



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

March 3, 2017

Arkansas Department of Education
Four Capitol Mall
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Member of the Committee:

I respectfully submit this letter of intent to apply for a conversion charter school within the Mena School District.

- The Mena School District #21 is applying for a conversion charter.
- The contact person is Benny Weston, Superintendent of Mena Public Schools, benny.weston@menaschools.org, Phone: 479-394-1710
Mena School District #21
501 Hickory Avenue
Mena, AR 71953
- Mena School District will create a new LEA for a K-12 Virtual Academy within the school district.
- The name of the proposed charter is the Polk County Virtual Academy.
- The location of the charter will be located on the Mena High School Campus in the Teacher Center.
- Students in grades Kindergarten through twelve will be served.
- The proposed initial enrollment cap will be 100.

Mena Public Schools will be able to offer students and families a choice in their education through the Polk County Virtual Academy. Research indicates online delivery of instruction has been a growing trend in the past twenty years and is predicted to continue to grow. The Mena School District strives to meet the multiple needs of all learners. By providing a virtual learning opportunity, students will have personalized flexibility in the pace, place, and mode of their education. The Polk County Virtual Academy will offer not only Mena students but students in Polk County and surrounding areas a unique educational online/blended experience.

Sincerely,

Benny Weston,
Superintendent