6-25-103</p>	<p><u>Library Media Specialist</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. § 6-25-104</p> <p>Standard 4-F.1, 4-F.2</p>	<p><u>Maintain School Facilities</u></p> <p>-</p> <p>Standard 6-A.1</p>

<p>Sections 5.01, 5.01.2</p>	<p>Standard 6-A.1, 6-A.2</p>	<p>Standard 2-D.1</p>		
<p><u>Parent & Family Engagement Plan</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-1701, et seq.</p> <p>DESE Rules Governing Parental Involvement Plans and Family and Community Engagement</p> <p>Standard 5-A.1</p>	<p><u>Period of Silence</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. § 6-10-115</p>	<p><u>Personnel Policies – Classified Employees Personnel Policies</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-17-2301(c), 6-17-2301(c)(1) & (d)(2), 6-17-2302, 6-17-2303, 6-17-2304, 6-17-2305</p>	<p><u>Personnel Policies – Committee on Personnel Policies</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-17-203, 6-17-205, 6-17-209</p>	<p><u>Personnel Policies – Daily Planning Period</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-114</p>

<p><u>Personnel Policies – Duty-Free Lunch Period</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-111</p>	<p><u>Personnel Policies – Employment of Licensed Personnel</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-301</p>	<p><u>Personnel Policies – Grievance Procedure</u></p> <p>-</p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-17-208 6-17-210</p>	<p><u>Personnel Policies – Non-instructional Duties</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-117</p>	<p><u>Personnel Policies – Personnel Policies Incorporated into Teacher Contracts</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-204</p>
<p><u>Personnel Policies – Public School Employees’ Fair Hearing Act</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-17-1701, et seq.</p>	<p><u>Personnel Policies – Requirements</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-201(a) & (c)</p>	<p><u>Personnel Policies – Right to Join Professional Organization</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-202</p>	<p><u>Personnel Policies – School Employees’ Minimum Sick Leave</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-17-1301, et seq.</p>	<p><u>Personnel Policies – Teachers’ Minimum Sick Leave</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-17-1201, et seq.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Personnel Policies – Teachers’ Fair Dismissal Act</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-17-1501, et seq.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Personnel Policies – Teacher Excellence and Support System (TESS)</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-17-2801, et seq.</p> <p>DESE Rules Governing Educator Support and Development</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Personnel Policies – Use of Personal Leave</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-211</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Personnel Policies – Website Requirements</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. § 6-11-129</p> <p>DESE Rules Governing Documents Posted to School District and Education Service Cooperative Websites – Sections 5&6</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Physical Education</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. § 6-16-132</p> <p>DESE Rules Governing Nutrition and Physical Activity and Body Mass Index for Age Assessment Protocols in Arkansas Public Schools – Sections 7.01, 7.01.1, 7.01.1.1, 7.01.1.2, 7.01.3, 7.09</p> <p>Standards 1-A.1.1.6, 1-A.1.2.6, & 1-A.1.3.8</p>
--	---	--	---	---

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Pledge of Allegiance</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. § 6-16-108</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Principal</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-302</p> <p>Standards 4-C.1, 4-C.2</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Professional Development</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. §§</p> <p>6-17-703</p> <p>6-17-704</p> <p>6-17-705</p> <p>DESE Rules Governing Professional Development</p> <p>Standard 4-G.1</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Report Cards</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. §</p> <p>6-15-903(a)(2)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Required Instruction</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>K-4</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">-</p> <p>Standard 1-A.1.1</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Required Instruction</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>5-8</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">-</p> <p>Standard 1-A.1.2</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Required Instruction</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>9-12</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">-</p> <p>Standard 1-A.1.3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Salaries and Compensation</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. §§</p> <p>6-17-807</p> <p>6-17-812</p> <p>6-17-908</p> <p>6-17-2401 et seq.</p> <p>6-21-303(b)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>School Calendar – School Start Date</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. § 6-10-106</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>School Counselor</u></p> <p>Standard 4-E.1 & 4-E.2</p>

<u>School Property and Supplies – Rules</u>	<u>School Safety Policies & Procedures</u>	<u>Statewide Assessment System</u>	<u>Written Student Discipline Procedures</u>	<u>Superintendent</u>
<p>-</p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. § 6-21-303(b)</p>	<p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>Standard 6-A.2</p>	<p>-</p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-2907</p> <p>Under Ark. Code Ann. § 6-23-401(b) this is NOT waivable.</p>	<p>-</p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. 6-18-503(b)(2)</p> <p>DESE Rules Governing Student Discipline and School Safety, 4.11</p>	<p>Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-13-109 6-17-427</p> <p>DESE Rules Governing the Superintendent Mentoring Program</p> <p>Standard 4-B.1, 4-B.2</p>

<u>Teacher Excellence & Support System (TESS)</u>	<u>Teacher Licensure</u>	<u>Teachers' Salaries – 12-mo. Contract for Vocational Agri Teachers</u>	<u>Tornado & Earthquake Safety Drills</u>	<u>Transportation</u>
-	Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-15-1004			Ark. Code Ann. §§
Ark. Code Ann. §§	6-17-309		Ark. Code Ann. § 6-10-121	6-19-101, et seq.
6-17-2801, et seq.	6-17-401	Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-802		
	6-17-418		Under Ark. Code Ann. § 6-23-401(b) this is NOT waivable unless the charter is fully virtual.	
	6-17-902			
DESE Rules Governing Educator Support and Development	6-17-908			
	6-17-919			
	DESE Rules Governing Educator Licensure – Section 7			
	Standard 4-D.1			

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS

1. IRS letter reflecting tax exempt status or a copy of the entity's application for 501(c)(3) status.
2. Attach documentation to demonstrate that each of the following requirements of Arkansas Code Annotated §6-23-302 was met:
 1. The notice of the public hearing was published on a weekly basis for at least three (3) consecutive weeks prior to the date of the hearing in a newspaper having general circulation in the school district in which the school will likely be located.

2. The notice of the public hearing was not published in the classified or legal notice section of the newspaper.
 3. The last publication date of the notice was no less than seven days prior to the public meeting.
 4. Within seven calendar days following the first publication of the notice of the public hearing, emails announcing the public hearing were sent to the superintendent of each of the school districts from which the open-enrollment public charter school is likely to draw students for the purpose of enrollment and the superintendent of any district that is contiguous to the district in which the open-enrollment public charter school will be located.
3. Budget Template
 4. Statement of Assurance

There have been glitches in getting the 501(c)(3) going. I am including the payment history so you can see that I have been trying since April 2nd. Also, please know that the payment was declined twice due to my typing in numbers incorrectly. My 10-key is not what it used to be. I should have the actual application this week and will forward to Dorie as soon as I have it. Thank you!









