



# ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

## District Conversion or Limited Public Charter School New Application

Deadline for Submission: October 31



Charter School: EXPLORE

Date Submitted: 10/26/11

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Arkansas Department of Education  
Charter School Office  
Four Capitol Mall, Room 302-B  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
501.683.5313

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
APPLICATION FOR A DISTRICT CONVERSION OR LIMITED  
PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL**

**A. GENERAL INFORMATION (Please type.)**

Name of Proposed Charter School: Elkins ExPLORE Charter School

Grade Level(s) for the School: K-12 Student Enrollment cap: 500

Name of School District: Elkins School District

Name of Contact Person: Paula Wheeler

Address (no P.O. Box please): 349 N. Center Street City: Elkins ZIP: 72727

Daytime Phone Number: ( 479 ) 643-2690 FAX: (479) 643-2726

E-mail: pwheeler@elkinsdistrict.org

Charter Site Address: 349 N. Center Street

City: Elkins ZIP Code: 72727

Date of Proposed Opening: August 2012

Name of Superintendent: Megan Witonski

Address: 349 N. Center Street

City: Elkins Zip Code: 72727

Phone Number: (479) 643-2172 FAX: (479) 643-3605

E-mail: witonski@elkinsdistrict.org

## **B. GENERAL DESCRIPTION**

In succinct terms describe the proposed school including grade levels offered, student populations served, educational focus, and any other essential characteristics.

Elkins Alternative School (iCan), which currently has 13 students enrolled grades 7-12 will be converted to Elkins ExPLORE Charter School. Elkins ExPLORE Charter School will serve student grades K-12 with varying degrees of involvement. ExPLORE will offer a challenging technology embedded academic program to a diverse student population. The focus of ExPLORE is to provide students with Experiences to Pursue Lifework Opportunities through Real-world Education (ExPLORE).

ExPLORE Charter School will have a maximum enrollment of 500 students. During each year of operation, the student cap will increase as the Elkins School District constructs a new high school. The cap will be 80 students for the first year, 160 students for the second year, and approximately 350 for the third year. If the number of students seeking enrollment in the school exceeds capacity, the students will be randomly selected by anonymous lottery. The total number of students enrolled in the school will not exceed 500 without formally amending this charter.

This extended year, extended day school will meet with varying hours Monday through Friday. Each student will have an individualized schedule which will be determined by student and family needs to meet requirements for instructional time. Instructional time will be delivered using a variety of means, including any or all of the following: a traditional school schedule, a flexible schedule, and/or by appointment.

ExPLORE Charter School will strive to be an innovative school to promote deeper knowledge through project based learning, integrated technology, and collaborative school culture. ExPLORE students will be given the opportunity to seek academic educational avenues through a blended instructional educational environment that will seek goals and objectives of a new tech school. Through computer based curriculum and project based learning, ExPLORE students will be able to leverage his/her own learning by accessing the curriculum at school and from home; at the speed he/she needs; and with the guidance of content experts. In addition, students will be afforded the opportunity to participate in internships, apprenticeships, job shadowing, job certification, and real-world applications as they move through the program. Through the blended environment, ExPLORE will provide an opportunity for a meaningful and operative education. This approach will connect schools, families, and the community for a seamless educational system.

Along with academics, ExPLORE students will be able to participate in extra-curricular activities provided by Elkins ExPLORE Charter School, Elkins High School, Elkins Middle School, and/or approved outside sources. Extra-curricular experiences combined with an already enhanced instructional program will promote the development of individuals capable of functioning in today's ever changing society.

## D. REQUIRED INFORMATION

The applicant for the proposed district conversion or limited public charter, if approved by the State Board of Education, agrees to operate the educational program described below in accordance with the provisions described within this document, Arkansas Code Annotated §6-23-101 et seq., the Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing Charter Schools, and the attached assurances. This is a narrative description of various components of the proposed charter school, and the responses to the following inquiries including any supporting attachment pages must be limited to no more than 30 pages.

Application Standards:

**1. Describe the results of the public hearing, which was held for the purpose of assessing support for the establishment of this district conversion or limited public charter school. Provide verification that notice of the public hearing was distributed to the community, certified school personnel, and parents of all students enrolled in the public schools in the community to be served by the proposed charter school. Also, include verification that notice of the public hearing was published on a weekly basis for at least three (3) weeks prior to the date of the hearing in a newspaper having general circulation in the school district.**

Elkins School District has shown a commitment to establishing a charter school for over a year. The school board first adopted the idea of starting a charter school at the October 11, 2010 board meeting in order to provide expanded services for district students (see Attachment A). Then, on December 16, 2010, Elkins School District formally applied for a conversion charter school by sending an application letter to the Arkansas Department of Education (see Attachment B). District support then continued with another letter of application on August 26, 2011 to finalize the initial application process (see Attachment C).

After the first phase of the formal application letter to the Arkansas Department of Education, Elkins School District then began discussing, with the public, charter school possibilities. Public communication began with a letter to announce the Annual Report to the Public and the Public Annual Report notification in the local newspaper on September 15, 2011 (see Attachments D and E). Five days later, on September 20, 2011, the district held the Annual Report to the Public and announced the charter school application, opportunities, and the public charter school public hearing (see Attachment F). Then, during the three week period prior to the public hearing, announcements were sent home to each student and certified employees (see Attachment G) publicizing the meeting along with notices being published in the local newspapers (see Attachments H, I, and J).

Then, a public hearing to gauge the level of community support was held Tuesday, October 25, 2011 at the Elkins High School cafeteria. Attendees included community members and parents of the Elkins School District to be served by the proposed charter school (See Attachment K). After the mission, structure, and curriculum plans were shared, positive comments encouraging the school to pursue the charter school conversion were expressed.

Approximately 20 parents, staff members, administrators, and community members were in attendance. Mrs. Paula Wheeler, current Elkins ALE school Principal, and Mrs. Megan Witonski, Superintendent, presented a comprehensive program overview. The meeting concluded at 6:30 p.m. All attendees were unanimously in favor of establishing the Elkins ExPLORE Charter School. Verification of notice to the public, parents, and certified school personnel is attached to this application.

- Attachment A is board minutes from October 11, 2010 approving conversion charter school
- Attachment B is the application letter to the Arkansas Department of Education dated December 16, 2010
- Attachment C is the application letter to the Arkansas Department of Education dated August 26, 2011
- Attachment D is the letter sent home with all students concerning the Annual Report to the Public on September 15, 2011.
- Attachment E is the Affidavit of publication of the notice for the Annual Report to the Public Meeting that ran in the White River Valley News published in Elkins, Arkansas on September 15, 2011.
- Attachment F is the sign in sheet for the Annual Report to the Public on September 20, 2011.
- Attachment G is the announcement distributed to parents of all students enrolled in the Elkins School District.
- Attachment H is the Affidavit of publication of public notice that ran in the Madison County Record published in Huntsville, Arkansas on October 20, 2011.
- Attachment I is the Affidavit of publication of public notice that ran in the Northwest Arkansas Times published in Fayetteville, Arkansas on October 24, 2011.
- Attachment J is the Affidavit of publication of public notice that ran in the Springdale Morning News published in Springdale, Arkansas on October 24, 2011.
- Attachment K is the sign in sheet for the charter school public hearing held on October 25, 2011.
- Attachments L, M, N and O are letters of support from the Elkins School Board, parent, and community representatives.

**2. Give the mission statement of the proposed district conversion or limited public charter school.**

The mission of Elkins ExPLORE Charter School, in collaboration with all stakeholders, is to enrich students' lives by providing opportunities to develop academic, social, ethical, and lifework skills to be successful in a changing world.

