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JUL 2 2012
Home Schools
Charter Schools

Subject: LETTER OF INTENT for An Open-enrollment Public Charter School

Submitted via certified mail to: Arkansas Department of Education
Charter School Office
Four Capitol Mall, Room 304-B
Little Rock, AR 72201

CC: Mississippi County School District Superintendents

June 26, 2012

Please accept this open-enrollment public charter schools letter of intent.

Sincerely,
Sally Wilson



1. Name of the eligible entity which intends to apply for a charter. If a not for profit, specify name on the 501 (c) (3) status: OCBA, Inc. a 501(c)(3) incorporated in 2007
2. Contact person: Sally Wilson, 851 W. Semmes, Osceola, AR 72370
Daytime telephone number 870-822-0574 FAX number 870-563-5582
e-mail address ocbainc@yahoo.com
3. Give a description of the eligible entity which will be proposing the charter; OCBA, Inc is a non-profit organization dedicated to educating Arkansas residents with IRS determination's TIN 26-1309516.
4. Give the name of the proposed open-enrollment public charter school; Diploma Technical School of Mississippi County
5. Describe the location of the proposed open-enrollment public charter school; Mississippi County. One main campus with distant tutoring/computer labs throughout this rural county
6. Identify the grade levels of students to be served by the open-enrollment public charter school; 9, 10 11 and 12
7. Provide proposed student enrollment cap for the school; 300 FTE students
8. Provide a one-paragraph description of the purpose or special emphasis of the proposed school. The Diploma Technical School is designed to serve young adults ages 18 through 21, who are not on track to graduate from high school within four years or who have already dropped out of high school. These young people are our students who were ultimately left behind. Diploma Tech will strive to give these "opportunity youth" or "disconnected students" a last chance to return to high school and earn a full high school diploma. Diploma Tech will utilize research-based models such as **Diploma Plus** that has a proven nationwide record of successful targeted intervention. The school model is non-traditional because academic classes convene in the evenings, 4:00 to 10:30 and the school's year-round calendar has seven "semesters" condensed into six-week long blocked sessions. This scheduling format allows students to complete as many as 3 half-credit classes in each six weeks. This approach allows students the opportunity to fill the gaps in their high school transcripts and earn a full Arkansas high school diploma in a shorter time than the traditional high school schedule would allow. Plus, the students will have the option to enroll concurrent credit college classes and skills training, such as welding and advanced manufacturing. Since the students are at least 18 years old, truancy and curfew rules do not apply. Therefore they have the option to enroll as a 1/3 FTE, 1/2 FTE or 2/3 FTE student, withdraw and re-enroll in six-week sessions throughout the school year, participate in Youth Apprenticeship and work study and take responsibility for their own high school education.