

# **ResponsiveEd Arkansas Charters Board of Directors Meeting**

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## **August 27, 2021**

**NOTICE OF MEETING  
RESPONSIVE EDUCATION SOLUTIONS  
ARKANSAS CHARTERS  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
REGULAR MEETING**

Date: August 27, 2021  
Time: 10:30 a.m.  
Place: Responsive Education Solutions (“ResponsiveEd”) Corporate Offices  
1301 Waters Ridge Dr.  
Lewisville, TX 75057  
Charters: Founders Classical Academy - Bentonville (FCA B)  
Founders Classical Academy - West Little Rock (FCA WLR)  
Premier High School of Little Rock (PHS LR)  
Premier High School of North Little Rock (PHS NLR)  
Premier High School of Springdale (PHS SD)

- A. Call to Order** (Announcement by the President as to the presence of a quorum that the meeting has been duly called, and the notice of the meeting has been posted for the time and in the manner required by law.)
- B. Public Comment** (Any person who wishes to address the Board during the Public Comment portion of the Agenda must give their name and identify the agenda item. Each speaker who signs up to address the Board during the Public Comment portion of the agenda may speak for up to (2) minutes. The presiding officer reserves the right to set a time limit for public comments. If there are no comments, the Board will proceed to other business. Please be advised that Board Meetings are meetings open to the public, not public meetings. In addition, the public can send comments to the board by emailing [publiccomment@responsiveed.com](mailto:publiccomment@responsiveed.com).)

**C. Executive Report**

**D. Consent Items**

1. Approve the minutes from the board meeting held on May 14, 2021.
2. Consider approving the Arkansas Department of Education DESE statement of Assurances. (FCA B) (FCA WLR) (PHS LR) (PHS NLR) (PHS SD)
3. Consider approving the Arkansas Department of Education Federal Programs Statement of Assurances. (FCA B) (FCA WLR) (PHS LR) (PHS NLR) (PHS SD)
4. Consider approving the 2021-2022 Parent Student Handbook. (FCA B) (FCA WLR) (PHS LR) (PHS NLR) (PHS SD)

**E. Separate Items**

1. Consider approving updates to the Health and Safety Guidelines. (T)(P)

**E. Adjourn**

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# Executive Report

# ResponsiveEd®

## ENROLLMENT NUMBERS

Numbers as of 08/16/2021

	2020-2021	2021-2022			
	No.	Existing Campuses		Exisiting and New Campuses	
		No.	Diff.	No.	Diff.
<b>CHARTER</b>					
AR: Combined	1252	1304	52	1334	82
TX: Premier High Schools	3712	3584	-128	3688	-24
TX: Texas College Preparatory Academies	17008	16316	-692	17224	216
<b>TOTAL</b>	21972	21204	-768	22246	274

	2020-2021	2021-2022			
	No.	Existing Campuses		Exisiting and New Campuses	
		No.	Diff.	No.	Diff.
<b>STATE</b>					
Arkansas	1252	1304	52	1334	82
Texas	20720	19900	-820	20912	192
<b>TOTAL</b>	21972	21204	-768	22246	274

		2020-2021	2021-2022			
		No.	Existing Campuses		Exisiting and New Campuses	
			No.	Diff.	No.	Diff.
<b>BRAND</b>						
	Founders Classical Academy	7168	7294	126	8078	910
	Ignite Classical Academy	1565	1655	90	1655	90
	Ignite Community School	3196	3282	86	3322	126
	Premier High School	3911	3830	-81	3964	53
	iSchool Virtual Academy	3320 Grades 3-12	2149 Grades 9-12	-1171	2149 Grades 9-12	-1171
	Quest Collegiate Academy	2812	2994	182	3078	266
<b>TOTAL</b>		21972	21204	-768	22246	274

# Consent Items

# 1. Minutes

**MINUTES**  
**Arkansas Charters**  
**Northwest Arkansas Classical Academy (“NWACA”)**  
**Premier High School of Little Rock (“PHS LR”)**  
**Premier High School of North Little Rock (PHS NLR”)**  
**Premier High School of Springdale (PHS SD)**

**Date:** May 14, 2021

**Time:** 10:30 a.m.

**Location:** 1301 Waters Ridge Drive, Lewisville, Texas 75057

**Meeting Type:** Regular

**Attendees:** Ben Klingenstein, President; Marvin Reynolds, Vice President (via video conference); Kent Sparks, Secretary; Charles Cook, CEO/Board; Joe DeProspero, Board Member.

Lance Losey, Board Member, was absent.

