



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

September 17, 2015

Johnny Key
Commissioner

**State Board
of Education**

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Mr. Dennis Beck
Arkansas Connections Academy, Inc.
2224 East Tall Oaks
Fayetteville, Arkansas 72703

RE: Notice of Charter Authorizing Panel Hearing
Arkansas Connections Academy

Dear Mr. Beck:

On October 14-15, the Charter Authorizing Panel will conduct hearings on open-enrollment charter applications. The meetings will begin on each day at **8:30 a.m. in the Auditorium of the Arch Ford Education Building, Four Capitol Mall, Little Rock, Arkansas.** The hearing for the Arkansas Connections Academy application will be on **Wednesday, October 14, 2015**. Please ensure that the individuals who can address questions about the charter application and operations of the proposed school attend the hearing.

The hearing will be conducted pursuant to the legal authority and jurisdiction vested in the Charter Authorizing Panel by Ark. Code Ann. § 6-23-101 et seq. and the Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing Public Charter Schools.

All documents submitted during the application process will be included in the Panel's agenda packet. If you wish to submit additional documentation to the Panel, it must be received in the Charter School Office by **4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 30, 2015**. Please keep in mind that after this deadline, documents will only be accepted at the hearing and only with the Panel's permission. If you bring additional materials to the hearing, please have at least 20 copies for Panel members, staff, and media.

Should you wish to make an **electronic presentation** to the Charter Authorizing Panel, a copy must be received in the Charter Office **no later than 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 7, 2015**. Email the presentation to ade.charterschools@arkansas.gov. If you want the panel to be able to view the presentation in advance of the meeting, it must be received by 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 30, 2015, so that it can be uploaded as part of the agenda packet for public viewing on the Arkansas Department of Education website. If you bring paper copies of the presentation for panel members, please bring 20 copies for Panel members, staff, and media.

No later than Friday, October 16, 2015, the Charter Authorizing Panel's decision will be conveyed in a letter attached to an email. Pursuant to § 6-23-702, a charter applicant or any affected school district may submit in writing a **request** that the State Board of Education review the panel's decision. A request must state the specific reasons that the board should review the decision and must be received no later than **4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 21, 2015**, to be included on the agenda for the November 12, 2015 meeting of the State Board of Education.

Four Capitol Mall
Little Rock, AR
72201-1019
(501) 682-4475
ArkansasEd.gov

Let me know if you have any questions. I can be reached by phone at (501) 682-5665 or by email at Alexandra.Boyd@arkansas.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Boyd', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Alexandra Boyd, Program Coordinator
Charter Schools Unit
Division of Learning Services

Note: All superintendents in the state of Arkansas will be made aware of this information via Commissioner Memo.