### **3. Describe the educational need for the school.**

As of October 2011, the Elkins School District's K-12 enrollment is 1,168 students. The district has one high school, one middle school, one elementary school, one primary school, and one alternative learning environment. Elkins is situated in rural, eastern Washington County. Fifty-three percent of the school's students live in poverty as defined by the National School Lunch Act. The elementary school is in year three school improvement, meets standards, for special population scores and the middle school is on academic alert for literacy scores.

Many students face obstacles that are difficult to remove in the traditional school setting. These students often get behind, see no way of catching up, lose hope, and drop out of school. In order to prevent this from happening in our community, the charter school will remove as many of those obstacles as possible by customizing the educational experience through flexible access to curriculum, engaging instruction, mastery learning, addressing the needs of the individual learner, and providing career and college readiness.

### **4. Describe the educational program to be offered by the district conversion or limited public charter school.**

Elkins ExPLORE will be designed to fit the needs of the learner with computer based learning, research based instructional practices, teacher directed instruction, project based learning, and concurrent credit classes. One-on-one, small group, and whole group instruction will be blended with computer based courses such that students will have access to curriculum at home or at school using technology and teachers as resources. Concurrent classes will be offered through partnerships with higher education schools located in the region.

This rigorous core curriculum is designed to develop the intellectual capacity of students attending ExPLORE. All aspects of the educational program will be designed as mastery learning with emphasis on project based learning. ExPLORE instructors will incorporate the components and methodologies that are most advantageous to the students such as authenticity of the problem and the intended product, academic rigor, applied learning in real-world situations, active exploration by students, adult connections, and assessment practices that include the use of clear criteria and structured self assessment.

#### ***Computer Based Instruction***

Program options may include A+ Anywhere Learning System, K12 software, Odysseyware, and Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) assessments. Through these program options, students will have access to highly developed and highly engaging curriculum. These learning experiences will be augmented by ExPLORE teachers to further explanations, projects, and hands-on activities as well as provide additional assistance when needed. Pre-testing, progress monitoring, and student engagement time reporting are features of these computer based instructional programs that will be used to further customize the learning experience for each child. Recent advances in technology make these computer based instructional programs more engaging than ever. Reporting capabilities will provide ExPLORE teachers with the

data needed to make the right decisions about student learning in a timely and manageable manner.

### ***Instructional Time and School Calendar***

All students will have direct contact with their instructors at least 20 of the required 30 hours of weekly instruction. Students needing additional support from their instructors, to ensure academic success, will be required to have supplementary direct contact with ExPLORE teachers.

The school will be in session for 178 days during the regular session. Two summer sessions will last 13 school days each. The total number of school days will be 204.

### ***Media Center and Educational Resources***

EXPLORE students will have access to a large online library of interactive materials through subscriptions purchased by the school district and through the A+ Anywhere Learning System. Students will also have access to district media centers and the Elkins Public Library.

### ***Standards Based Instruction and Assessment***

EXPLORE curriculum is aligned with state standards and the district curriculum guide. Common assessments based on the courses in which they are enrolled will be given to all students. EXPLORE student data will be analyzed by district staff to determine how best to improve student achievement before the state exams. This is one tool utilized for continuous feedback for student achievement.

### ***Extended Learning Opportunities***

#### **Extended Learning Objectives:**

1. To provide a safe and orderly environment.
2. To focus on the development of the whole child.
3. To provide opportunities for success while being challenged to think.

#### **Extended Learning Activities:**

1. Homework assistance
2. Literacy, math, and writing instruction based on state and district standards and benchmark.
3. Accelerated learning for targeted students
4. Enrichment activities that may include fine arts, music, drama, dance, foreign language, computer, and career/workplace readiness.
5. Instruction will blend knowledge and fun.

**5. List the specific measurable goals in reading, reading comprehension, mathematics, and mathematic reasoning based on the state mandated assessments, and any other assessment tools if used, for improving student academic achievement for each year of the public charter schools' initial five (5) year period.**

Since this school is new, no baseline data for student achievement are available. Therefore, the measureable goals of this charter school are for the students to meet AYP and Common Core goals for each test for each year, including the first five years.

Reading and mathematics will be assessed using ACTAAP benchmark and end-of-course exam results, Common Core Assessments, Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) assessments, and computer based interim assessments. NCLB, Act 35, or any current legislation requirements for students scoring below certain levels as defined in legislation will have treatments as indicated by current legislation.

Students will be tested using NWEA assessments and/or A+ Anywhere assessments to determine their reading comprehension and mathematics reasoning. Each student who does not achieve on grade level will receive extra support and tutoring until individualized goals are reached.

**6. Describe the process that will be used to develop and align the curriculum with the Arkansas Curriculum Frameworks. Also describe plans to transition the curriculum to the pending requirements of the Common Core Standards in accordance with the timeframe adopted by the State Board of Education.**

EXPLORE administration and district staff will work with teachers to develop and align curriculum with the Arkansas Curriculum Frameworks and the Common Core Standards. Common Core Standards will be aligned and implemented in grades K-2 during 2011-2012, grades 3-8 during 2012-2013; and grades 9-12 during 2013-2014 school years. Assessments will also be developed for frequent monitoring to ensure that students are progressing. The assessment resources will be used to provide a rich picture of student learning from multiple sources. Standards, curriculum, and assessment will be aligned with each other and with the school's vision to create a quality educational program. As grade levels move from Arkansas Curriculum Frameworks to Common Core Standards, ExPLORE administration and district staff will work with teachers to develop and align crosswalks between the two curriculums to make a smooth transition. For both Arkansas Curriculum Frameworks and Common Core Standards, instructors will utilize the following steps in the alignment process:

- Instructors will collaborate with colleagues in the same discipline to achieve a higher understanding of the frameworks/standards. They will identify student learning expectations, large scale concepts, units, individual skills, and principles that must be taught each grading period to address the frameworks. Assessments based on curriculum frameworks/standards will be used to evaluate the quality of instruction. District curriculum maps and vertical alignments will be used throughout this process. Teachers will submit unit plans with learning objectives and the frameworks to which they are correlated to ensure that the frameworks/standards are being embedded in the instruction.

- Benchmark assessments and interim assessments will be developed to provide feedback regarding the instruction. These common assessments will be administered to all students. A combination of portfolios, projects, simulations, norm-referenced, criterion referenced, performance series, and other assessments will be used to determine student achievement and the quality of instruction. Students who are not making progress on interim assessments and course work will be identified and interventions will be created to ensure success by the next interim assessment.

**7. Describe the enrollment criteria and the student selection process. Include a statement of what student selection method will be utilized in the event that more students apply for admission to the district conversion or limited public charter school than can be accommodated under the terms of the charter.**

Elkins ExPLORE Charter School will be open to all students who reside in the Elkins School District. In accordance with all federal and state laws, no student will be denied enrollment in the school based on race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, or disability. A recruitment plan that provides information to parents and students about ExPLORE and the application process will be published annually.

Students who are currently enrolled or reside in the Elkins School District will have first priority for enrollment in the charter school at the time of conversion, second priority will be given to at-risk students, and third priority to home school students.

The cap will be 80 students for the first year, 160 students for the second year, and 350 for the third year. If the number of students seeking enrollment in the school exceeds capacity, the students will be randomly selected by anonymous lottery. The total number of students enrolled in the school will not exceed 500 without formally amending this charter.

**8. Summarize the job descriptions of the school director and other key personnel. Specify the qualifications to be met by professional employees (administrators, teachers, counselors, etc.) of the program. List the types of administrative positions, teaching positions, and support positions and how many of each.**

***School Director / Principal***

The principal of Elkins ExPLORE will hold a degree and an administrative license. This person will be highly qualified to serve in this capacity and will model the school's philosophy. The principal's primary responsibility is to spearhead the implementation of all outlined programs and ensure that the school is reaching its goals and mission. The principal will provide instructional leadership for ExPLORE staff. This person will work with teachers and district staff in the areas of curriculum planning, review and implementation, and in professional development. This person is responsible for school administration and the safety and welfare of the students and staff.