Board President, Ben Klingenstein, called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

**1. Executive Report**

An update of the Arkansas campuses was provided by Curtis Shack, Regional Director; Steve Gast, Superintendent; Katie Stephens, Director of Finance; and Dennis Felton, Director of Premier High Schools and Expansion & Innovation.

**2. Consent Items**

Motion: Marvin Reynolds moved to approve Consent Items 1-3 as presented.

Second: Kent Sparks

Vote: 5-0 in favor

1. Approve the minutes from the board meeting held December 11, 2020.
2. Consider approving the 2020-2021 second and third quarter financial reports. (NWACA) (PHS LR) (PHS NLR)
3. Consider the appointment of Tony Brown to the local board of directors. (NWACA) (PHS LR) (PHS NLR) (PHS SD)

**3. Separate Items**

**a. 2019-2020 Annual Financial Audit Reports**

Motion: Ben Klingenstein moved to approve the 2019-2020 annual financial audits as presented.

Second: Joe Deprospero

Vote: 5-0 in favor

Board President, Ben Klingenstein adjourned the meeting at 10:51 a.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ben Klingenstein, President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kent Sparks, Board Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



## 2. ADE Statement of Assurances



## DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION

### 2021-2022 Statement of Assurance

District Premier High School - Springdale LEA # 7242700

Pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-202, each Arkansas school district superintendent and each chief academic officer of an open-enrollment charter school shall give written assurance each school year of school district or charter school compliance with Arkansas law. **This written assurance shall be uploaded to the SFA system by October 1 of each school year.** By my signature below, I certify that:

- To the best of my knowledge, the school district is in compliance with all state laws and the Standards for Accreditation; and
- This statement is submitted in compliance with Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-15-202 and 6-15-206(c)(1), and is subject to the enforcement provisions of Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-15-202 and 6-15-207.

Furthermore, I understand that failure to comply may result in a citation or probationary status. Pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-202(g), in addition to the written statement of assurance, the Division of Elementary Education may conduct an on-site review of a school district to confirm that a school district has complied with any statutory requirements or any other matter related to the Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts.

President of Board's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Superintendent's Signature: Steven Gast Date: 8/18/2021

Superintendent's Name (printed): Steven Gast

District Contact Person (name/title): Steven Gast - Superintendent

Phone: 956 - 703 - 9053 E-mail Address: sgast@responsiveedar.com

As a reminder, any superintendent who fails to file a written statement of assurance as required by the Commissioner of the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-202(f), by the date established by the Division, knowingly submits false information, or if the Division determines the information in the statement is inaccurate or incomplete, the Division, pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-202(i), may:

1. Conduct a random on-site visit;
2. Request additional information from the school district;
3. Take licensure action on the license of the superintendent under the procedure of § 6-17-410; or
4. Recommend to the State Board of Education that an accredited-cited status or an accredited-probationary status be assigned the school or school district as described in the Arkansas Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Rules Governing Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts.



## DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION

### 2021-2022 Statement of Assurance

District Premier High School - Little Rock LEA # 6053700

Pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-202, each Arkansas school district superintendent and each chief academic officer of an open-enrollment charter school shall give written assurance each school year of school district or charter school compliance with Arkansas law. **This written assurance shall be uploaded to the SFA system by October 1 of each school year.** By my signature below, I certify that:

- To the best of my knowledge, the school district is in compliance with all state laws and the Standards for Accreditation; and
- This statement is submitted in compliance with Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-15-202 and 6-15-206(c)(1), and is subject to the enforcement provisions of Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-15-202 and 6-15-207.

Furthermore, I understand that failure to comply *may* result in a citation or probationary status. Pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-202(g), in addition to the written statement of assurance, the Division of Elementary Education may conduct an on-site review of a school district to confirm that a school district has complied with any statutory requirements or any other matter related to the Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts.

President of Board's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Superintendent's Signature: Steven Gast Date: 8-18-2021

Superintendent's Name (printed): Steven Gast

District Contact Person (name/title): Steven Gast - Superintendent

Phone: 956-703-9053 E-mail Address: Sgast@responsivedar.com

As a reminder, any superintendent who fails to file a written statement of assurance as required by the Commissioner of the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-202(f), by the date established by the Division, knowingly submits false information, or if the Division determines the information in the statement is inaccurate or incomplete, the Division, pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-202(i), may:

1. Conduct a random on-site visit;
2. Request additional information from the school district;
3. Take licensure action on the license of the superintendent under the procedure of § 6-17-410; or
4. Recommend to the State Board of Education that an accredited-cited status or an accredited-probationary status be assigned the school or school district as described in the Arkansas Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Rules Governing Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts.



## DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION

### 2021-2022 Statement of Assurance

District Founders Classical Academies of Arkansas LEA # 0442700

Pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-202, each Arkansas school district superintendent and each chief academic officer of an open-enrollment charter school shall give written assurance each school year of school district or charter school compliance with Arkansas law. **This written assurance shall be uploaded to the SFA system by October 1 of each school year.** By my signature below, I certify that:

- To the best of my knowledge, the school district is in compliance with all state laws and the Standards for Accreditation; and
- This statement is submitted in compliance with Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-15-202 and 6-15-206(c)(1), and is subject to the enforcement provisions of Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-15-202 and 6-15-207.

Furthermore, I understand that failure to comply *may* result in a citation or probationary status. Pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-202(g), in addition to the written statement of assurance, the Division of Elementary Education may conduct an on-site review of a school district to confirm that a school district has complied with any statutory requirements or any other matter related to the Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts.

President of Board's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Superintendent's Signature: Steven H. Gast Date: 8/18/2021

Superintendent's Name (printed): Steven Gast

District Contact Person (name/title): Steven Gast - Superintendent

Phone: 956-703-9053 E-mail Address: Sgast@responsivedar.com

As a reminder, any superintendent who fails to file a written statement of assurance as required by the Commissioner of the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-202(f), by the date established by the Division, knowingly submits false information, or if the Division determines the information in the statement is inaccurate or incomplete, the Division, pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-202(i), may:

1. Conduct a random on-site visit;
2. Request additional information from the school district;
3. Take licensure action on the license of the superintendent under the procedure of § 6-17-410; or
4. Recommend to the State Board of Education that an accredited-cited status or an accredited-probationary status be assigned the school or school district as described in the Arkansas Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Rules Governing Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts.



## DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION

### 2021-2022 Statement of Assurance

District Premier High School - North Little Rock LEA # 6062700

Pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-202, each Arkansas school district superintendent and each chief academic officer of an open-enrollment charter school shall give written assurance each school year of school district or charter school compliance with Arkansas law. **This written assurance shall be uploaded to the SFA system by October 1 of each school year.** By my signature below, I certify that:

- To the best of my knowledge, the school district is in compliance with all state laws and the Standards for Accreditation; and
- This statement is submitted in compliance with Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-15-202 and 6-15-206(c)(1), and is subject to the enforcement provisions of Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-15-202 and 6-15-207.

Furthermore, I understand that failure to comply *may* result in a citation or probationary status. Pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-202(g), in addition to the written statement of assurance, the Division of Elementary Education may conduct an on-site review of a school district to confirm that a school district has complied with any statutory requirements or any other matter related to the Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts.

President of Board's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Superintendent's Signature: Steven Gast Date: 8/18/2021

Superintendent's Name (printed): Steven Gast

District Contact Person (name/title): Steven Gast

Phone: 956-703-9053 E-mail Address: Sgast@responseneededar.com

As a reminder, any superintendent who fails to file a written statement of assurance as required by the Commissioner of the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-202(f), by the date established by the Division, knowingly submits false information, or if the Division determines the information in the statement is inaccurate or incomplete, the Division, pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-202(i), may:

1. Conduct a random on-site visit;
2. Request additional information from the school district;
3. Take licensure action on the license of the superintendent under the procedure of § 6-17-410; or
4. Recommend to the State Board of Education that an accredited-cited status or an accredited-probationary status be assigned the school or school district as described in the Arkansas Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Rules Governing Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts.

# 3. ADE Statement of Assurances for Federal Programs

**ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STATEMENT  
OF ASSURANCES FOR PROGRAMS UNDER  
THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT OF 1965,  
AS AMENDED BY THE EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT**

The Federal Programs Assurances are for local education agency (LEA) use in requesting district funds for covered programs under the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act*. To assure the LEA's eligibility for funds, the Superintendent must provide an original signature attesting to compliance with all assurances applicable to each program for which the plan is submitted.

Please read and consider each item carefully as the LEA will be held accountable.

Each section of assurances must be checked or initialed as applicable to the LEA. Please note that for each Section not checked/initialed, funding will not be allocated.