Joy Thomas Sawyer's Payment History

View Orders

All Orders ▾

All Products ▾

Print 

ORDER NO.	NAME	AMOUNT	DATE ▾	TRANSACTION	STATUS	PAYMENT METHOD	
77246496	EIN Obtainment	(\$79.00)	05/13/23	Refund	Approved	Visa ****2196	
77307996	Expedited 501(c)3 Application	(\$715.50)	05/13/23	Refund	Approved	Visa ****2196	
76722133	Standard 501(c)3 Application	(\$604.95)	05/13/23	Refund	Approved	Visa ****0386	
77307996	Expedited 501(c)3 Application	\$715.50	05/12/23	Payment	Approved	Visa ****2196	
77246570	Express Platinum Nonprofit Corporation	\$912.10	05/08/23	Payment	Approved	Visa ****2196	
77246496	EIN Obtainment	\$79.00	05/08/23	Payment	Approved	Visa ****2196	
76722137	Business Advisory Plan Membership	\$469.00	04/02/23	Payment	Approved	Visa ****0386	
76722133	Standard 501(c)3 Application	\$604.95	04/02/23	Payment	Approved	Visa ****0386	

Z LEGALZOOM**RECEIPT**

Order Confirmation Number: 77246570
 Date of Purchase: 05/08/2023
 Grand Total: \$912.10

Order Summary	Amount
Express Platinum Nonprofit Corporation – Garfield Education Foundation Inc.	\$359.00
Discount	-\$35.90
Filed Articles of Incorporation	Included
Corporate Kit	Included
Priority Rush Service	Included
State Filing Fee - AR	\$45.00
Two-Day Delivery (Two Business Days)	\$0.00
EIN Obtainment	\$49.00
14-Day Trial of Business Advisory Plan	See below*
Unlimited Digital Storage	Included
Attorney Consultations	Included
Attorney Consultations	Included
501(c)3 Application Preparation	\$495.00
IRS Form 1023	Included
Conflict of Interest Policy	Included
Standard Shipping	\$0.00
Essential Compliance Package	See below**
Annual Reports	Included
Compliance Calendar	Included
Business Advantage Member Center Access	Included
Company Minutes Manager	Included
State Tax ID	Included
Registered Agent Service	See below***
Unlimited Digital Storage (Business)	Included
Business Data Protection	Included
Total Charges: \$912.10	

Contact Info

Joy Thomas Sawyer
 (501) 253-3707
 77joy.lyn@gmail.com
 11735 Sallie Dr.
 Rogers, AR 72756

Shipping Info

Joy Thomas Sawyer
 (501) 253-3707
 77joy.lyn@gmail.com
 11735 Sallie Dr.
 Rogers, AR 72756

Payments & Credits

Date	Transaction	Payment Method	Payment Status	Amount
5/8/23	Initial Payment	Charge To Visa Card xxxx2196	Declined	\$912.10
5/8/23	Additional Payment	Charge To Visa Card xxxx2196	Declined	\$912.10
5/8/23	Additional Payment	Charge To Visa Card xxxx2196	Approved	\$912.10
Total Payment/Credits:				\$912.10

Date	Transaction	Payment Method	Payment Status	Amount
------	-------------	----------------	----------------	--------

Customer Balance Due: \$0.00

*After the 14-day trial period, benefits will continue automatically for \$49 per month. Cancel at any time with no further obligation either online or by calling (877) 818-8787. We'll send you periodic emails about your benefits, which continue until cancelled.

**After the 14-day trial period, benefits will continue automatically for \$230 annually until cancelled. You can cancel at any time with no further obligation either online or by calling (888) 310-0151.

***LegalZoom's Registered Agent Service starts when your filing documents are submitted to the state. *At that time, your card will automatically be charged \$249. The service renews automatically each year and is billed to your card. The renewal rate is subject to change.* You may cancel online or by calling us at (877) 808-8977. You will first need to appoint a new registered agent for your business. For more details, please see our [Registered Agent Terms](#) and [Subscription Terms](#).

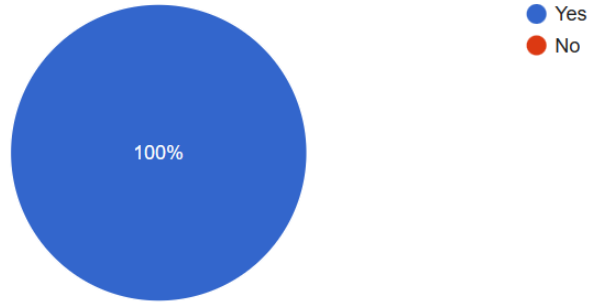
Parent/Guardian Public Survey

18 responses

Would you support a charter school option in Garfield?

 Copy

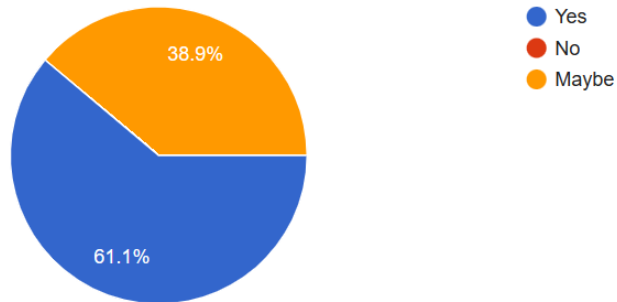
18 responses



Would your child(ren) attend school in Garfield if there was a charter school option?

 Copy

18 responses



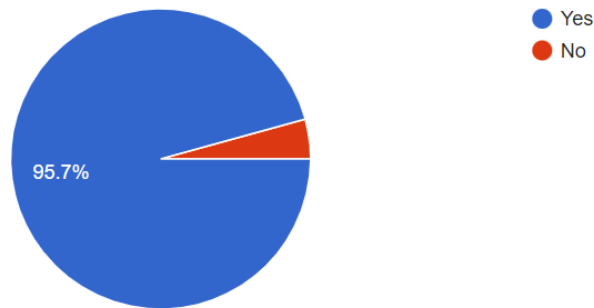
Community Input Survey

47 responses

Would you support an open-enrollment charter school option in Garfield?