**Other Duties:**

- Establishes, monitors, and revises schedules
- Provides supervision to students

- Supervises extra-curricular and elective activities
- Evaluates instructors
- Provides professional development opportunities for building personnel
- Manages the school budget
- Establishes and meets with the school teams to monitor implementation for the school program
- Implements policies and procedures established in the approved ExPLORE Charter, by the Elkins School Board, and the Arkansas Department of Education
- Develops and maintains a communication plan to build relationships with parents, parent groups, and the community.

### ***Counselor***

The counselor will hold a degree, which meets state requirements. The primary responsibilities of the counselors are to advise students with career action planning and the scheduling process; offer a comprehensive guidance program for students; provide and coordinate the support services for students and their families.

In addition to a district school counselors, a school based mental health professional that is a state certified school psychologist will be made available to students at ExPLORE as well.

### ***Literacy Specialist***

The district literacy specialist will provide professional development to strengthen instructional strategies in literacy including differentiated instruction; model research-based, best teaching methodologies; monitor student progress in literacy; and ensure students are provided challenge and rigor.

### ***Math Specialist***

The district math specialist will provide professional development to strengthen instructional strategies in math including differentiated instruction; model research-based, best teaching methodologies; monitor student progress in math; and ensure students are provided challenge and rigor.

### ***Teachers***

The primary responsibility of the teacher is to lead students toward the fulfillment of their potential for intellectual, emotional, and psychological growth and maturation to enhance academic achievement. Other duties and responsibilities include the following:

- Focus on student achievement through quality instruction.
- Assesses the academic progress of students on a regular basis.
- Reports student academic progress to administration, students, and parents.
- Implements policies, rules, and guidelines of the charter, the Elkins School Board, and the Arkansas Department of Education.

- Cooperates with other members of the staff in planning instructional goals, objective, and methods.
- Establishes and maintains communication with students and parents.
- Other duties as assigned.

### ***Special Education Teachers***

The primary responsibility of the special education teacher is to ensure that every student is meeting or is on target to meet goals outlined by the Individual Educational Plan (IEP) of each identified student. Monitoring curriculum modifications will be a major responsibility of this instructor along with completing IEPs and conducting the required conferences for each child in order to comply with due process as required by law. All other duties of instructor as outlined above will apply to the special education instructor also.

At maximum student enrollment (500), the staff of Elkins ExPLORE will consist of the following:

- Director/Principal (1.0 FTE)
- Counselor (1.0 FTE)
- Instructors (17.0 FTE)
- Special Education Instructors (based on IEP requirements)
- Technology personnel (1.0 FTE)
- Secretary (1.0 FTE)
- Paraprofessionals (2.0 FTE)

The staff members will be added as student enrollment increases. Until such a time as ExPLORE enrollment dictates, certain positions may be shared with Elkins High School, Elkins Middle School, Elkins Elementary School, and Elkins Primary School. The director/principal and certain teaching positions will be ExPLORE staff from the beginning.

**9. Describe the manner in which the school will make provisions for the following student services:**

**(A) Guidance Program**

The maximum number of students attending ExPLORE will require a counseling staff of 1.0 FTE certified personnel and existing Elkins School District counselors. Until student numbers necessitate that another school counselor be hired, the Elkins ExPLORE Charter School will utilize current counselors at Elkins High School, Elkins Middle School, Elkins Elementary School, and Elkins Primary School.

**(B) Health Services**

ExPLORE's health services will be in compliance with ADE rules and regulations governing school health services.

**(C) Media Center**

Students enrolled in ExPLORE will have access to a large online library of interactive materials. The literacy specialist will supervise these services. Students will also have access to lending library resources from Elkins High School, Elkins Middle School, Elkins Elementary School, and Elkins Primary School as well as materials from the Elkins Public Library, and the Northwest Arkansas Educational Cooperative.

**(D) Transportation**

Transportation will be provided to students who attend ExPLORE by the Elkins School District. ExPLORE students will receive the same level of services that other students enrolled in the district receive as defined in school district policies.

**(E) Food**

Students enrolled in the traditional programs at ExPLORE will be provided food services from the Elkins School District Food Services Department. Breakfast and lunch will be served each day school is in session.

**(F) Special Education**

Elkins ExPLORE Charter School will receive services provided by the district and the Boston Mountain Educational Cooperative Department of Special Services. All services currently being provided special needs students will be available to ExPLORE students. The charter school will be in full compliance with all federal and state regulations concerning IDEA and 504 at all times.

**(G) Alternative Education**

The current alternative education program is being converted into Elkins ExPLORE Charter School. Students will receive the services that have been outlined above. Any student who qualifies for the school district's alternative education program will be provided service at Elkins ExPLORE Charter School.

**(H) Gifted and Talented Program**

ExPLORE will not offer a formal, separate gifted and talented program.

**10. Provide a statement affirming that the charter school will participate in the Arkansas Public School Computer Network, as required by state statute or by State Board of Education rule, for reporting education and financial data, including grants or private donations received by the school.**

The Elkins School District reports educational data through the Arkansas Public School Computer Network. Elkins ExPLORE, as a conversion charter school in Elkins School District, will report educational data through APSCN.

**11. Describe the facilities to be used. Give the present use of the facility and the use for the past three (3) years. Include a statement that the facility will comply 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. If the facility does not currently meet these requirements, provide a list of items that will need to be addressed to bring the facility into compliance.**

The 7-12 facility to be used for Elkins ExPLORE Charter School is currently being used as Elkins Alternative Learning Environment which is located at 349 North Center Street, Elkins, Arkansas. The K-6 facility to be used for Elkins ExPLORE Charter School will be located in the Elkins Primary School building located at 349 North Center Street, Elkins, Arkansas. The Elkins School District is in the process of constructing a new 9-12 high school building to be completed in 2013. Upon completion, the Elkins ExPLORE Charter School will move into one of the existing high school buildings. The building was constructed in 1990 and meets the ADA and IDEA requirements. If students with exceptional needs beyond current modifications enroll, the Elkins School District is committed to making the modifications needed to comply with ADA and IDEA.

There are no alcohol sales within 1,000 feet of this location. Local zoning laws dictate that the area be used for public schools.

**12. List the provisions of Title 6 of the Arkansas Code Annotated (Education Code), Arkansas Department of Education rules, and the *Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts* that the district conversion public charter school seeks to be exempted from in order to meet the goals of the school. Identify the specific statute, rule, or standard requested to be waived by title and section number if applicable. Provide a brief description of the need for each waiver requested.**

Elkins ExPLORE requests the following waivers from Arkansas Code Annotated, State Board of Education Rules and Regulations, and Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools:

### ***State Statute Waivers Requested***

- 6-10-106 Start and End Dates for School Year**  
Elkins ExPLORE Charter School requests a waiver to have an extended school calendar to accommodate for student opportunities for internships, apprenticeships, and other prospects for student preparation and learning. This waiver will provide students and families flexible scheduling as the needs of the families we serve dictate the scheduling.
- 6-15-1004 Qualified teachers in every public school classroom**  
Elkins ExPLORE Charter School requests the flexibility to employ instructors it feels will be the most successful in the program regardless of licensure status. This would give us the flexibility to

hire the staff with the specific skills needed to successfully meet the needs of the students. Every effort will be made to hire the most qualified individuals.