<i>Founders Classical Academy - Arkansas</i> <b>DISTRICT NAME</b>	<i>0442</i> <b>LEA NUMBER</b>
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**CERTIFICATIONS**



***I, the undersigned Superintendent for the above named LEA, hereby, assure the Arkansas Department of Education that:***

- A. The information provided in this application to support the following assurances is correct, as far as I am able to determine.
- B. The LEA will abide by the provisions of the approved plan/application for Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) funds.
- C. As the prospective lower tier participant neither it nor its principals are presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by and Federal department or agency. Where the prospective lower tier participant is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participant shall attach an explanation to this proposal. (Executive Order 12549, 34 CFR Part 85, Section 85.510)
- D. No federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a member of Congress in connection with the making of any Federal grant, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal grant or cooperative agreement.
- E. If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of a member of Congress in connection with this Federal grant or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard form – LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions.  
<https://eca.state.gov/files/bureau/sflll.pdf>
- F. The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subgrants, contracts under grants and cooperative agreements, and subcontracts) and that all sub-recipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

**GENERAL ASSURANCES**

*I, the undersigned Superintendent for the above named LEA, hereby, assure the Arkansas Department of Education that:*

- A. Each such program will be administered in accordance with all applicable statutes, regulations, program plans, and applications.
- B. The LEA will comply with all applicable supplement not supplant and maintenance of effort requirements under Section 9521 – IV.B.1:
  - 1. The control of funds provided under each program and title to property acquired with program funds will be in a public agency, a non-profit private agency, institution, organization, or Indian tribe, if the law authorizing the program provides for assistance to those entities and;
  - 2. The public agency, non-profit private agency, institution or organization, or Indian tribe will administer the funds and property to the extent required by the authorizing law.
- C. The LEA will adopt and use proper methods of administering each such program, including:
  - 1. The enforcement of any obligations imposed by law on agencies, institutions, organizations, and other recipients responsible for carrying out each program and;
  - 2. The correction of deficiencies in program operations that are identified through audits, monitoring, or evaluation.
- D. The LEA will cooperate in carrying out any evaluation of each such program conducted by, or for, the State Educational Agency, (SEA), the Secretary, or Federal officials.
- E. The LEA will use such fiscal control and fund accounting procedures as will ensure proper disbursement of, and accounting for, Federal funds paid to the LEA under each such program.
- F. The LEA will:
  - 1. Submit such reports to the SEA (which shall make the reports available to the Governor) and the Secretary as the SEA and Secretary may require to enable the SEA and Secretary to perform their duties under each such program; and
  - 2. Maintain such records, provide such information, and afford such access to the records as the SEA (after consultation with the Governor) or the Secretary may reasonably require to carry out the SEA's or the Secretary duties.
- G. The LEA has consulted with teachers, school administrators, parents, and others in the development of the local consolidated application/LEA Plan.
- H. Before the application was submitted, the LEA afforded a reasonable opportunity for public comment on the application and considered such comment.

**TITLE I, PART A – Improving Basic Programs Operated by LEAs**

*I, the undersigned Superintendent for the above named LEA, hereby, assure the Arkansas Department of Education that:*

- A. Ensure that migratory children and formerly migratory children who are eligible to receive services under this part are selected to receive such services on the same basis as other children who are selected to receive services under this part;
- B. Provide services to eligible children attending private elementary schools and secondary schools in accordance with section 1117, and timely and meaningful consultation with private school officials regarding such services;



- C. Participate, if selected, in the National Assessment of Educational Progress in reading and mathematics in grades 4 and 8 carried out under section 303(b)(3) of the National Assessment of Educational Progress Authorization Act (20 U.S.C. 9622(b)(3));
- D. Coordinate and integrate services provided under this part with other educational services at the local educational agency or individual school level, such as services for English learners, children with disabilities, migratory children, American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian children, and homeless children and youths, in order to increase program effectiveness, eliminate duplication, and reduce fragmentation of the instructional program;
- E. Collaborate with the State or local child welfare agency to:
  - 1. Designate a point of contact if the corresponding child welfare agency notifies the local educational agency, in writing, that the agency has designated an employee to serve as a point of contact for the local educational agency; and
  - 2. By not later than one year after the date of enactment of the Every Student Succeeds Act, develop and implement clear written procedures governing how transportation to maintain children in foster care in their school of origin when in their best interest will be provided, arrange, and funded for the duration of the time in foster care, which procedures shall—
    - a. Ensure that children in foster care needing transportation to the school of origin will promptly receive transportation in a cost-effective manner and in accordance with section 475(4)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 675(4)(A)); and
    - b. Ensure that, if there are additional costs incurred in providing transportation to maintain children in foster care in their schools of origin, the local educational agency will provide transportation to the school of origin if—
      - i. The local child welfare agency agrees to reimburse the local educational agency for the cost of such transportation;
      - ii. The local educational agency agrees to pay for the cost of such transportation; or
      - iii. The local educational agency and the local child welfare agency agree to share the cost of such transportation; and
  - 3. Ensure that all teachers and paraprofessionals working in a program supported with funds under this part meet applicable state certification and licensure requirements, including any requirements for certification obtained through alternative routes to certification; and
  - 4. In the case of a local educational agency that chooses to use funds under this part to provide early childhood education services to low-income children below the age of compulsory school attendance, ensure that such services comply with the performance standards established under section 641A(a) of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9836a(a)).

