



PATHWAYS
I N E D U C A T I O N

March 3, 2017

Arkansas Department of Education
Charter School Office
Four State Capitol Mall, Room 304-B
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter of intent as official notification that Pathways Management Group, Inc. (PMG), a non-profit organization, intends to submit an application for an open-enrollment charter school to be located in the Fort Smith Public School District. The charter school will be referred to as Pathways In Education-Fort Smith (PIE-Fort Smith). Pathways Management Group, Inc. is a non-profit corporation with 501(c)(3) status and PIE-Fort Smith is in the process of becoming a State of Arkansas Non-Profit Corporation and is also applying for 501(c)(3) status. The contact person for this application will be Cheri Shannon, Senior Director of Charter Development; Pathways Management Group; 320 North Halstead Street, Pasadena, California 91107; Phone: 626-240-8311; Email: cshannon@pathwaysedu.org.

The mission of Pathways In Education-Fort Smith is to provide a comprehensive alternative high school education for at-risk youth through a blended educational model that leads to students' attainment of a high school diploma, acceptance to a college and/or pursuit of a career and culminates in each student having a positive impact in their community. The education model is based upon the theory that an educated person in the 21st century will become a life-long learner who possesses the following skills necessary to meaningfully contribute to society at large: flexibility, adaptability, leadership, responsibility, productivity and accountability. The model compliments this theory through the use of innovative concepts like computer based learning, Small Group Instruction and experiential learning.

At capacity, PIE-Fort Smith will serve 250 students in grades 9-12, up to 21 years of age, who are disconnected from the traditional education system for reasons that have caused them to dropout or have placed them far behind academically. The target population will include students who have dropped out or are at risk of dropping out for various reasons – i.e. underperforming, parenting, full time work responsibilities, in transitional living situations, expelled or adjudicated. The Pathways In Education model will provide a quality academic program that will lead to attainment of a high school diploma.

We look forward to the opportunity to serve the students and families in the Fort Smith community.

Sincerely,

Cheri Shannon
Senior Director of Charter Development