**6-16-102  
Calendar**

**School Day - Required Time for Instruction and School**

Due to program design, Elkins ExPLORE Charter School requests a waiver from **Standard V 10.01.4 and Standard 14.03**. Our planned instructional time will be a minimum of 30 hours per week with a minimum of 20 hours a week of face-to-face teacher/student interaction. Students may receive up to 10 hours of the required 30 hours of instruction each week accessing computer based curriculum away from school. This will provide a greater level of flexibility that will allow the school to meet the needs of every student. We are also requesting a waiver from Carnegie units to competency based/mastery learning.

**6-17-111**

**Duty Free Lunch Period**

Elkins ExPLORE will have a few meetings scheduled during lunch times, primarily to address partner needs.

**6-17-114**

**Daily Planning Period**

Elkins ExPLORE Charter School will provide teacher planning time but it is not guaranteed to meet the minimum minutes/week. Additionally, Elkins ExPLORE will utilize curriculum experts to develop and update curriculum, assessments, and many of the other teacher required materials for each of the academic content areas to help address the lack of a regular daily planning period.

**6-17-401**

**Teacher's license requirement**

ExPLORE program design necessitates the use of contracted services for personnel to instruct specialized topics for a few hours daily or short periods of time; therefore, full compliance with this statute would be restrictive.

**6-17-902**

**Definition of a teacher**

ExPLORE program design facilitates the need to utilize contracted services for personnel to instruct specialized topics for a few hours daily or short periods of time; therefore, full compliance with this statute would be restrictive.

**6-17-1501**

**through**

**6-17-1510**

**high degree**

**Teacher Fair Dismissal Act and Public School Fair Hearing Act**

Because of the variable needs of the students and the curriculum, a

**6-17-1701 through 6-17-1705** of flexibility in staffing is needed. Elkins ExPLORE pledges that all constitutional due process will be followed in all employee dismissal events.

**6-17-203 Committee for Each School District**  
Elkins ExPLORE Charter School requests that the charter school not be subject to review by the Personnel Policies Committee due to the program design.

**Standards for Accreditation 10.02 Class Size Ratios & Teaching Load Restrictions**  
Due to program design, Elkins ExPLORE Charter School requests that this standard be waived. ExPLORE strives to keep the required ratios, but in this educational setting the required ratio would not allow the flexibility needed.

**6-25-103 6-25-104 Licensed Library Media Specialists**  
Elkins ExPLORE Charter School requests a waiver from this standard because media will be available through large online libraries of interactive materials and access to lending library resources from Elkins High School, Elkins Middle School, Elkins Elementary School, Elkins Primary School, Elkins Public Library, and the Northwest Arkansas Educational Cooperative.

**6-42-101 et seq. and 6-20-2208(c)(6) and Standard 18.0 Gifted and Talented Programs**  
The school will provide included services within its school year to meet the needs of students and not have a Gifted and Talented services.

**13. Describe the potential impact of the proposed district conversion or limited public charter school on the efforts of a public school district or districts to comply with court orders and statutory obligations to create and maintain a unitary system of desegregated public schools.**

The school district and Elkins ExPLORE Charter School will adhere to the guidelines established for student transfers by the federal courts and state statutes. The Elkins School District does not expect that the conversion of Elkins Alternative Learning Environment School into a charter school will have an impact on the racial composition of the new charter school. The district does not expect a negative impact on neighboring districts' efforts to create and maintain a unitary system of desegregated schools.

**14. Describe how the parents or guardians of the enrolled students will be involved with the school and its educational program.**

Parents and core staff will help to determine priorities for the school. Furthermore, parents and core staff will help to develop interventions that will facilitate the improvement of these items. They will also be involved in the evaluation of interventions and help determine if interventions should be modified or replaced and how. The ACSIP process will be used to develop the school improvement process. The ACSIP committee will be comprised of parents and core staff. They will meet periodically to create and review the ACSIP plan.

## Elkins ExPLORE Charter School Proposed Calendar

August 13-17	Professional Development
August 20	First Day for Students
September 3	No School
October 26	Professional Development – No School for Students
November 19-20	Professional Development – No School for Students
November 21-23	No School
December 24-Jan 4	No School
March 25-29	No School
May 24	Last Day for Regularly Scheduled Classes
June 5-21	First Summer Session
July 10-26	Second Summer Session

## Elkins ExPLORE Charter School Proposed Daily Schedule

Instruction from computer based courses can occur at any time during the school day when students are not participated in a scheduled class such as direct instruction or a course in one of the other schools in the district. Since types of classes are adherent to a daily schedule, the daily schedule for Elkins ExPLORE Charter School will have the same bell schedule during the regular school day as follows:

Extended Learning	7:00-8:00
Period 1	8:00-8:46
Period 2	8:51-9:37
Period 3	9:42-10:28
Period 4	10:33-11:19
Period 5	11:24-12:10
Lunch	12:10-12:45
Period 6	12:50-1:36
Period 7	1:41-2:27
Period 8	2:32-3:18
Extended Learning	3:30-5:30

**Elkins ExPLORE Charter School  
2012-2013 Certified Salary Schedule  
Elkins School District**

Step *	Years of Experience	BSE	BSE +15	Masters	Masters + 15
1	0	32,767	33,967	35,767	36,967
2	1	33,217	34,442	36,267	37,492
3	2	33,667	34,917	36,767	38,017
4	3	34,117	35,392	37,267	38,542
5	4	34,567	35,867	37,767	39,067
6	5	35,017	36,342	38,267	39,592
7	6	35,467	36,817	38,767	40,117
8	7	35,917	37,292	39,267	40,642
9	8	36,367	37,767	39,767	41,167
10	9	36,817	38,242	40,267	41,692
11	10	37,267	38,717	40,767	42,217
12	11	37,717	39,192	41,267	42,742
13	12	38,167	39,667	41,767	43,267
14	13	38,617	40,142	42,267	43,792
15	14	39,067	40,617	42,767	44,317
16	15	39,517	41,092	43,267	44,842
17	16	39,967	41,567	43,767	45,367
18	17	40,417	42,042	44,267	45,892
19	18	40,867	42,517	44,767	46,417
20	19	41,317	42,992	45,267	46,942
21	20	41,767	43,467	45,767	47,467
22	21	42,217	43,942	46,267	47,992
23	22	42,667	44,417	46,767	48,517
24	23	43,117	44,892	47,267	49,042
25	24	43,567	45,367	47,767	49,567
26	25	44,017	45,842	48,267	50,092
27	26	44,467	46,317	48,767	50,617
28	27	44,917	46,792	49,267	51,142
29	28	45,367	47,267	49,767	51,667
30	29	45,817	47,742	50,267	52,192
31	30	46,267	48,217	50,767	52,717
32		31		53,242	
33		32		53,767	
34		33		54,292	
35		34		54,817	
36		35		55,342	

\* The steps and ranges are shown above only because they appear on employees' contracts.

The above salary schedule is based on 190 day contract.

9 ½ Month Contracts (200 days) are: Salary Schedule 190 Days = Per Day Amount

Per Day Amount x 200 Days = Contract Amount

10 Month Contracts (210 days) are: Salary Schedule 190 Days = Per Day Amount

Per Day Amount x 210 Days = Contract Amount

11 Month Contracts (230 days) are: Salary Schedule 190 Days = Per Day Amount

Per Day Amount x 230 Days = Per Day Amount

12 Month Contracts (240 days) are: Salary Schedule 190 Days = Per Day Amount

Per Day Amount x 240 Days = Per Day Amount

½ Year experience is paid when the experience is with the Elkins School District, resulting from employment beginning at the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of the previous year.

This is the salary schedule of the Elkins School District. Elkins ExPLORE Charter School will adhere to the district approved salary schedule.

**Elkins ExPLORE Charter School  
2012-2013 Administrative Salary Schedule**

Administrative salaries are reviewed in February of each year. At the current time, Elkins School District does not have an administrative index calculator for salaries. Salaries are assigned by the superintendent based on budget allowances.

