



TIM GRIFFIN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

August 11, 2017

Charter Authorizing Panel
c/o Arkansas Department of Education
4 Capitol Mall #26
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Chair Pfeffer and Members of the Charter Authorizing Panel:

I am writing concerning the Charter Authorizing Panel meeting on Tuesday, August 15, 2017, to ask that you approve the open-enrollment public charter school application for Einstein Charter School at Little Rock.

Einstein is a successful charter management organization that has been operating in New Orleans and has received a federal grant to replicate their program. Einstein has also earned the designation of a "High-Quality Charter School" by the U.S. Department of Education. I am excited that Einstein has chosen to locate its first charter school outside of Louisiana in Arkansas, and they are prepared to continue their success with at-risk students in the Little Rock area.

As the father of two young children in the Little Rock public school system, I know that parents are the best judge of where and how their children should be educated. If a parent is not satisfied with their child's education, they deserve options. But unfortunately, not every parent has the means to move to a different school district or send their child to a private school if their local public school fails to meet their child's needs. Approving Einstein's charter will allow for one more option for low-income parents in Little Rock, and we should not deny families more flexibility to meet their children's educational needs.

For me, this decision is an easy one. Allowing Einstein to operate in Little Rock will empower parents and provide students with a better chance to reach their potential. Please take this opportunity to grant Einstein's charter application and allow it to bring its quality educational and support programs to student and families in the Little Rock area.

Sincerely,

A blue ink handwritten signature of Tim Griffin, consisting of a stylized 'T' and 'G'.

Tim Griffin
Lieutenant Governor