 Copy

47 responses



[You may view the Community Presentation SlideShow here.](#)

Name

Cary Kludson
Bobby O'Leary
Jim FESELIAK
Judy + J L Seth
Stacey Eiston
Jenny Setzer
Michelle Dye
Will Neighbors
Jessica Fortner
Tammy Fortner
Joshua Bryant
Faith Dye
Michelle Dye
Taylor Dye
DOUGLAS SUTTON
JOHN NIERNBERGER
Sharon McCullough
Ran Dye
Samantha Simons
Bethany Stotesbery
Adam + Leann Ash
Tom + Jean HUNTON
Lash Watkins

Making a pitch



Fort Smith Mayor George McGill (above photo) throws out a ceremonial first pitch on Saturday at Opening Day for the 2023 Fort Smith Youth Baseball and Softball League season on Skokos Field at the Kelley Park Ballfields in Fort Smith. The league's 5U-12U teams got the season started over the weekend, while most of the other divisions are scheduled to begin on Monday. (Right photo) McGill signs autographs for Emory Wheeler, 10, and Logan Horton, 9. Visit nwaonline.com/photo for today's photo gallery. (River Valley Democrat-Gazette/Hank Layton)



Man gets 35-year term for '21 hammer beating

JOHN LYNCH
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE
LITTLE ROCK — A 56-year-old Little Rock man who beat his former fiancée with a hammer so severely that her brain was exposed, her vision permanently damaged and one ear torn apart was sentenced to 35 years in prison Thursday after claiming he was the true victim in the case.

Henri Dubois Hatten pleaded guilty last month to first-degree domestic battery for the December 2021 attack on 51-year-old Scherrie Johnson at their Howard Street home.

A repeat offender who has either been on probation or parole for the past 26 years, mostly for drug and property crimes, Hatten faced a maximum of 40 years in prison at Thursday's sentencing before Circuit Judge Karen Whatley. Johnson testified that she'd known Hatten for more than 20 years but that they'd been together romantically a couple of years — living together about six weeks — when Hatten attacked her without provocation as she got ready for work 10 days before Christmas 2021.

She told the judge Hatten had been arrested the day before — he'd been found with a counterfeit \$100 bill — and spent a few hours in jail before being released.

That morning, Johnson said Hatten came into the bathroom looking for his wallet. He left when she told him she didn't know where it was but he quickly returned to ask

On the Web
More Arkansas news
nwaonline.com/arkansas/

him defend himself at home. Asked by the judge what branch of the services Hatten had served in, he replied that he had never been in the military but his father had.

Testifying on Hatten's behalf was an older sister, Robbie Arbor; her daughter, Shamica Arbor; and the oldest of Hatten's 10 siblings, Victor Hatten.

They each expressed condolences for the attack, stating that the Hattens they knew was loving and caring, a man who put his family first and goes out of his way to make them laugh. The family asked for mercy.

"I hope ... I'm allowed to see my brother free one day," Victor Hatten told the judge.

Hatten's been plagued by drug problems for most of his life, they said, telling the judge he's never had a meaningful chance at treatment for his addictions.

The judge refused to let Hatten back out of his guilty plea, pointing out that she had extensively questioned him about why he was pleading guilty and whether he was satisfied with his attorneys' advice. When she questioned him about why he was pleading last month, Hatten had assured her he was pleading guilty because he had done what he had been charged with and also, when asked, expressed satisfaction with his lawyers. The judge further noted, observing that she had specifically questioned him about whether he had been coerced into the guilty plea and he had told her he had

reported that Hatten had taken the Mercedes without her permission, stating he'd gotten out of jail at midnight, arrived home about 1 a.m. then left with her car a few minutes later.

Mountain Pine OKs 4-day school week

BRANDON SMITH
THE SENTINEL-RECORD
MOUNTAIN PINE — The Mountain Pine School Board voted to adopt a four-day school week calendar for the 2023-24 school year during its regular monthly meeting Thursday night.

The move makes Mountain Pine the second public school district in Garland County to adopt a four-day schedule. Like Cutter Morning Star, the district will take Mondays off and lengthen its day by about an hour.

Mountain Pine will keep its present start time of 7:45 a.m., but will lengthen its end time to 4:07 p.m. While the school year calendar will remain largely the same, the school will have 142 instructional days instead of the traditional 178.

The board approved the motion 4-1, with board member Clayton Miller voting no because of concerns over student test scores. School Superintendent Bobby Applegate noted that if test scores did go down, the school district would be required to go back to a traditional calendar at the end of the year.

He said in early March that the district's main goal was to increase student attendance and teacher attendance.

The chair of the district's

Personnel Policies Committee, Nichole Lawrence, said when visiting with other schools that made the switch, she heard no complaints.

"I talked to a [Cutter Morning Star] school board member and they said their scores have gone up and things have been looking good," she said.

"Then we started reaching out to other school districts that we knew were already four-day — like Cutter, England, Bismarck and Bigelow [East End School District] — and we were able to ask questions to see how the week was working for them," Lawrence said.

The committee sent that information back out to the staff, she noted, who voted more than 70% in favor of the switch.

"So then we met again and we made a survey to send out to the parents. We had 60.6% respond from the elementary school and 39.4% respond from high school, with 55.8% voting for four-day," she said.

According to Arkansas law, schools may adopt the four-day weekly calendar as long as they meet the minimum 1,068 hours of instructional time. Mountain Pine, which has 618 students as of Thursday, will be among nearly 30 other districts throughout the state to adopt the four-day week.

PUBLIC HEARING
Open-Enrollment Public Charter School opening in Garfield, AR, within the Rogers Public School District

Garfield Scholars' Academy
Tentative opening August 2024

Open to all who want to inquire about the new K-5 publicly funded school offered to Garfield and the surrounding communities.

April 25, 2023
5:30-7:30

NEBCO Fire-EMS Building
14639 S. Wimpy Jones Rd.
Garfield, AR 72732

Start earning today with Bank OZK!

< 4.40% APY* >
7-MONTH CD OR IRA CD** SPECIAL

< 5.00% APY* >

...are looking for 1000 jobs... affected... the... director... and... by... the... will affect... a... the... is... in... well as... these... themselves... Find... jobs...

Meeting the mascot



Julia Doherty (third from right) of Springdale and her daughters Charlotte Doherty, 5, and Emery Doherty, 1, interact with an Arkansas mascot Saturday during the Red-White Spring Football Showcase at Dorset W. Reynolds Indoor Football Stadium in Fayetteville. Visit www.democrat-gazette.com for today's photo gallery. (NWA Democrat-Gazette/Park Layton)

Partners

Continued from Page 1B

The city will get its bridge and, in exchange, will take over future maintenance of the bridge and Arkansas 170, Main Street, through the city.



A vehicle passes over the bridge spanning the West Fork of the White River on Thursday along Main Street in West Fork. The city of West Fork is working with the Arkansas Department of Transportation to replace the bridge with work set to begin in 2025. Visit www.democrat-gazette.com for today's photo gallery. (NWA Democrat-Gazette/Andy Strupe)

On the web

Arkansas Department of Transportation partners at www.democrat-gazette.com

over its lifespan is, that's the next time it gets replaced. To me, that's the only downside, and we hope that we'll have enough economic growth between now and then to be able to replace it."