**TITLE I, PART D – Children of Youth who are Neglected, Delinquent or At-Risk**

(Applicable to those LEAs that have projects funded under this part)



***I, the undersigned Superintendent for the above named LEA, hereby, assure the Arkansas Department of Education that:***

- A. The local educational agency developed and will implement the local flexibility demonstration agreement in consultation with teachers, principals, other school leaders (including charter school leaders in a local educational agency that has charter schools), administrators of federal programs impacted by the agreement, parents, community leaders, and other relevant stakeholders;
- B. The local educational agency will use fiscal control and sound accounting procedures S. 1177—107 that ensure proper disbursement of, and accounting for, eligible federal funds consolidated and used under such system;
- C. The local educational agency will continue to meet the requirements of sections 1117, 1118, and 8501; and

- D. The local educational agency will meet the requirements of all applicable federal civil rights laws in carrying out the agreement and in consolidating and using funds under the agreement.

**TITLE II, PART A – Preparing, Training and Recruiting High Quality Teachers and Principals**



*I, the undersigned Superintendent for the above named LEA, hereby, assure the Arkansas Department of Education that:*

- A. The local educational agency will comply with section 8501 (regarding participation by private school children and teachers);
- B. The local educational agency will coordinate professional development activities authorized under this part with professional development activities provided through other federal, state, and local programs; and
- C. The local educational agency will prioritize funds to schools served by the agency that are implementing comprehensive support and improvement activities and targeted support and improvement activities under section 1111(d) and have the highest percentage of children counted under section 1124(c).

**TITLE III, PART A – Language Acquisition and Language Enhancement**

(Applicable to those LEAs that have projects funded under this part)



*I, the undersigned Superintendent for the above named LEA, hereby, assure the Arkansas Department of Education that:*

- A. Each local educational agency that is included in the eligible entity is complying with section 1112(e) prior to, and throughout, each school year as of the date of application;
- B. The eligible entity is not in violation of any state law, including state constitutional law, regarding the education of English learners, consistent with sections 3125 and 3126;
- C. The eligible entity consulted with teachers, researchers, school administrators, parents and family members, community members, public or private entities, and institutions of higher education, in developing and implementing such plan; and
- D. The eligible entity will, if applicable, coordinate activities and share relevant data under the plan with local Head Start and Early Head Start agencies, including migrant and seasonal Head Start agencies, and other early childhood education providers.

**TITLE IV, PART A – STUDENT SUPPORT AND ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT**



*I, the undersigned Superintendent for the above named LEA, hereby, assure the Arkansas Department of Education that:*

In accordance with ESEA section 4106(e) (2) and (f), the applicant provides assurances that it will:

- A. Prioritize the distribution of funds to schools served by the LEA based on one or more of the following criteria:
  - 1. Are among the schools with the greatest needs;
  - 2. Have the highest percentages or numbers of children counted under section 1124(c) (i.e., children counted for purposes of basic grants to LEAs under Title I, Part A of the ESEA);
  - 3. Are identified for comprehensive support and improvement under section 1111(c)(4)(D)(i) (i.e., are among the lowest-achieving schools);

4. Are implementing targeted support and improvement plans as described in section 1111(d)(2) (i.e., have consistently underperforming student subgroups); or
  5. Are identified as a persistently dangerous public elementary school or secondary school under section 8532. (ESEA section 4106(d).
- B. Consult with a range of stakeholders during the design and development of the program (ESEA section 4106(c)(1). LEAs must additionally continue to consult with stakeholders to improve program activities and to coordinate implementation with other related activities in the community. (ESEA 4106(c)(2).

For an LEA that receives \$30,000 or more, conduct a comprehensive needs assessment. (ESEA section 4106(e)(2)(A)).