**Public Charter School Application**  
**Budget Worksheet / Template**  
**Year One**

	<b>Revenues</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Total</b>
1	State Public Charter School Aid:		
2	No. of Students (80_) x \$6,144.00 State Foundation Funding	\$491,520.00	
3			
4	No. of Students (_80_) x \$51.00 Professional Development	4,080.00	
5	No. of Students (_80_) x eligible rate* NSLA Funding	40,480.00	
6	Total State Charter School Aid		\$536,080.00
7			
8	Other Sources of Revenues:		
9	Private Donations or Gifts	0.00	
10	Federal Grants (List the amount) ALE funding category	39,046.00	
11	Special Grants (List the amount)	0.00	
12	Other ( <i>Specifically Describe</i> )	0.00	
13			
14	Total Other Sources of Revenues		\$39,046.00
15			
16	<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>		<b>\$575,126.00</b>
17			
18	<b>Expenditures</b>		
19	Administration:		
20	Salaries: ( <i>No. of Positions</i> _1_)	\$60,000.00	
21	Fringe Benefits	16,800.00	
22	Purchased Services	0.00	
23	Supplies and Materials	560.00	
24	Equipment	3,250.00	
25	Other ( <i>Describe</i> )	0.00	
26			
27	Regular Classroom Instruction:		
28	Salaries: ( <i>No. of Positions</i> _3_)	\$114,000.00	
29	Fringe Benefits	31,920.00	
30	Purchased Services	0.00	
31	Supplies and Materials	3,500.00	
32	Equipment	21,512.00	
33	Other ( <i>Describe</i> )		

34	(Budget Continued)	
35	Special Education:	0.00
36	Salaries: (No. of Positions___)	0.00
37	Fringe Benefits	0.00
38	Purchased Services	0.00
39	Supplies and Materials	3,500.00
40	Equipment	2,900.00
41	Other (Describe)	
42		
43	Gifted and Talented Program:	
44	Salaries: (No. of Positions___)	0.00
45	Fringe Benefits	0.00
46	Purchased Services	0.00
47	Supplies and Materials	0.00
48	Equipment	0.00
49	Other (Describe)	0.00
50		
51	Alternative Education Program:	
52	Salaries: (No. of Positions__1__)	\$38,000.00
53	Fringe Benefits	10,640.00
54	Purchased Services	0.00
55	Supplies and Materials	1,500.00
56	Equipment	2,000.00
57	Other (Describe)	0.00
58		
59	Guidance Services:	
60	Salaries: (No. of Positions___)	0.00
61	Fringe Benefits	0.00
62	Purchased Services	15,000.00
63	Supplies and Materials	2,300.00
64	Equipment	1,500.00
65	Other (Describe)	0.00
66		
67	Health Services:	
68	Salaries: (No. of Positions___)	0.00
69	Fringe Benefits	0.00
70	Purchased Services	0.00
71	Supplies and Materials	2,600.00
72	Equipment	3,500.00
73	Other (Describe)	0.00

74	<i>(Budget Continued)</i>	
75	Media Services:	
76	Salaries: (No. of Positions___)	0.00
77	Fringe Benefits	0.00
78	Purchased Services	0.00
79	Supplies and Materials	15,980.00
80	Equipment	2,300.00
81	Other (Describe)	0.00
82		
83	Fiscal Services:	
84	Salaries: (No. of Positions___)	0.00
85	Fringe Benefits	0.00
86	Purchased Services	0.00
87	Supplies and Materials	0.00
88	Equipment	0.00
89	Other (Describe)	0.00
90		
91	Maintenance and Operation:	
92	Salaries: (No. of Positions___)	0.00
93	Fringe Benefits	0.00
94	Purchased Services	
95	(include utilities)	22,263.00
96	Supplies and Materials	29,781.00
97	Equipment	18,200.00
98	Other (Describe)	0.00
99		
100	Pupil Transportation:	
101	Salaries: (No. of Positions_1___)	24,960.00
102	Fringe Benefits	6,988.00
103	Purchased Services	0.00
104	Supplies and Materials	45,940.00
105	Equipment	3,000.00
106	Other (Describe)	0.00
107		
108	Food Services:	
109	Salaries: (No. of Positions___)	0.00
110	Fringe Benefits	0.00
111	Purchased Services	0.00
112	Supplies and Materials	16,652.00
113	Equipment	3,700.00
114	Other (Describe)	0.00

115	(Budget Continued)	
116	Data Processing:	
117	Salaries: (No. of Positions___)	0.00
118	Fringe Benefits	0.00
119	Purchased Services	0.00
120	Supplies and Materials	8,100.00
121	Equipment	3,500.00
122	Other (Describe)	0.00
123		
124	Substitute Personnel:	
125	Salaries: (No. of Positions_4__)	9,600.00
126	Fringe Benefits	2,688.00
127		
128	If Applicable: Facilities	
129	Lease/Purchase (contract for one total year including facility upgrades)	25,000.00
130	<i>Please list upgrades: if portable building is needed</i>	
131	office upgrades	
132	If Applicable: Utilities (contract for one total year including facility upgrades)	
133	If Applicable: Insurance (contract for one total year including facility upgrades):	
134	If Applicable: Property Insurance	320.00
135	If Applicable: Content Insurance	
136		
137	Debt Expenditures:	
138	Other Expenditures:	1,172.00
139	(Describe) - student accident insurance	
140		
141	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$575,126.00</b>

**Public Charter School Application**  
**Budget Worksheet / Template**  
**Year Two**

	<b>Revenues</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Total</b>
1	State Public Charter School Aid:		
2	No. of Students (160_) x \$6,267.00 State Foundation Funding	\$1,002,720.00	
3			
4	No. of Students (_160_) x \$52.00 Professional Development	8,320.00	
5	No. of Students (_160_) x eligible rate* NSLA Funding	82,720.00	
6	Total State Charter School Aid		\$1,093,760.00
7			
8	Other Sources of Revenues:		
9	Private Donations or Gifts	0.00	
10	Federal Grants (List the amount) ALE funding category	39,046.00	
11	Special Grants (List the amount)	0.00	
12	Other ( <i>Specifically Describe</i> )	0.00	
13			
14	Total Other Sources of Revenues		\$39,046.00
15			
16	<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>		<b>\$1,132,806.00</b>
17			
18	<b>Expenditures</b>		
19	Administration:		
20	Salaries: ( <i>No. of Positions</i> _1_)	\$60,000.00	
21	Fringe Benefits	16,800.00	
22	Purchased Services	0.00	
23	Supplies and Materials	560.00	
24	Equipment	3,250.00	
25	Other ( <i>Describe</i> )	0.00	
26			
27	Regular Classroom Instruction:		
28	Salaries: ( <i>No. of Positions</i> _6_)	\$228,000.00	
29	Fringe Benefits	63,840.00	
30	Purchased Services	0.00	
31	Supplies and Materials	7,000.00	
32	Equipment	21,512.00	
33	Other ( <i>Describe</i> )		