EVERYONE BENEFITS

Jared Wiley, assistant chief engineer for planning at the Arkansas Department of Transportation, said the partnership program, which began in the 1990s, speeds up the process and makes the department's money go further. It also provides incentives to local entities to participate and get projects done.

Highway projects using federal money typically require a 20% state match, Wiley said. The partnership program has allowed the department to partner with cities that have a little bit of cash to bring to the table, Wiley said.

"It accelerates projects because with the limited revenue that we've had, historically, a project would have to wait until the funding becomes available," Wiley said. "A lot of times partnering funding puts us over that fiscal hump, and we're able to begin project development much earlier," he said.

Wiley said today, the partnership program also gets \$25 million a year from a dedicated road tax passed by state voters in 2023.

from our friends in Northwest Arkansas," Wiley said. "I think it's just a matter of they have a lot of needs up there with the population growth they've seen over the past few decades, and they have been willing to contribute to projects to try to expedite the work that needs to be done."

Tim Conklin, executive director at the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission, concurred. Projects around the region that have seen, or are currently undergoing, such partnerships include improvements to U.S. 71B/Walnut Street in Rogers, U.S. 71B/College Avenue in Fayetteville, U.S. 62B in Prairie Grove, the J Street interchange in Bentonville, Arkansas 170 in Farmington and Arkansas 12/Arkansas 59 in Genoa.

Older projects included Arkansas 365 through several cities on the east side of the metro area.

"All four major Northwest Arkansas cities have all stepped up with local funds to advance ARDOT projects to improve mobility within their city and throughout the region," Conklin said.

According to the latest data available, Bentonville, Rogers, Fayetteville, Springdale and Fort Smith were all in the top 10 of cities partnering with the Transportation Department on projects. Farmington was just outside the top 10. Other cities around the area partnering on projects include Greenwood, Siloam Springs, Centerton, Harrison, Lowell, Alma, Bellevue, West Fork, Eureka Springs and Baling.

Bentonville has partnered more than any city in the state, contributing more than \$20 million to user projects, which was about 54% of the total costs. Rogers has contributed more than \$306 million on six projects, about 34% of the total costs. Fayetteville has paid more than \$28 million toward 14 projects, about 10% of the costs. Springdale has put more than \$23.8 million toward four projects, about 44% of the costs.

"There's just many examples of all the large cities in Northwest Arkansas looking at how to advance these projects and improve these projects to add bicycle and pedestrian facilities, improve safety on the roadways," Conklin said. "A lot of these roadways were two-lane open roads, so it's a lot to shoulder on them."

Conklin said the region is unique in that it has been adding about 100,000 people per decade for the last 30 years and there's no sign of that slowing. The region is forecast to have about a million people by 2045.

Conklin said the population growth is spilling over to the region's smaller cities. "Many of these cities understand that to move some of these projects forward, they're going to need to partner to address some of these transportation issues that we have," he said.

Statewide, cities, counties and other entities have partnered on 145 projects with local contributions exceeding \$38.8 million. More than 300 miles have been removed from the state highway system.

Ron Wood can be reached by email at rwood@nwadot.com or on Twitter @NWADOT.

Benefiel selected to make sculpture for Clinton center

PAIGE EICHENORN ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE LITTLE ROCK — Artist Jason Benefiel is a community's choice to create the next sculpture at the Clinton Presidential Center to take the place of a replica from Anne Frank's Chelmsford tree originally dedicated to her in 2003.

Benefiel's unnamed prototype features a large chelmsford tree with a "broken off" branch "visually broken off" to symbolize the horror of the Holocaust. She said she hopes to have the community vote on a name for the piece inscribed on the tree in a quote from Frank: "What is done cannot be undone, but one can prevent it from happening again."

Benefiel said she only wanted her husband, Jeremy, to be in Little Rock to celebrate because it was "a partnership and collaboration as an undisciplined location at the Figurekay Studio in Bentonville's borough of New York City."

"Our family is really excited," she said. "An artist and a perfect like this, to get to do something that really means so much, is everything for us as artists. So we're thrilled and she said their children are 'old enough now' to be 'curious' and 'wanting to learn' about their heritage. "It's just been such a great opportunity for us to start to

Quiz Bowl finals set to air on PBS

CYNTHIA HOWELL ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE Quiz Bowl 2023, which is the annual Arkansas Governor's Academic Competition for high school students, will be broadcast Saturday on Arkansas PBS, beginning at 9 a.m.

Additionally, the event showcasing the intellect of high school students across the state will be livestreamed at myarpbs.org/2023quizbowl the week following the broadcast.

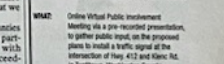
The first rounds of the quiz bowl will be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and the second rounds will be from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. A total of 14 teams in seven conferences will compete in the state finals for scholarship and monetary prizes.

The first round of matches will include in order of appearance: • 7A — Fayetteville High School vs. Conway High School.

• 4A — Baxter High School vs. Arkadelphia High School. • 5A — Valley View High School vs. Batesville Charter High School.

• 3A — Mountain View High School vs. Haas Hall Academy Fayetteville. Matches will resume at 1:30 p.m. and feature in order of appearance:

ONLINE VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE



AR DOT Online Virtual Public Meeting will be a pre-recorded presentation, to gather public input on the proposed plans to install a traffic signal at the intersection of Hwy 412 and State Rte. in Bentonville, Washington County.

When: Monday, April 24, 2023 to Monday, May 8, 2023.

Where: Link to Virtual Meeting www.ar.gov/2023meeting At the website location, select the public meeting of your interest.

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION: The Arkansas Department of Transportation (ADOT) complies with all civil rights provisions of federal statutes and related authorities that prohibit discrimination in programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance. The Department does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, age, national origin, religion, marital status, or disability. Any person who believes they have been discriminated against in the Department's hiring or employment practices, or who has any questions, may contact the Arkansas Department of Transportation, Human Resources, 1000 North Main Street, Little Rock, AR 72201, (501) 681-2288, (toll-free) 1-800-368-7288, or by email at hr@adot.gov.

