

Southside School District

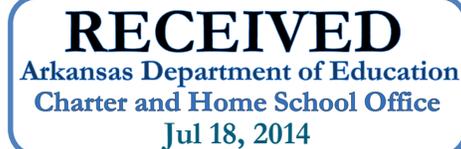
70 Scott Drive
Batesville, AR 72501

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July 17, 2014

Ms. Sky Bledsoe, Charter School Program Advisor
Arkansas Department of Education
Division of Learning Services
Four Capitol Mall, Mail Slot #3
Little Rock, AR 72201



Dear Ms. Bledsoe:

The Southside School District proposes to create district conversion public charter schools, Please accept this as the District's Letter of Intent.

School District: Southside School District

Contact Individual: Roger Rich, Superintendent
Southside School District
70 Scott Drive
Batesville, AR 72501
Phone: (870) 251-2341
Email: roger.rich@southsideschools.org

Names of the schools to be converted to charter status:

Southside Junior High (9th grade only) and Southside High School

Names of the proposed district conversion charter schools:

Southside Junior High and Southside Freshmen Academy; Southside High School and Southside Charter High School

Location of the proposed district conversion charter school:

Southside Junior High: 70 Scott Drive, Batesville, AR 72501
Southside High School: 70 Scott Drive, Batesville, AR 72501

Proposed student enrollment cap:

Southside Junior High: 600
Southside High School: 600

Grades to be served: 9-12

Description of the purpose or special emphasis of the proposed school:

The Southside School District proposes to establish a conversion charter school, Southside Charter High School, to better increase the college and career readiness of our students. For students in seventh and eighth grade, in preparation for the freshmen academy experience, we will start to implement the college and career readiness pieces, as it will become a capstone unit for all career orientation classes. This would expose access and pathways to our students with University of Arkansas Community College at Batesville. In grades nine through twelve, we will begin to offer concurrent credit classes to expand our secondary and career and technology centers to share infrastructure and resources. In the ninth grade, our junior high school (which contains grades 7-9) at the Academy will act as a "school within a school" to help our students receive focused technology-driven instruction which will continue their career orientation pathway. This conversion approach would provide alternative offerings in addition to the ones we already have. It would also give us an opportunity to establish innovative and authentic paths toward jobs and economic prosperity for our high school students as well as the Independence County Region through such skill sets, training, certificates, and degrees, all while still being a high school student at Southside.

Respectfully,

Roger Rich
Superintendent