For an LEA that receives \$30,000 or more, use-

1. Not less than 20 percent of funds to support one or more of the activities authorized under section 4107 pertaining to well-rounded educational opportunities;
  2. Not less than 20 percent of funds to support one or more activities authorized under section 4108 pertaining to safe and healthy students; and
  3. A portion of funds to support one or more activities authorized under section 4109(a) pertaining to the effective use of technology.
- C. Use not more than 15 percent of funds designated for supporting the effective use of technology to purchase technology infrastructure, including devices, equipment, software, and digital content.
- D. Comply with section 8501-8504, regarding equitable participation of private school children and teachers. (ESEA section 4106(e)(2)(B)).
- E. The LEA or consortium will comply with section 8501 (regarding equitable participation by private school children and teachers);
- F. The LEA or consortium will annually report to the State for inclusion in the report described in section 4104(a) (2) how funds are being used under this subpart to meet the requirements of subparagraphs (C) through (E).
- G. SPECIAL RULE.—Any local educational agency receiving an allocation under section 4105(a)(1) in an amount less than \$30,000 shall be required to provide only one of the assurances described in subparagraphs (C), (D), and (E) of subsection(e)(2).
- H. Gun-Free Schools Act (GFSA) (Section 8561)
1. The LEA has a Gun Free School Policy as required by A.C.A. §6-21-608.
  2. The LEA will report required data elements in APSCN. (Section 8561(d)(2)) (i.e., name of school, number of students expelled and type of firearm, etc.)
- I. Non-Smoking Policy for Children's Services (Section 8573)
1. The LEA has a policy prohibiting smoking, the use of tobacco or tobacco products, or the use of e-cigarettes as required by A.C.A. §6-21-609.

**McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Program** (42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.)



***I, the undersigned Superintendent for the above named LEA, hereby, assure the Arkansas Department of Education that:***

- A. The local educational agency will adopt policies and practices to ensure that homeless children and youths are not stigmatized or segregated on the basis of their status as homeless.

- B. The local educational agency will designate an appropriate staff person, who may also be a coordinator for other Federal programs, as a local educational agency liaison for homeless children and youths, to carry out the duties described in McKinney-Vento.
- C. The local educational agency will adopt policies and practices to ensure that transportation is provided, at the request of the parent or guardian (or in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the liaison), to and from the school of origin, as determined in accordance with the following, as applicable:
1. If the homeless child or youth continues to live in the area served by the local educational agency in which the school of origin is located, the child's or youth's transportation to and from the school of origin shall be provided or arranged by the local educational agency in which the school of origin is located.
  2. If the homeless child's or youth's living arrangements in the area served by the local educational agency of origin terminate and the child or youth, though continuing his or her education in the school of origin, begins living in an area served by another local educational agency, the local educational agency of origin and the local educational agency in which the homeless child or youth is living shall agree upon a method to apportion the responsibility and costs for providing the child with transportation to and from the school of origin. If the local educational agencies are unable to agree upon such method, the responsibility and costs for transportation shall be shared equally.

#### BOARD APPROVAL AND SUPERINTENDENTS SIGNATURE

The School Board of Founders classical School District approved and recorded in its minutes the set of assurances stated above at a meeting held on 8/27/21 and further authorized the Superintendent to sign such assurances as required by Section 8306 and to submit a budget to the Arkansas Department of Education as required.

Please sign and date:

	<u>8/18/21</u>
SUPERINTENDENT SIGNATURE	DATE

<u>Steven Gast</u>
PRINT OR TYPE SUPERINTENDENT NAME

**NOTE:** Make sure that each program section mentioned in this document has been checked or initialed that is applicable to the district. Once SOA has been signed and school board meeting listed, upload this document into the 2021-22 Forms Upload Folder in the Indistar software.

# **4. 2021-2022**

## **Parent/Student**

### **Handbook**

# ResponsiveED Arkansas Parent / Student Handbook for 2021-2022

## Executive Summary of Edits

### Section I (General Policies and Procedures)

Updated ResponsiveEd Arkansas District Office contact information for course credit only.

Responsive Education Solutions

Notice of Appeal: Class Credit

Attn: Arkansas Superintendent

400 Hardin Road, Suite 120

Little Rock, AR 72211

Updated Arkansas Activities Association (AAA) Eligibility requirements.

### Section II (Health and Safety)

Updated the contact information for Arkansas Child Abuse Hotline

Arkansas Child Abuse Hotline at 1 (800) 482-5964

Updated the websites for Arkansas Mental Health Services.

<https://www.arcrisis.org/mental-health/>

<http://humanservices.arkansas.gov/dbhs/Pages/default.aspx>

<http://www.sprc.org/stateinformation/statepages/showstate.asp?stateID=4>

<https://humanservices.arkansas.gov/about-dhs/dbhs/arkansas-state-hospital>

### Section III (Academics)

Updated Arkansas Smart Core graduation requirements.

Updated Arkansas Core graduation requirements.

Updated Arkansas Honor Graduate rules - The following criteria must be met for a student to be designated an honor graduate. Final calculations will occur after the 8<sup>th</sup> semester.

1. Complete the Smart Core Curriculum as described by the State Board of Education.
2. Maintain a minimum GPA of 3.5 or above.
3. No loss of credit due to attendance.
4. No failing grades in a credit-bearing course.
5. Complete a minimum of one (1) Concurrent Credit course or one (1) Advanced Placement course. Students with an IEP or 504 Plan are included to the extent that the courses that they have taken and successfully completed meet the course requirements for graduation as established by the State Board of education.