PUBLIC HEARING

Open Enrollment Public Charter School opening in Garfield, AR, within the Rogers Public School District

Garfield Scholars' Academy Tentative opening August 2024

Open to all who want to inquire about the new K-5 publicly funded school offered to Garfield and the surrounding communities. April 23, 2023 5:30-7:30 NEBCO Fire-EMS Building 14639 S. Wimpy Jones Rd. Garfield, AR 72732

From: Joy Thomas Sawyer <77joy.lyn@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 8:00 AM

To: Jeff Perry <jeff.perry@rpsar.net>

Subject: [Personal Email]Garfield Scholars' Academy Open Enrollment Charter School

CAUTION: This email originated from a personal email address. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Joy Thomas Sawyer
Garfield Scholars' Academy

April 3, 2023

Mr. Jeff Perry, Superintendent
Rogers Public Schools
500 W. Walnut St.
Rogers, AR 72756

Dear Mr. Perry,

This letter is to advise you of a public meeting being held to announce the plans for an open enrollment charter school in Garfield, AR. This letter is intended to meet the requirement given by the Arkansas Department of Education to notify the school district(s) from which the students will attend the new open enrollment charter school. The public meeting will be held in the NEBCO Building located at [14639 S. Wimpy Jones Rd., Garfield, AR 72732](#). The meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. on April 25th, 2023. I would appreciate your acknowledgement of receipt of this email.

Sincerely,

--

Joy Thomas Sawyer, EdS

Garfield Scholars' Academy Open Enrollment Charter School

Jeff Perry <jeff.perry@rpsar.net>

Mon, Apr 3, 2023 at 9:02 AM

To: Joy Thomas Sawyer <77joy.lyn@gmail.com>

Cc: Charles Lee <Charles.Lee@rpsar.net>, Garfield Mayor <GarfieldMayor@outlook.com>, "ajhorn26@sbcglobal.net" <ajhorn26@sbcglobal.net>, Curtis Clements <cclements@hoodandstacy.com>, Paige Sultemeier <cpsulte@cox.net>, Mitchell Lockhart <mitchell.lockhart@wfadvisors.com>, "nathan.gairhan@united-bk.com" <nathan.gairhan@united-bk.com>, Rob Phillips <ratphillips@cox.net>, "sspivey@cox.net" <sspivey@cox.net>

Dr. Sawyer,

I am in receipt of your letter. I was aware this process had begun. I assume you would want to use Garfield Elementary School for your open enrollment school. We need to have a conversation about this before you move forward with the process. It is my understanding the board was willing to transfer ownership of the school to the town. It is my understanding the board was under the impression the town would utilize this facility as a community center or governmental offices. I am not sure how the board would feel about the school converting to a charter school because we have not had that discussion. They may be, or may not be, supportive, but I would not make the assumption that ownership of the building would be given away. As you are aware, we are bound by state law in how we can legally transfer school property to another entity. There is current legislation which may impact the current law, but I don't know if the current bill will pass or be modified. I would suggest you gain a clear understanding of that process and how the Rogers School Board would react. Again, I am not aware of the board's thoughts on an open enrollment charter school, but I think it would be in your best interest to clarify this point before promises are made. Please contact me if I can be of any further assistance. Thanks! Jeff

Garfield Scholars' Academy Open Enrollment Charter School



Joy Thomas Sawyer <77joy.lyn@gmail.com>

Mon, Apr
3, 8:00 AM

to kmartin@pearidgek12.com

Joy Thomas Sawyer
Garfield Scholars' Academy

April 3, 2023

Mr. Keith Martin, Superintendent
Pea Ridge Public Schools
979 Weston
Pea Ridge, AR 72751

Dear Mr. Martin,

This letter is to advise you of a public meeting being held to announce the plans for an open enrollment charter school in Garfield, AR. This letter is intended to meet the requirement given by the Arkansas Department of Education to notify the school district(s) from which the students will attend the new open enrollment charter school. The public meeting will be held in the NEBCO Building located at 14639 S. Wimpy Jones Rd., Garfield, AR 72732. The meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. on April 25th, 2023. I would appreciate your acknowledgement of receipt of this email.

Sincerely,

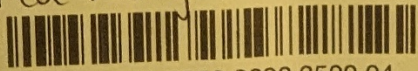
--

Joy Thomas Sawyer, EdS

SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION

Complete items 1, 2, and 3.
Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.
Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.

Article Addressed to:
Mr. Keith Martin
Pea Ridge Public Schools
979 Weston
Pea Ridge, AR 72751



9590 9402 7558 2098 3500 04

Article Number (Transfer from service label)

7020 1290 0000 8155 7265

Form 3811, July 2020 PSN 7530-02-000-9053

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY

A. Signature
 Signature Agent
 Nathalie Brunell Address

B. Received by (Printed Name) *Nathalie Brunell* C. Date of Delivery *4-7-23*

D. Is delivery address different from item 1? Yes
If YES, enter delivery address below: No

3. Service Type
- Adult Signature
 - Adult Signature Restricted Delivery
 - Certified Mail®
 - Certified Mail Restricted Delivery
 - Collect on Delivery
 - Collect on Delivery Restricted Delivery
 - Insured Mail
 - Priority Mail Express®
 - Registered Mail™
 - Registered Mail Restricted Delivery
 - Signature Confirmation
 - Signature Confirmation Restricted Delivery

Restricted Delivery

Domestic Return Receipt

USPS TRACKING #



9590 9402 7558 2098 3500 04

First-Class Mail
Postage & Fees Paid
USPS
Permit No. G-10

United States
Postal Service

• Sender: Please print your name, address, and ZIP+4® in this box•

Joy Sawyer
Garfield Scholars' Academy
PO Box 114
Garfield, AR 72732

**Garfield Scholars Academy
Estimated Revenues - Year 1**

Source of Funds	# Students	Amount Per Student	Total Yr 1
Foundation Funding	200	\$7,771.00	\$1,554,200.00
Grants/Other Funding:	State Funding- PD, ELL, ESA		\$92,652.00

Total Budgeted Revenues \$1,646,852.00

**Garfield Scholars Academy
Estimated Salaries to be Paid from State/Local Funds - Year 1**

Position	#	Salary	Subtotal	Fringe	Total Expense
Director/GT Specialist	1	\$77,000	\$77,000	\$20,020	\$97,020
Kindergarten	1	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$13,000	\$63,000
First Grade	1	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$15,600	\$75,600
Second Grade	1	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$13,000	\$63,000
Third Grade	1	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$13,000	\$63,000
Fourth Grade	1	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$13,000	\$63,000
Fifth Grade	1	\$65,000	\$65,000	\$16,900	\$81,900
TEAMS Coordinator	0.3	\$50,000	\$15,000	\$3,900	\$18,900
Guidance Counselor	0.6	\$50,000	\$30,000	\$7,800	\$37,800
Interventionist	0.5	\$50,000	\$25,000	\$6,500	\$31,500
Title 1	1	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$13,000	\$63,000
Maintenance	0.4	\$50,000	\$20,000	\$5,200	\$25,200
Librarian	0.2	\$50,000	\$10,000	\$2,600	\$12,600
Music	0.2	\$50,000	\$10,000	\$2,600	\$12,600
Art	0.2	\$50,000	\$10,000	\$2,600	\$12,600
Physical Education	0.4	\$50,000	\$20,000	\$5,200	\$25,200
Nurse	0.6	\$50,000	\$30,000	\$7,800	\$37,800
Special Education	1	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$13,000	\$63,000
Custodian	1	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$10,400	\$50,400
Clerical	1	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$10,400	\$50,400
Food Services	2	\$38,000	\$76,000	\$19,760	\$95,760

