

March 6, 2018

VIA EMAIL ade.charterschools@arkansas.gov

Ms. Alexandra Boyd
Arkansas Department of Education
Director, Public Charter Schools Unit
Four Capitol Mall, Little Rock, AR 72201

Re: Letter of Intent to Apply for an Open-Enrollment Public Charter School

Dear Ms. Boyd:

Focus STEM Academy of Benton County intends to apply for an open-enrollment public charter school in Bentonville, Arkansas, to be located within the boundaries of the Bentonville Public School District, and to be referred to as Focus STEM Academy. The vision of Focus STEM Academy is to create a family-focused learning environment that is part of the fabric of the community and support the school through board oversight and fundraising efforts. The mission of Focus STEM Academy is to provide students with an innovative approach to education that encourages invention, creativity, and the completion of STEM-focused, project-based learning, academic investigations, and fine arts education.

Focus STEM Academy of Benton County has been authorized by the Arkansas Secretary of State to transact business in the State of Arkansas as a Non-Profit Corporation and has been granted non-profit status.

The contact for Focus STEM Academy of Benton County is:

Micah Cummings-Sparrow, Executive Director
P.O. Box 121
Bentonville, AR 72212
Phone: (479) 856-9947
Email: mcummings@focusstemacademy.org

Our proposed campus will serve Grades K-8 with a maximum enrollment of 900 students. We will open with Grades K-4 with a maximum enrollment of 400 students. Focus STEM Academy's STEM projects are intended to supplement the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and Common Core State Standards (CCSS) as interpreted by the state of Arkansas. These projects will develop innovation and creativity to deepen the cross-cutting concepts of NGSS and the application of the 8 Mathematical Practices of CCSS. This will better equip our next generation of leaders by more adequately preparing them for college and 21st century careers.

Sincerely,



Micah Cummings-Sparrow
Executive Director

Cc: Dr. Debbie Jones, Superintendent – Bentonville School District