### Section IV (Code of Conduct)

### Section V (Parental Rights)

Nothing

## **External**

Included in the actual handbook, we have created a template for campuses to follow when creating their own campus handbook supplements. Several items are specifically delegated to the campuses for clarification by the Parent / Student Handbook and this template gives sections that need to be addressed at the campus level without allowing for overreach or contradiction by the campus.

A student is absent if the student is not present for onsite instruction provided by the district, participating in a planned district-approved activity, or engaged in scheduled instruction at an off-site location, including remote learning.

# Separate Items



# 1. Health and Safety Guidelines

## ResponsiveEd COVID-19 Health and Safety Guidelines 2021-2022

### I. Status of COVID-19 Isolations

Since Aug 1, 2021,

#### 479 Positive Cases

Texas		Arkansas	
Students	381	Students	8
Staff	87	Staff	0
Contractors	3	Contractors	0

### II. Parent Feedback

[COVID-19ResponseTeam@ResponsiveEd.com](mailto:COVID-19ResponseTeam@ResponsiveEd.com).

Since the fall of 2020, ResponsiveEd's COVID-19 Responsive Team has made available and has monitored an email account for non-staff to leave comments, ask questions, inquire for district or campus information.

Feedback last school year 2020 -2021: 211 email received

8% - Requested that a mandatory mask policy be implemented

92% - Expressed a desire to keep their campus mask-free

43% - Campuses need a greater level of mitigation and safe school health protocols

Feedback since 8/1/21: 378 email have been received

35% - Requested that a mandatory mask policy be implemented

5% - Expressed a desire to keep their campus mask-free

60% - Expressed concerns about reduced close contact tracing and possible exposure

27% - Campuses need a greater level of mitigation and safe school health protocols

19% - Critical of the notification process and asked for more specific details

22% - Requested access to a remote learning option

### III. Update - 2021-22 COVID-19 Health and Safety Guidelines

This document is a summary of the revisions and additions to the “approved” 2020-2021 ResponsiveEd COVID-19 Health and Safety Guidelines for the 2021-2022 school year.

#### Masks - Texas

In compliance with the Governor of Texas’ Executive Order (GA-36), which prohibits government entities (including charter schools) from requiring facial coverings, effective 11:59 p.m., June 4, campuses will no longer be required or allowed to mandate students, staff, and visitors to wear facial coverings.

This Executive Order supersedes any existing mandates; campus leaders and staff cannot require either students, staff, or visitors to wear a facial covering while on campus. Therefore, facial coverings are optional for students, staff, and visitors. Campuses will work to ensure no person is treated differently as a result of their choice to wear or not wear a face covering.

The Texas Education Agency and ResponsiveEd strongly encourage students, staff, and visitors to wear face covers while indoors on campus.

#### Masks - Arkansas

In compliance with the Arkansas Senate Bill 590, which prohibits government entities from mandating facial coverings, effective for the 2021-22 school year, campuses will no longer be required or allowed to mandate students, staff, and visitors to wear facial coverings.

This House Bill supersedes any existing mandates; campus leaders and staff cannot require either students, staff, or visitors to wear a facial covering while on campus. Therefore, facial coverings are optional for students, staff, and visitors. Campuses will work to ensure no person is treated differently as a result of their choice to wear or not wear a face covering.

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH), and ResponsiveEd strongly encourage students, staff, and visitors to wear face covers while indoors on campus.

### Potential Change: COVID-19 Mask Changes

#### Texas

- Revisions to the Mask Policy **if** GA-36 Rescinded or Overturned:
  - ResponsiveEd will comply with county health officials’ orders in counties where state district judges have granted local authorities the legal power to issue mask mandates.

- ResponsiveEd will follow the lead of the local ISD where the campus resides unless ResponsiveEd campus leadership wish to survey families of the campus and determine the desire of the majority.

## Arkansas

- Revisions to the Mask Policy **if** Arkansas Senate Bill 590, Rescinded or Overturned:
  - ResponsiveEd will comply with county health officials' orders in counties where state district judges have granted local authorities the legal power to issue mask mandates.
  - ResponsiveEd will follow the lead of the local ISD where the campus resides unless ResponsiveEd campus leadership wish to survey families of the campus and determine the desire of the majority.

## Close Contact Tracing - Texas

- Close contact tracing is not recommended by TEA.
- ResponsiveEd reports to local county health officials responsible for identified close contact traced exposures.