34	(Budget Continued)	
35	Special Education:	
36	Salaries: (No. of Positions___)	0.00
37	Fringe Benefits	0.00
38	Purchased Services	0.00
39	Supplies and Materials	0.00
40	Equipment	7,000.00
41	Other (Describe)	2,900.00
42		
43	Gifted and Talented Program:	
44	Salaries: (No. of Positions___)	0.00
45	Fringe Benefits	0.00
46	Purchased Services	0.00
47	Supplies and Materials	0.00
48	Equipment	0.00
49	Other (Describe)	0.00
50		
51	Alternative Education Program:	
52	Salaries: (No. of Positions (_1_))	\$38,000.00
53	Fringe Benefits	10,640.00
54	Purchased Services	0.00
55	Supplies and Materials	1,500.00
56	Equipment	2,000.00
57	Other (Describe)	0.00
58		
59	Guidance Services:	
60	Salaries: (No. of Positions___)	0.00
61	Fringe Benefits	0.00
62	Purchased Services	15,000.00
63	Supplies and Materials	2,300.00
64	Equipment	1,500.00
65	Other (Describe)	0.00
66		
67	Health Services:	
68	Salaries: (No. of Positions___)	0.00
69	Fringe Benefits	0.00
70	Purchased Services	0.00
71	Supplies and Materials	3,500.00
72	Equipment	6,500.00
73	Other (Describe)	0.00

74 (Budget Continued)

75	Media Services:	
76	Salaries: (No. of Positions___)	0.00
77	Fringe Benefits	0.00
78	Purchased Services	21,320.00
79	Supplies and Materials	15,980.00
80	Equipment	2,300.00
81	Other (Describe)	0.00
82		
83	Fiscal Services:	
84	Salaries: (No. of Positions___)	0.00
85	Fringe Benefits	0.00
86	Purchased Services	0.00
87	Supplies and Materials	0.00
88	Equipment	0.00
89	Other (Describe)	0.00
90		
91	Maintenance and Operation:	
92	Salaries: (No. of Positions___)	
93	Fringe Benefits	0.00
94	Purchased Services	
95	(include utilities)	44,526.00
96	Supplies and Materials	59,562.00
97	Equipment	18,200.00
98	Other (Describe)	0.00
99		
100	Pupil Transportation:	
101	Salaries: (No. of Positions (_2_))	49,920.00
102	Fringe Benefits	13,976.00
103	Purchased Services	0.00
104	Supplies and Materials	91,880.00
105	Equipment	6,000.00
106	Other (Describe)	0.00
107		
108	Food Services:	
109	Salaries: (No. of Positions___)	0.00
110	Fringe Benefits	0.00
111	Purchased Services	0.00
112	Supplies and Materials	33,304.00
113	Equipment	7,400.00
114	Other (Describe)	0.00

115	(Budget Continued)	
116	Data Processing:	
117	Salaries: (No. of Positions___)	0.00
118	Fringe Benefits	0.00
119	Purchased Services	0.00
120	Supplies and Materials	8,100.00
121	Equipment	3,500.00
122	Other (Describe)	0.00
123		
124	Substitute Personnel:	
125	Salaries: (No. of Positions (_6_))	14,400.00
126	Fringe Benefits	4,032.00
127		
128	If Applicable: Facilities	
129	Lease/Purchase (contract for one total year including facility upgrades)	152,000.00
130	<i>Please list upgrades: new location</i>	
131		
132	If Applicable: Utilities (contract for one total year including facility upgrades)	91940
133	If Applicable: Insurance (contract for one total year including facility upgrades):	
134	If Applicable: Property Insurance	320.00
135	If Applicable: Content Insurance	
136		
137	Debt Expenditures:	
138	Other Expenditures:	2,344.00
139	<i>(Describe) student accident insurance</i>	
140		
141	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$1,132,806.00</b>

## **DISTRICT CONVERSION or LIMITED PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION STATEMENT OF ASSURANCES**

The signature of the Superintendent of the School District of the public charter school certifies that the following statements are and will be addressed through policies adopted by the public charter school and, if the application is approved, the local board, administration, and staff of the district conversion or limited public charter school shall abide by them:

1. The information submitted in this application is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.
  
2. The proposed district conversion or limited 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, although the charter may provide for the exclusion of a student who has been expelled from another public school district.
  
3. In accordance with federal and state laws the proposed district conversion or limited 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.
  
4. Any educator employed by a school district before the effective date of a charter for a district conversion or limited public charter school operated at a school district facility shall not be transferred to or employed by the public charter school over the educator's objection.
  
5. The proposed district conversion or limited public charter school shall operate in accordance with federal laws and rules governing public schools; applicable provisions of the Arkansas Constitution; and state statutes or regulations governing public school not so waived by the approved charter.
  
6. The proposed district conversion or limited public charter school shall ensure that any of its employees who qualify for membership in the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System or the State and Public School Employee Insurance Program shall be covered under those systems to the same extent a qualified employee of the school district is covered.
  
7. The proposed district conversion or limited 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.

8. The employees and volunteers of the district conversion or limited public charter school are held immune from liability to the same extent as other school district employees and volunteers under applicable state laws.

9. The district conversion or limited public charter school shall be reviewed for its potential impact on the efforts of a public school district to comply with court orders and statutory obligations to create and maintain a unitary system of desegregated public schools.

10. The charter applicant should know that certain provisions of state law shall not be waived. The proposed district conversion or limited public charter school is subject to any prohibition, restriction, or requirement imposed by Title 6 of the Arkansas Code Annotated and any rule and regulation approved by the State Board of Education under this title relating to:

(a) Monitoring compliance with Arkansas Code Annotated § 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; and

(f) Health and safety codes as established by the State Board of Education and local governmental entities.

11. The facilities of the proposed 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.

Megan Witonski Date: 10-26-2011  
Signature of Superintendent of School District

Megan Witonski  
Print or type name

MINUTES  
Elkins School District #10  
Regular Board Meeting  
Elkins Primary School Library  
October 11, 2010

Bryan Delozier called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Board members present: Bryan Delozier, Laren Vaught, Carol Heymsfield, Kristal Gano and Bob Warren.

Administrator present: Megan Witonski, Superintendent

Motion made by Laren Vaught and seconded by Bryan Delozier to approve the September 9, 2010 Regular Board Meeting Minutes. Motion carried. (5-0)

Motion made by Kristal Gano and seconded by Bob Warren to approve the Final Financial Reports for school year 2009-10, previously mailed. Motion carried. (5-0)

Motion made by Laren Vaught and seconded by Bryan Delozier to approve the Financial Reports for Period 3 of 2011. Motion carried. (5-0)

Ms. Witonski opened the floor for nominations for Board Officers for the current school year.

Motion made by Bob Warren and seconded by Laren Vaught to retain the current slate of Officers for the school year 2010-11. Motion carried. (5-0)

Ms. Witonski gave a brief explanation of a Conversion Charter School Grant she recommends the District pursue for the purpose of enabling us to provide expanded services for students, including those in Alternative Learning Environments and home schools.

Motion made by Bob Warren and seconded by Kristal Gano to pursue the receipt of grants for an Arkansas Conversion Charter School within the Elkins School District. Motion carried. (5-0)

Ms. Wheeler presented faculty concerns regarding the current Semester Test Exemption Policy. The Board discussed the concerns as well as their own in this particular matter.

Motion made by Kristal Gano and seconded by Laren Vaught to change the Semester Text Exemption Policy to read: "Students will be exempt from taking semester test if they have no more than three absences from any period, and do not have a grade lower than 75% in any subject...". Motion carried. (5-0)

*Attachment A*

# Elkins School District

*"Committed to Excellence"*

349 N. Center  
Elkins, AR 72727  
(479) 643-2172  
Fax: (479) 643-3605

December 16, 2010

Arkansas Department of Education  
Charter School Office  
Four Capitol Mall, Room 105-C  
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Arkansas Department of Education,

Elkins School District would like to formally apply to open a Conversion Charter School. The name of the proposed charter school will be Elkins Charter School. The initial location for the approved conversion charter school will be located in portable buildings adjacent to Elkins High School and Elkins Middle School. The final location will be in conjunction with our anticipated upcoming building project of Elkins High School. Elkins Charter School will serve students in grades 6 -12 and provide extended learning opportunities for students. The proposed enrollment student cap would be 582 students, based on the current population being served in the area.

