

INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2013-002

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3 REQUESTING THE INTERIM HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION TO CONDUCT A
4 STUDY OF THE BEST PRACTICES FROM PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS IN THE
5 STATE AND IN THE NATION THAT MAY BE IMPLEMENTED IN ARKANSAS
6 SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO IMPROVE THE EFFICIENCY OF THE STATE'S SYSTEM
7 OF PUBLIC EDUCATION AND STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT LEVELS.
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9 WHEREAS, the General Assembly enacted the Arkansas Charter Schools Act
10 of 1999 to provide educational environments that:

- 11 (1) Improve student learning;
- 12 (2) Increase learning opportunities for all students, with
13 special emphasis on expanded learning experiences for students who are
14 identified as low-achieving;
- 15 (3) Encourage the use of different and innovative teaching
16 methods;
- 17 (4) Create new professional opportunities for teachers,
18 including the opportunity to be responsible for the learning program at the
19 school site; and
- 20 (5) Provide parents and pupils with expanded choices in the
21 types of educational opportunities that are available within the public
22 school system; and
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24 WHEREAS, in the twenty (20) years since the charter school movement
25 began nationally, researchers have analyzed the successes and failures of
26 charter schools; and
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28 WHEREAS, that national and state research should be applied to a study
29 of possible improvements to the non-charter public school system in Arkansas,
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31 NOW THEREFORE,

32 BE IT PROPOSED BY THE INTERIM HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION OF THE EIGHTY-
33 NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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35 THAT the Interim House Committee On Education conduct a study of the
36 best practices from public charter schools in the state and in the nation

1 that may be implemented in Arkansas school districts to improve the
2 efficiency of the state's system of public education and student achievement
3 levels.

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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the study shall review and provide
6 recommendations for the application of the successful strategies of charter
7 schools to non-charter public schools for:

8 (1) Improving student learning for all students;

9 (2) Increasing learning opportunities for all students through
10 expanded learning experiences for students who are identified as low-
11 achieving;

12 (3) Using different and innovative teaching methods;

13 (4) Creating new professional opportunities for teachers,
14 including the opportunity to be responsible for the learning program at the
15 school site;

16 (5) Providing parents and pupils with expanded choices in the
17 types of educational opportunities; and

18 (6)(A) Increasing parental engagement in and responsibility for
19 the education of their children in public schools.

20 (B) The study of parental engagement strategies at charter
21 schools shall compare those strategies with the implementation of the state's
22 current laws governing parental involvement in non-charter public schools.

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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the study shall be conducted with the
25 assistance of the Department of Education and public charter schools.

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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT by July 1, 2014, the study shall be
28 completed and a report presented to the House Committee on Education and the
29 Senate Committee on Education with findings and recommendations from the
30 study.

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32 Respectfully submitted,

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34 Representative Charles L. Armstrong

35 District 30

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