Total Budgeted Salaries and Benefits \$1,043,280

**Garfield Scholars Academy
Estimated Expenditures - Year 1**

Administration:	Explanation	Amount
Purchased Services	Professional development, legal, communications	\$14,000.00
Supplies and Materials	Office supplies	\$2,000.00
Equipment	Computers, printers, furniture	\$24,000.00
Classroom Instruction:	Explanation	Amount
Purchased Services	Educational technology support services	\$6,000.00
Supplies and Materials	Textbooks, workbooks, folders, paper, pens, etc.	\$3,300.00
Equipment	Laptops/tablets, whiteboards, projectors, desks, tv's	\$130,000.00
Special Education:	Explanation	Amount
Purchased Services	Educational evaluations & assessments, behavioral	
	and mental services. Professional development	\$7,200.00
Supplies and Materials	Specialized instructional material and learning aids	\$1,400.00
Equipment	Sensory and adaptive equipment	\$2,400.00
Gifted & Talented Program	Explanation	Amount
Purchased Services		
Supplies and Materials	Advanced coursework	\$800.00
Equipment	Software and STEM coursework	\$1,800.00
ALE Program:	Explanation	Amount
Purchased Services	Applied for waiver	
Supplies and Materials		
Equipment		

ELL Program:	Explanation	Amount
Purchased Services	Language support services - translator	
Supplies and Materials	Professional development for teachers and staff	\$6,100.00
Equipment	Instructional materials designed for ELL students	\$600.00
Guidance Services:	Explanation	Amount
Purchased Services	Outside contracted services	\$10,000.00
Supplies and Materials	SEL Programs, Guidance Materials	\$3,000.00
Equipment	Based on student needs	\$5,000.00
Health Services:	Explanation	Amount
Purchased Services	First aid supplies, medications, health screening	
Supplies and Materials	supplies, PPE, and office supplies	\$1,900.00
Equipment	Medical equipment, thermometer, blood pressure cuff,	
	stethoscope, otoscope, other diagnostic tools.	\$1,600.00
Library Media Services:	Explanation	Amount
Purchased Services	Books, magazines, digital resources, e-books,	
Supplies and Materials	audiobooks, and online learning tools	\$6,000.00
Equipment	Computers, laptops, tablets, projector, tv	\$14,000.00
Fiscal Services:	Explanation	Amount
Purchased Services	Some fiscal services performed in-house, and others	
Supplies and Materials	contracted out to third-party service provider	\$30,000.00
Equipment		
Pupil Transportation:	Explanation	Amount

Purchased Services	Transportation Services for IDEA Compliance	\$5000.00
Supplies and Materials	No transportation offered.	\$0.00
Equipment	No transportation offered.	\$0.00
Maintenance & Operations:	Explanation	Amount
Purchased Services	Pest Control, cybersecurity, technical support	\$32,000.00
Supplies and Materials	Tools, cleaning supplies	\$4,000.00
Equipment	Cleaning equipment, groundskeeping equipment	\$12,000.00
Phone	Phones	\$3,600.00
Gas	Gas	\$9,000.00
Electric	Electricity	\$42,000.00
Water	Water	\$6,800.00
Sewer	Sewer and Trash Services	\$12,800.00
Food Services:	Explanation	Amount
Purchased Services	Food purchases, kitchen and cooking utensils, and	\$42,000.00
Supplies and Materials	supplies	\$4,000.00
Equipment		\$10,000.00
Data Processing:	Explanation	Amount
Purchased Services	Student Information systems or learning management system. Network/server	
Supplies and Materials	maintenance,	
Equipment	technical support	\$28,000.00
Substitute Personnel:	Explanation	Amount
Supplies and Materials	Hiring and substitute services	\$8,200.00
CMO Fee (if applicable):	Explanation	Amount
Annual Fee	No CMO	
Advertising/Marketing		

Legal Services		
Facilities:	Explanation	Amount
Lease/Purchase Contract Per Yr	Currently in conversations about acquisition of building.	
Facility Upgrades		
Property Insurance Per Yr	General liability, property and content insurance	\$62,000.00
Content Insurance Per Yr		
Debt Expenditures:	Explanation	Amount
Other Expenditures:	Explanation	Amount
Marketing	Advertising, announcements, enrollment, etc.	2500.00
	Currently in conversations about acquisition of building.	
	Renovations to improve ADA compliance.	
	Upgrades required for normal operation.	

TOTAL BUDGETED EXPENDITURES \$555,000.00

**Garfield Scholars Academy
Year 1 Ending Balance**

REVENUE		\$1,646,852.00
----------------	--	----------------

EXPENDITURES

Salaries & Benefits	\$1,043,280.00
Other Expenses	<u>\$555,000.00</u>

\$1,598,280.00

ENDING BALANCE

\$48,572.00

**Garfield Scholars Academy
Estimated Revenues - Year 2**

Source of Funds	# Students	Amount Per Student	Total Yr 1
Foundation Funding	250	\$7,771.00	\$1,942,750.00
Grants/Other Funding:	State Funding-PD, ELL, ESA		\$207,705.00
Grants/Other Funding:			
Total Budgeted Revenues			\$2,150,455.00