The purpose of the Elkins Charter School will be to provide an online hybrid learning system to enhance student learning, offer students the unique opportunity to experience hands-on activities, and offer social settings to expand community skills and involvement.

We are excited about the possibilities that this wonderful addition can bring to our existing educational opportunities for rural students of Washington County. Please contact me with any further questions at 479-643-2172.

Sincerely,



Megan S. Witoski  
Superintendent  
Elkins School District

## *Attachment B*

# Elkins School District

*"Committed to Excellence"*

349 N. Center  
Elkins, AR 72727  
(479) 643-2172  
Fax: (479) 643-3605

August 26, 2011

Arkansas Department of Education  
Charter School Office  
Four Capitol Mall, Room 105-C  
Little Rock, AR 72201

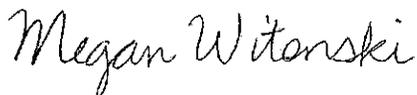
Dear Arkansas Department of Education,

Elkins School District would like to formally apply to open a Conversion Charter School. The name of the proposed charter school will be Elkins Charter School. The initial location for the approved conversion charter school will be located in portable buildings adjacent to Elkins High School and Elkins Middle School. The final location will be in conjunction with our anticipated upcoming building project of Elkins High School. Elkins Charter School will serve students in grades K -12 and provide extended learning opportunities for students. The proposed enrollment student cap would be 582 students, based on the current population being served in the area.

The purpose of the Elkins Charter School will be to provide an online hybrid learning system to enhance student learning, offer students the unique opportunity to experience hands-on activities, and offer social settings to expand community skills and involvement.

We are excited about the possibilities that this wonderful addition can bring to our existing educational opportunities for rural students of Washington County. Please contact me with any further questions at 479-643-2172.

Sincerely,



Megan S. Witoski  
Superintendent  
Elkins School District

## *Attachment C*

# Elkins School District

*"Committed to Excellence"*

349 N. Center  
Elkins, AR 72727  
(479) 643-2172  
Fax: (479) 643-3605

September 15, 2011

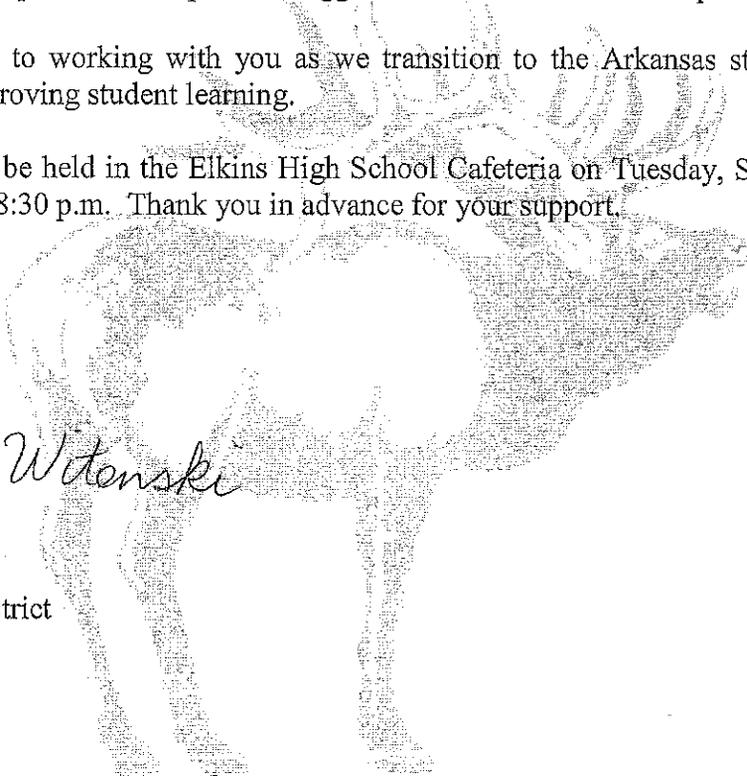
Dear Parents:

Please join us for our Annual Report to the Public on September 20, 2011. This meeting will provide you with valuable information concerning student achievement, future initiatives, and an opportunity to ask questions and provide suggestions for our district to improve.

We look forward to working with you as we transition to the Arkansas state Common Core Standards for improving student learning.

The meeting will be held in the Elkins High School Cafeteria on Tuesday, September 20, 2011 from 7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,



*Megan Witonski*

Megan Witonski  
Superintendent  
Elkins School District

*Attachment D*

# Attachment E Publisher's Affidavit

I, Kyle Mooty

do solemnly swear that I am Editor and/or Publisher of WHITE RIVER VALLEY NEWS, a weekly newspaper published at Elkins, Arkansas, and that said newspaper has a bona fide circulation in said county for a period of more than a full year prior to the first insertion of the advertisement hereto attached and said advertisement was published in said newspaper for a

period of 1 weeks, the first publication being on the 15 day of September, 2011, and the last on the 15 day of September.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 11 day of Oct., 2011.  
Lori Pollock



My commission expires 30 day of Oct., 2017

**Elkins School District Annual Report to the Public will be held on September 20th, 2011 at the Elkins High School Cafeteria at 7:30 pm.**

**Elkins School District Report for 2011-2012**

Elkins School District is appreciative of all parental involvement and support provided to students, teachers, and staff for the 2011-2012 school year. The Elkins School Board is comprised of five members including Bryan Delozier, Laren Vaught, Kristal Gano, Carol Heymsfield, and Bob Warren. Regular board meetings are scheduled for the third Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. The administrators for Elkins School District include Megan Wironski, Superintendent; Becky Martin, Academic Mentor; Jane Simmons, Federal Programs Coordinator; Dale Stokes, High School Principal; Steve Denzer, Middle School Principal; Amy Evans, Elementary Principal; and Dean Rowland, Primary Principal. The 2011-2012 year began with a combined total student population of 1,177 students and a staff of 152 personnel. Each student is provided nutrition through the Arkansas Department of Education Child Nutrition program served through the cafeteria available to all students. Elkins School District is committed to facility improvements and planning in coordination with the Arkansas Department of Education Facilities and Planning Division. New construction of a high school facility has been approved by the Arkansas Facilities and Planning Division and is seeking community approval on September 20, 2011. Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) as required by the Arkansas Department of Education was met for general populations and was included under School Improvement Year 3 Meets Standards for 2010-2011. Combined test scores in the district for Grade 3 proficiency or above, Math 76%, Literacy 91%; Grade 4 proficiency or above, Math 77%, Literacy 82%; Grade 5 proficiency or above, Math 81%, Literacy 79%; Grade 6 proficiency or above, Math 73%, Literacy 73%; Grade 7 proficiency or above, Math 71%, Literacy 82%; Grade 8 proficiency or above, Math 80%, Literacy 68%; End of Course Grade 11 proficiency or above Literacy 68%; End of Course proficiency or above Algebra I 85%; End of Course proficiency or above Geometry 75%.

Elkins School District  
 Annual Report to the Public  
 September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011  
 Sign-in Sheet

Name	Name
Megan Witoski	
Kristal Davis	
Carol Heymager	
Faith Wheeler	
St. Day	
Bryan Pelgrig	
Dean Soule	
Patrick Mautz	
Bob Warner	
Debbie Drake	
James Waight - Swimmer	
Jim Hallmark	
Emily Evans	
Carol Kuyf	
Melissa Currier	
Caitlin Quinn	
Kyle St	

# *Attachment G*

**Elkins School District**

**Public Conversion Charter School**

**Informational Meeting**

**October 25th, 2011**

**Elkins High School Cafeteria**

**5:30 - 6:30 pm**

# Community Calendar

The Elkins School District will hold a Public Conversion Charter School Informational Meeting on Oct. 25 at the Elkins High School Cafeteria from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

# Publisher's Affidavit

I, Kyle Mooty

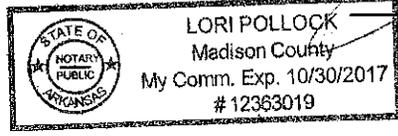
## Attachment H

do solemnly swear that I am Editor and/or Publisher of THE MADISON COUNTY RECORD, a weekly newspaper published at Huntsville, Arkansas, and that said newspaper has a bona fide circulation in said county for a period of more than a full year prior to the first insertion of the advertisement hereto attached and said advertisement was published in said newspaper for a period of 1 weeks, the first publication being on the 20 day of October, 2011, and the last on the 20 day of October.

