



# WEST MEMPHIS SCHOOL DISTRICT

JON COLLINS SUPERINTENDENT

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

POST OFFICE BOX 826 • WEST MEMPHIS, AR 72303 • (870) 735-1915

August 29, 2013

Ms. Mary Perry, Charter/Home Schools Director  
Arkansas Department of Education  
Division of Learning Services  
Four Capital Mall, Room 304-B  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Dear Ms. Perry:

The West Memphis School District (District) proposes to create district conversion public charter schools. Please accept this as the District's Letter of Intent.

**School District:** West Memphis Public School District

**Contact Individual:** Jon Collins, Superintendent  
West Memphis School District  
301 South Avalon  
West Memphis, AR 72301  
Phone: (870)735-1915  
Email: [collins@wmsd.net](mailto:collins@wmsd.net)

**Names of the schools to be converted to charter status:**

East Junior High (9<sup>th</sup> grade only); West Junior High (9<sup>th</sup> grade only); Wonder Junior High (9<sup>th</sup> grade only); West Memphis High School

**Names of the proposed district conversion charter schools:**

East Junior High and West Memphis Career and Technical Academy; West Junior High and West Memphis Career and Technical Academy; Wonder Junior High and West Memphis Career and Technical Academy; and West Memphis High School and West Memphis Career and Technical Academy.

**Location of the proposed district conversion charter school:**

East Junior High: 1151 Goodwin St., West Memphis, AR 72301  
West Junior High: 331 W. Barton St., West Memphis, AR 72301  
Wonder Junior High: 1401 Madison St., West Memphis, AR 72301  
West Memphis High School: 500 West Broadway, West Memphis, AR 72301

**Proposed student enrollment cap:**

East Junior High: 450  
West Junior High: 550  
Wonder Junior High: 500  
West Memphis High School: 1,300

**Grade levels to be served:** 9-12

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

The West Memphis School District proposes to establish a conversion charter school, West Memphis Career and Technical Academy (Academy), to better increase the college and career readiness of our students. For students in seventh and eighth grade, in preparation for their Academy experience, we will start to implement the college and career readiness piece, as it will become a capstone unit for all career orientation classes. This would expose access and pathways to our students with Mid South Community College being our concurrent credit partner.

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 three (3) junior high schools (which contain 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 bona fide pipelines toward jobs and economic prosperity for our high school students as well as our Delta region through such skill sets, training, certificates, and degrees, all while being a high school student at West Memphis.

Respectfully,

  
Jon Collins  
Superintendent