**Garfield Scholars Academy
Estimated Salaries to be Paid from State/Local Funds - Year 2**

Position	#	Salary	Subtotal	Fringe	Total Expense
Director	1	\$77,000	\$77,000	\$20,020	\$97,020
Pre K	1	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$13,000	\$63,000
Kindergarten	1	\$50,200	\$50,200	\$13,052	\$63,252
First Grade	1	\$60,200	\$60,200	\$15,652	\$75,852
Second Grade	1	\$50,200	\$50,200	\$13,052	\$63,252
Third Grade	1	\$50,200	\$50,200	\$13,052	\$63,252
Fourth Grade	1	\$50,200	\$50,200	\$13,052	\$63,252
Fifth Grade	1	\$65,200	\$65,200	\$16,952	\$82,152
Sixth Grade	1	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$13,000	\$63,000
TEAMS Coordinator	0.3	\$50,200	\$15,060	\$3,916	\$18,976
Title 1	1	\$50,200	\$50,200	\$13,052	\$63,252
Guidance Counselor	0.6	\$50,000	\$30,000	\$7,800	\$37,800
Interventionist	0.5	\$50,000	\$25,000	\$6,500	\$31,500
Maintenance	0.4	\$50,200	\$20,080	\$5,221	\$25,301
Librarian	0.2	\$50,200	\$10,040	\$2,610	\$12,650
Music	0.2	\$50,200	\$10,040	\$2,610	\$12,650
Art	0.2	\$50,200	\$10,040	\$2,610	\$12,650
Physical Education	0.4	\$50,200	\$20,080	\$5,221	\$25,301
Nurse	0.6	\$50,200	\$30,120	\$7,831	\$37,951
Special Education	1	\$50,200	\$50,200	\$13,052	\$63,252
Custodian	1	\$40,200	\$40,200	\$10,452	\$50,652
Clerical	1	\$40,200	\$40,200	\$10,452	\$50,652
Food Services	2	\$38,200	\$76,400	\$19,864	\$96,264
Total Budgeted Salaries and Benefits					\$1,172,884

Garfield Scholars Academy
Estimated Expenditures - Year 2

Administration:	Explanation	Amount
Purchased Services	Professional development, legal, communications	\$14,000.00
Supplies and Materials	Office supplies	\$2,000.00
Equipment	Computers, printers, furniture	\$24,000.00
Classroom Instruction:	Explanation	Amount
Purchased Services	Educational technology support services	\$6,000.00
Supplies and Materials	Textbooks, workbooks, folders, paper, pens, etc.	\$3,300.00
Equipment	Laptops/tablets, whiteboards, projectors, desks, tv's	\$130,000.00
Special Education:	Explanation	Amount
Purchased Services	Educational evaluations & assessments, behavioral	
Supplies and Materials	and mental services. Professional development	\$7,200.00
Equipment	Specialized instructional material and learning aids	\$1,400.00
	Sensory and adaptive equipment	\$2,400.00
Gifted & Talented Program	Explanation	Amount
Purchased Services		
Supplies and Materials	Advanced coursework	\$800.00
Equipment	Software and STEM coursework	\$1,800.00
ALE Program:	Explanation	Amount
Purchased Services	Applied for waiver	
Supplies and Materials		
Equipment		

ELL Program:	Explanation	Amount
Purchased Services	Language support services - translator	
Supplies and Materials	Professional development for teachers and staff	\$6,100.00
Equipment	Instructional materials designed for ELL students	\$600.00
Guidance Services:	Explanation	Amount
Purchased Services	Outside contracted services	\$10,000.00
Supplies and Materials	SEL Programs, Guidance Materials	\$3,000.00
Equipment	Based on student needs	\$5,000.00
Health Services:	Explanation	Amount
Purchased Services	First aid supplies, medications, health screening	
Supplies and Materials	supplies, PPE, and office supplies	\$1,900.00
Equipment	Medical equipment, thermometer, blood pressure cuff,	
	stethoscope, otoscope, other diagnostic tools.	\$1,600.00
Library Media Services:	Explanation	Amount
Purchased Services	Books, magazines, digital resources,e-books,	
Supplies and Materials	audiobooks, and online learning tools	\$6,000.00
Equipment	Computers, laptops, tablets, projector, tv	\$14,000.00
Fiscal Services:	Explanation	Amount
Purchased Services	Some fiscal services performed in-house, and others	
Supplies and Materials	contracted out to third-party service provider	\$30,000.00
Equipment		
Pupil Transportation:	Explanation	Amount
Purchased Services	Transportation for IDEA compliance	\$5000.00

Supplies and Materials	No transportation offered.	\$0.00
Equipment	No transportation offered.	\$0.00
Maintenance & Operations:	Explanation	Amount
Purchased Services	Pest Control, cybersecurity, technical support	\$32,000.00
Supplies and Materials	Tools, cleaning supplies	\$4,000.00
Equipment	Cleaning equipment, groundskeeping equipment	\$12,000.00
Phone	Phones	\$3,600.00
Gas	Gas	\$9,000.00
Electric	Electricity	\$42,000.00
Water	Water	\$6,800.00
Sewer	Sewer and Trash Services	\$12,800.00
Food Services:	Explanation	Amount
Purchased Services	Food purchases, kitchen and cooking utensils, and	\$42,000.00
Supplies and Materials	Supplies	\$4,000.00
Equipment		\$10,000.00
Data Processing:	Explanation	Amount
Purchased Services	Student Information systems or learning	
Supplies and Materials	management system. Network/server	
Equipment	technical support	\$28,000.00
Substitute Personnel:	Explanation	Amount
Supplies and Materials	Hiring and substitute services	\$8,200.00
CMO Fee (if applicable):	Explanation	Amount
Annual Fee	No CMO	
Advertising/Marketing		
Legal Services		

Facilities:	Explanation	Amount
Lease/Purchase Contract Per Yr	Currently in conversations about aquisition of building.	
Facility Upgrades		
Property Insurance Per Yr	General liability, property and content insurance	\$62,000.00
Content Insurance Per Yr		
Debt Expenditures:	Explanation	Amount
Other Expenditures:	Explanation	Amount
Advertising	Advertising, announcements, enrollment, etc.	2500.00
	Currently in conversations about aquisition of building.	
	Renovations to improve ADA compliance.	
	Upgrades required for normal operation.	

TOTAL BUDGETED EXPENDITURES \$555,000

**Garfield Scholars Academy
Year 2 Ending Balance**

REVENUE \$2,150,455.00

EXPENDITURES

Salaries & Benefits	\$1,172,883.60
Other Expenses	<u>\$555,000.00</u>

\$1,727,883.60

ENDING BALANCE \$422,571.40

2023 Open-Enrollment Charter Applicant State of Assurances

The signature of the President of the Board of Directors of the proposed public charter school's sponsoring entity certifies that the following statements are and will be addressed through policies adopted by the sponsoring entity and policies to be adopted by the public charter school; and, if the application is approved, that the sponsoring entity, governing body, administration, and staff of the open-enrollment charter shall abide by them.