[Signature]

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 21 day of Oct, 2011.

[Signature]



My commission expires 30 day of Oct, 2017

# Attachment 1 Attachment J

## NORTHWEST ARKANSAS NEWSPAPERS LLC

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE  
THE MORNING NEWS OF SPRINGDALE  
THE MORNING NEWS OF ROGERS  
NORTHWEST ARKANSAS TIMES  
BENTON COUNTY DAILY RECORD

212 NORTH EAST AVENUE, FAYETTEVILLE, ARKANSAS 72701 | P.O. BOX 1607, 72702 | 479-442-1700 | WWW.NWANNEWS.COM

### AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

I, Karen Caler, do solemnly swear that I am the Legal Clerk of the Northwest Arkansas Newspapers, LLC, printed and published in Benton County and Washington County, Arkansas, of bona fide circulation, that from my own personal knowledge and reference to the files of said publication, the advertisement of:

ELKINS SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Notice of Public Conversion Charter School  
Information Meeting

Was inserted in the  
The Northwest Arkansas Times  
The Springdale Morning News

on: October 24, 2011

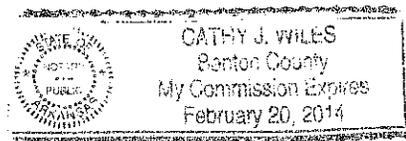
Publication Charge: \$ 19.50

Karen Caler  
Karen Caler

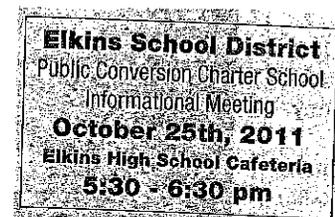
Subscribed and sworn to before me  
This 24 day of Oct., 2011.

Cathy Wiles  
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 2/20/2014



**\*\*NOTE\*\*** Please do not pay from Affidavit.  
Invoice will be sent



# Attachment K

Elkins School District  
Public Conversion Charter School  
Informational Meeting  
October 25, 2011  
5:30 – 6:30 pm

Name	Name
Megan Witencki	Kemah McClan
Lucy Martin	Brian Shumak
Fanda Wjelu	Missy Barnett
Dale [unclear]	
Sara Polanco	
Beth Wiles	
Teresa Mosher	
Abbey	
Denise Trotter	
June Richert	
An J. Win	
Jackie Peek	
Sarah Wheat	
Brandee Thurman	
Carolyn Christie	
Jesse McConde	
Georgia Sabhard	sorry I could only drop in look forward to more info

# Attachment L

# Elkins School District

*"Committed to Excellence"*

349 N. Center  
Elkins, AR 72727  
(479) 643-2172  
Fax: (479) 643-3605

October 10, 2011

Arkansas Department of Education  
Charter School Office  
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Arkansas Department Board of Education,

It is my pleasure to write you on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Elkins School District to express our enthusiastic support for ExPLORE, the Conversion Charter School our administrators are proposing.

It is the Board's strong desire to serve every student in our District, not just those that learn best in a traditional classroom setting. To that end, we are seeking assistance in reaching students through thought provoking inquiry in a blended setting. Our goal is to challenge students with rigor and relevance through project-based learning. Furthermore, the effort to provide real-world applications will assist students in making lasting connections to their learning. In the process, we expect to spark interest and enthusiasm for current and future careers.

We thank you in advance for your kind consideration of the proposal contained herein and anticipate having the opportunity to shape our learning society in an enriched setting within our District.

Sincerely,



Carol J. Heymsfield  
Secretary  
Elkins Board of Directors

# Attachment M

October 10, 2011

Arkansas Department of Education  
Charter School Office  
Four Capitol Mall, Room 105-C  
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Arkansas Department of Education,

I am writing this letter in support of the Elkins School District's application to open a Conversion Charter School. It is a pleasure for me to do so.

Currently, I have three children enrolled in the Elkins School District. My oldest, Allyssa, will graduate this school year, my son, Brenton, is a freshman, and my youngest daughter, Emma, is in the second grade. I am very proud to say that Allyssa has already received a full scholarship to the University of Arkansas Ft. Smith and will graduate with high honors this spring. In addition, Emma is quite the socialite and loves school and everything associated with it. Unfortunately, I can't say the same for Brenton. He is the reason I am asking for your support of Elkins' charter school application.

Brenton is a very bright young man. He seldom needs to study and scores well on both the district and state assessments. In fact, he scored advanced on the benchmark exams he took last year. However, he rarely does his homework and is very unhappy in school. Brenton would prefer to go to the In School Suspension (ISS) room and complete his assignments. There he can work at his own pace and even work ahead if he wants too. Unfortunately, for me, he is quite successful in both the completion of his assignments and the grades that he receives when he is in the ISS room. Plus, he enjoys coming to school in this type of setting.

I want all of my children to be successful in school and to further their education upon completion of high school. I am afraid that Brenton is going to become so frustrated with the traditional school environment that he will do neither. However, he is an excellent candidate for the proposed charter school. Brenton wants to work at his own pace and only seek assistance when he really needs the help. In fact, he has been asking me to home school him.

Please take students like Brenton into consideration when reviewing the Elkins School District's request to open a Conversion Charter School. As you are well aware, the traditional school setting is not for all children. However, they can still be successful in an environment more conducive to their own learning style. Brenton is that student. He has much to offer as an adult and I believe that this charter school will allow him to completely develop his skills.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Sheila White

# *Attachment N*

October 24, 2011

Arkansas Department of Education  
Charter School Office  
Four Capitol Mall, Room 302-B  
Little Rock, AR 72201

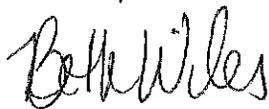
To Whom It May Concern:

As a parent, I am please to hear of the projected Charter School in the Elkins School District. A charter school in Elkins would provide a lower student to teacher ratio and would help establish a main concentration in the curriculum, such as technology, arts, or mathematics.

Having a charter school established in Elkins will help students receive an education from both teachers and community members. The charter school can help those students that are home-schooled come and experience a class-room environment. The charter school would also help students who are at risk of low test scores or at risk of not completing high school with a diploma.

A charter school based at Elkins can be the building block of many wonderful things to come to our students and our community.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Beth Wiles".

Beth Wiles

# Attachment 0

M. J. Saunders  
P.O. Box 157  
St. Paul, AR 72760

October 25, 2011

Arkansas Department of Education  
Charter School Office  
Four Capitol Mall, Room 302-B  
Little Rock, AR 72201

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of the proposed charter school for the Elkins School District. As a "home school mom", I understand the importance of alternative forms of education. While the traditional classroom setting has served the needs of many children, not all children thrive under this type of learning environment. The charter school will offer the opportunity for them to reach their full potential. Also, not all students desire or should continue on to higher education. For those, it would be of great benefit to have the flexibility of vocational training.

It is apparent that the traditional high school setting is not for all students and we need to consider other options in order for our children to become productive and fully functioning citizens. Thank you for your consideration of this application for the charter school for the Elkins School District.

Sincerely,

  
Mindy Saunders