## Close Contact Tracing - Arkansas

- Close contact tracing is required by The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), and the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH).
- ResponsiveEd reports to the Arkansas Department of Health.

## Potential Change: COVID-19 Close Contact Tracing Policy - Texas

- Revisions to the Close Contact Tracing Policy **if** the TEA Commissioner Guidance Changes:
  - ResponsiveEd will comply with TEA specific guidance and local health authorities.
  - ResponsiveEd will work in conjunction with the local campus to coordinate implementation.

## Quarantine - Texas and Arkansas

- CDC recommended quarantine protocols are implemented - 7days/10days/14 days.
- Parents may opt to quarantine their student if they perceive that they were exposed to a positive.
  - They can return a healthy child back to campus at any time during the quarantine period.
- Quarantining is not required if the exposed person has completed the required doses of **vaccine** and is two (2) weeks removed from the final dose.
- Quarantining is not necessary if the exposed person is within 90 days of a documented positive infection.

- TEA has given approval for Texas districts or schools to use the Abbott Lab's BinaxNOW Rapid Testing for health screening of both symptomatic and asymptomatic persons.

### Activity Levels - Texas and Arkansas

Developed 4 colored protection levels that dictate policies and protocols.

The numbers and percentages will be adjusted to reflect state specific and CDC data, as well as the historical data collected on the ResponsiveEd campuses. We are adding Low (Blue) for the lowest activity level.

- When COVID-19 activity level is "Low" (Blue) or "Minimal" (Green), campus will resume pre-COVID operations and practices, i.e., use of water fountains, no social distancing, etc.
- When COVID-19 activity level is "Substantial" (Red) or "Moderate" (Orange), the campus will engage in more rigorous sanitizing practices, social distancing, monitoring of activities, daily screening, hallway traffic flow restrictions, classroom seating charts, etc.

#### Substantial - Red

1. New Cases per 100K greater than 150 *(previously greater than 125)*
2. Positive tests greater than 10%
3. Total New Cases Increase greater than 50 *(previously greater than 26)*

#### Moderate - Orange

1. New Cases per 100K = 75-149 *(previously 26-125)*
2. Positive tests = 7%-9.9% *(previously 6%-9.9)*
3. Total New Cases Increase over previous week = 26-49 *(previously 16-25)*

#### Minimal - Green

1. New Cases per 100K = 26-74 *(previously 0-25)*
2. Positive tests = 4%-6.9% *(previously 0%-5.9%)*
3. Total New Cases Increase over previous week = 16-25 *(previously 0-15)*

#### Low - Blue

1. Total New Cases per 100K = equal or less than 25
2. Positive tests = equal or less than 3.9%
3. Total New Cases Increase is equal or less than 15

New Formula for Activity Levels will be calculated using the following percentages:

50% - County & Regional Data - source - COVID Act NOW

25% - ResponsiveEd Historical Campus Data - source - Smartsheet

25% - Campus Control - source - Superintendent, Campus Leadership & campus Advisory Committee

### **New COVID-19 Guidelines and Handbooks for athletic activities and group activities based on state and CDC recommendations.**

[Coaches Handbook](#)

[Athletic Handbook](#)

[Student Physical Evaluation Form](#)

[Group Activity Guidelines](#) (Graduations, Proms, etc.)

### **COVID-19 Response Team - Texas**

Add Regional and Brand Leadership to the Home Office COVID-19 Response Team:

Two (2) Regional Superintendents

Two (2) Directors / Headmasters to the COVID-19 Response Team.

The Home Office is seeking to create a Health and Safety Advisory Group to review health and safety policies.

The group will be composed of:

- County health representative(s)
- Local medical person(s)

The Home Office has created a Parent Advisory Group to review health and safety policies.

The group is composed of parents who have children enrolled in a ResponsiveEd school. They will work with the COVID-19 Response Coordinator to discuss campus based challenges, policies and procedures.

To encourage local input, the campuses are encouraged to create local Campus Advisory Committees (CAC), consisting of:

The group is composed of area professionals, campus leadership and engaged parents who have children enrolled in the local ResponsiveEd school. The group will work together to review policies, develop campus level solutions, and promote a cooperative relationship with the community.

- Campus Director,
- Campus Nurse (or equivalent),
- Two (2) parents and
- One (1) member of the community not associated with the campus.
- "Line of Communication" for appeals and revisions to the protocols and practices:
  - The Campus Advisory Committees (CAC) will seek approval from their assigned superintendent

- The superintendent will consult with the COVID Response Team for context, data and analysis
- If questions arise, Home Office senior leadership will be consultant for input and appeal

#### **IV. Updates**

- 10K Additional BinaxNOW Rapid Tests will be arriving for Fall 21 usage