

February 26, 2016  
Via email

Charter School Program  
Division of Learning Services  
Four Capitol Mall, Mail Slot 3  
Little Rock, AR 72201

To Whom it May Concern:

Hillcrest School District would like to establish a district conversion public charter school. Please accept this proposal as the District's Letter of Intent.

Hillcrest New Tech High School proposes a district conversion charter school, HNTHS Career and Collegiate Preparatory Academy, to better prepare learners for career opportunities or collegiate challenges after high school. Approximately 150 learners in grades 9-12 would have the opportunity for training provided through the charter school that will allow high school learners the opportunity to build skills necessary and/or obtain technical certifications for entry into the post-secondary workforce at a pay scale that exceeds the minimum wage. The focus of the charter will be on real-work experience including but not limited to internships with emphasis specifically on Welding Certifications, Industrial Certifications, Technical Certifications, Health/Allied Health Certifications and Transportation Logistics. The Collegiate focus will expand our concurrent credit and course offerings that will allow learners to obtain up to 27 hours of college credit and provide a real-life college experience while on the high school campus. The charter will allow the district to improve challenging and problem-solving skills, which expands on the New Tech Culture that has been in place at Hillcrest since 2013. Collaboration with the local community colleges will help prepare learners for a successful collegiate career after high school in that it will expose learners to the rigors of college while still providing a structured yet supportive atmosphere. The charter will also expand the New Tech Culture which has created an individualized, authentic, innovative curriculum to prepare learners for gainful employment in the 21st century.

The facilitators and staff at HNTHS believe that every learner should be afforded the same opportunity and access to educational programs. Hillcrest School District consists of 300 square miles in rural Lawrence, Sharp, and Independence Counties and over 70% of the learners population participates in the school lunch program. Over thirty percent of HNTHS learners are directly certified for the lunch program which means their family participates in the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program. Due to the rural nature of our community and the cost associated with traveling to a college or technical center many of our learners are not afforded this opportunity after graduation. HNTHS envisions every learner graduating with the skills necessary to survive in today's technological society and would like to provide opportunities for our learners to obtain training and certifications while in high school to prepare them for prosperity and job security in our county, region, state and nation.

Sincerely,  
  
Greg Crabtree, Superintendent  
Hillcrest School District

HNTHS Career & Collegiate Preparatory Academy  
Hillcrest School District, Mr. Mickel Smith, Principal  
146 S. Main - PO Box 50 - Strawberry, AR 72469  
(870) 528-3856