1. The information submitted in this application is true to the best of my knowledge and belief, and this application has been sent to the superintendent of all the districts from which we expect to draw students.
2. The open-enrollment public charter school shall be open to all students, on a space-available basis, and shall not discriminate in its admission policy on the basis of gender, national origin, race, ethnicity, religion, disability, or academic or athletic eligibility, except as follows: the open-enrollment public charter school may adopt admissions policies that are consistent with federal law, regulations, or guidelines applicable to charter schools. The charter may provide for the exclusion of a student who has been expelled from another public school district.
3. If enrollment exceeds the approved enrollment cap, the open-enrollment charter school shall hold an annual random and anonymous public lottery, followed with notifying parents of enrollment status for all applicants. The waiting list generated by the lottery will be maintained for one year.
4. In accordance with federal and state laws, the open-enrollment public charter school hiring and retention policies of administrators, teachers, and other employees shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, creed, sex, ethnicity, sexual orientation, mental or physical disability, age, ancestry, or special need.
5. The open-enrollment public charter school shall operate in accordance with federal laws and rules governing public schools, applicable provisions of the Arkansas Constitution, and state laws and regulations governing public schools not waived by the approved charter.
6. The open-enrollment public charter school shall not use the moneys that it receives from the state for any sectarian program or activity, or as collateral for debt.
7. Open-enrollment public charter schools may enter into lease-purchase agreements for school buildings built by private entities with facilities bonds exempt from federal taxes under 26 USCS 142(a) as allowed by Ark. Code Ann.

§ 6-20-402. No indebtedness of an open-enrollment public charter school shall ever become a debt of the State of Arkansas.

8. The open-enrollment public charter school shall not impose taxes or charge students tuition or fees that would not be allowable charges in the public school districts.
9. The open-enrollment public charter school shall not be religious in its operations or programmatic offerings.
10. The open-enrollment public charter school shall ensure that any of its employees who qualify for membership in the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System or the Arkansas State and Public School Employee Insurance Program shall be covered under those systems to the same extent a qualified employee of a traditional school district is covered.
11. The employees and volunteers of the open-enrollment public charter school are held immune from liability to the same extent as other public school district employees and volunteers under applicable state laws.
12. The open-enrollment public charter school shall be reviewed for its potential impact on the efforts of a public school district or public school districts to comply with court orders and statutory obligations to create and maintain a unitary system of desegregated public schools.
13. The open-enrollment public charter school shall comply with all health and safety laws, rules and regulations of the federal, state, county, region, or community that may apply to the facilities and school property.
14. The applicant confirms the understanding that certain provisions of state law shall not be waived. The open-enrollment public charter school is subject to any prohibition, restriction, or requirement imposed by Title 6 of the Arkansas Code and any rule and regulation approved by the State Board of Education under this title relating to:
 - (a) Monitoring compliance with Ark. Code Ann. § 6-23-101 *et seq.*, as determined by the Commissioner of the Department of Education;
 - (b) Conducting criminal background checks for employees;
 - (c) High school graduation requirements as established by the State Board of Education;
 - (d) Special education programs as provided by this title;
 - (e) Public school accountability under this title;
 - (f) Ethical guidelines and prohibitions as established by Ark. Code Ann. § 6-24-101 *et seq.*, and any other controlling state or federal law regarding ethics or conflicts of interest; and
 - (g) Health and safety codes as established by the State Board of Education and state and local governmental entities.

15. The facilities of the public charter school shall comply with all requirements for accessibility for individuals with disabilities in accordance with the ADA and IDEA and all other state and federal laws.
16. Should the open-enrollment public charter school voluntarily or involuntarily close, the applicant confirms the understanding that any fees associated with the closing of the school including, but not limited to, removal of furniture, equipment, general expenses, etc., are the sole responsibility of the sponsoring entity. No indebtedness of any kind incurred or created by the open-enrollment public charter school shall constitute an indebtedness of the state or its political subdivisions, and no indebtedness of the open-enrollment public charter school shall involve or be secured by the faith, credit, or taxing power of the state or its political subdivisions. Upon dissolution of the open-enrollment public charter school or upon nonrenewal or revocation of the charter, all net assets of the open-enrollment public charter school, including any interest in real property, purchased with public funds shall be deemed the property of the state, unless otherwise specified in the charter of the open-enrollment public charter school. If the open-enrollment public charter school used state or federal funds to purchase or finance personal property, real property or fixtures for use by the open-enrollment public charter school, the authorizer may require that the property be sold. The state has a perfected priority security interest in the net proceeds from the sale or liquidation of the property to the extent of the public funds used in the purchase.
17. To be eligible for a charter school license, an entity must hold or have applied for 501(c)(3) status at the time this charter application is filed. The entity must receive formal tax exempt status under §501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 prior to the first day of its operation with students.
18. Any applications submitted without documentation showing that 501(c)(3) status has been applied for or received will not be reviewed. Articles of incorporation or a letter acknowledging non-profit status from the Secretary of State will not suffice.
19. The curriculum used in the school will be aligned to the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education curriculum standards.
20. The Arkansas Public School Computer Network (APSCN) Financial Management System, provided by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, shall be the original and official accounting systems of record for the public charter school as required by state law and the rules and regulations of the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education for all financial transaction records and reporting (including, but not limited to, payroll processing and wage and tax reporting to the IRS ATRS, DFA, etc., accounts payable, fixed assets, personnel budgeting, and budgeting). APSCN shall be used to record all private, as well as, local, state, and federal revenues and expenditures.
21. Ark. Code Ann. §6-24-105 prohibits charter school board members from contracting with or being employed by the charter school except in certain limited circumstances.
22. The Arkansas Public School Computer Network (APSCN) Financial Management System, provided by the Department of Education, shall be the original and official accounting system of record for the public charter school as required by state law and the rules and regulations of the Department of Education for all financial transaction

records and reporting (including, but not limited to, payroll processing and wage and tax reporting to IRS, ATRS, DFA, etc., accounts payable, fixed assets, personnel budgeting, and budgeting). APSCN shall be used to record all private, as well as, local, state, and federal revenues and expenditures.

23. The Arkansas Public School Computer Network (APSCN) Student Management System, provided by the Department of Education, shall be the original and official student management system for the public charter school as required by state law and the rules and regulations of the Department of Education for all student management areas (including, but not limited to, systems administration, demographics, attendance, scheduling, report cards, discipline, medical, Cognos reporting, and Statewide Information System reporting).
24. The facility to be used will be in compliance with all requirements for accessibility in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and all other state and federal laws and local zoning ordinances.
25. **A copy of the entity's letter from the IRS reflecting tax exempt status or a copy of the entity's application for 501(c)(3) status must be included with the application.** Articles of incorporation or a letter acknowledging non-profit status from the Secretary of State will not suffice.) To be eligible, an entity must hold or have applied for 501(c)(3) status at the time this charter application is filed. The entity must receive formal tax exempt status under §501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 prior to the first day of its operation with students. Non-profit entities without the required Internal Revenue Service documentation are not eligible to be awarded charters; therefore, any **applications submitted without documentation showing that 501(c)(3) status has been applied for or received will not be reviewed.**

Dr. Melanie Kennon
Applicant Signature

May 16, 2023
Date

Melanie Kennon, EdD
Printed Name