

**Charter School Work Group Meeting 1  
August 29, 2023 (Zoom)**

**Attendees:**

- Darrell Smith, Shasta Wagner, Gary Newton, Phil Baldwin, Dr. Jennifer Feeny, B. Bunch, Andy Ashley, Nicole Stephens, Patrick Wolf, Lauren Throneberry, Dr. Tracie Jones, Lori Smith, Timothy Ray, Michael Besse

**Meeting minutes:**

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Discussion / feedback</b>
<b>Goals of committee</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing number of quality schools by paving the way for strong charter operators. This includes discussing how to:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Streamlining the charter application processes</li> <li>○ Improve charter policies to ensure high quality                                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Of the 100+ AR charter schools 30-35% are D or F rated</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Put together the best set of rules while incorporating future public concerns via the advisory committee, considering discuss efficiency, application, etc.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Taking the opportunity to do this now as there is already a need to amend the rules (and repromulgate per the law)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Legislative intent of charter school section of LEARNS Act</b>	<p>Defined goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• improve student learning</li> <li>• increase learning opportunities especially expanding those for low achieving students</li> <li>• encourage innovative teaching methods</li> <li>• create professional opportunities for teachers</li> <li>• provide parents and pupils with expanded choice in types of educational opportunities</li> <li>• hold charter schools accountable for meeting measurable student achievement standards</li> </ul>
<b>Requests of the work group prior to next meeting:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review current rules and procedures for charter schools</li> <li>• Think about how they would define quality / effective charter schools</li> <li>• Think about how they would rate the Arkansas charter systems on those criteria</li> <li>• Offer available times to meet weekly throughout September</li> </ul>
<b>Work group participant selection process</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group was selected based on those who applied and tried to get the best representation possible and a comprehensive panel</li> <li>• Participation of advocacy groups is limited at this stage but they will have the opportunity to share feedback later in the process</li> </ul>
<b>Record keeping</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If there are meetings outside of this full group, a log should be kept but they are allowed (as this is simply an advisory panel)</li> <li>• Participants should follow their individual institutions' record keeping policies. FOIA requests to the state will only pertain to records the state has but individual entities could be subject to FOIA requests as well</li> </ul>