

1 INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2015-002

2  
3 REQUESTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION TO CONDUCT A STUDY OF  
4 THE BEST PRACTICES FROM PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS  
5 IN THE STATE AND IN THE NATION THAT MAY BE IMPLEMENTED IN  
6 ARKANSAS SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO IMPROVE THE EFFICIENCY OF THE  
7 STATE'S SYSTEM OF PUBLIC EDUCATION AND STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT  
8 LEVELS.

9  
10 WHEREAS, the General Assembly enacted the Arkansas Charter Schools Act  
11 of 2013 to provide educational environments that:

- 12 (1) Improve student learning;
- 13 (2) Increase learning opportunities for all students, with  
14 special emphasis on expanded learning experiences for students who are  
15 identified as low-achieving;
- 16 (3) Encourage the use of different and innovative teaching  
17 methods;
- 18 (4) Create new professional opportunities for teachers,  
19 including the opportunity to be responsible for the learning program at the  
20 school site; and
- 21 (5) Provide parents and pupils with expanded choices in the  
22 types of educational opportunities that are available within the public  
23 school system; and

24  
25 WHEREAS, in the twenty (20) years since the charter school movement  
26 began nationally, researchers have analyzed the successes and failures of  
27 charter schools; and

28  
29 WHEREAS, that national and state research should be applied to a study  
30 of possible improvements to the noncharter public school system in Arkansas,

31  
32 NOW THEREFORE,

33 BE IT PROPOSED BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION OF THE NINETIETH GENERAL  
34 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

1            THAT the House Committee on Education conduct a study of the best  
2 practices from public charter schools in the state and in the nation that may  
3 be implemented in Arkansas school districts to improve the efficiency of the  
4 state's system of public education and student achievement levels.

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

9                    (1) Improving student learning for all students;

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

13                   (3) Using different and innovative teaching methods;

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

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

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

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

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

27  
28            BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT by July 1, 2016, the study shall be  
29 completed and a report presented to the House Committee on Education and the  
30 Senate Committee on Education with findings and recommendations from the  
31 study.

32  
33 Respectfully submitted,

1 Representative Charles L. Armstrong

2 District 30

3 By: SAG/PKJ

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36