



STATE OF ARKANSAS

Office of the Circuit Judge
Sixth Division

ELEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT WEST

EARNEST E. BROWN, JR.
CIRCUIT JUDGE
JACK JONES JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER
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P.O. BOX 6116
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Phone: 870-541-5461
Fax: 870-541-5464
Website: www.jeffersoncircuitcourt6.org

November 19, 2025

To the Board of Directors:

I am writing to enthusiastically support the renewal of the Charter for Graduate Arkansas. I have worked with Graduate Arkansas for over four years.

Over the past four years, I have witnessed the impact Graduate Arkansas has had with the youth in Jefferson and Lincoln Counties. Graduate Arkansas has staff present in Court for referrals. They are professional, knowledgeable, and compassionate.

Based on the above, I wholeheartedly recommend and support the renewal of Graduate Arkansas' Charter. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Earnest Brown, Jr.
Circuit Judge

EEB:cw

CARLA G. WOOLEY
TRIAL COURT ADMINISTRATOR/
CERTIFIED COURT MANAGER
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KATHIE HESS
CIRCUIT JUDGE, DIVISION 5
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS
POST OFFICE BOX 2232
FORREST CITY, AR 72336-2232
Cross Lee Monroe Phillips St. Francis Woodruff

November 24, 2025

Re: Letter of support

Dear Members of the Board of Directors

I am writing to express my support for the charter renewal of Graduate Arkansas Charter High School. As a juvenile judge who has worked closely with this institution over the past two years, I have witnessed firsthand the transformative impact this school has on youth in our community who need a second chance at educational success.

Graduate Arkansas serves a critical population of students ages 14-21 who have faced significant barriers to traditional education. Many of the young people who appear in my courtroom have experienced academic setbacks, personal challenges, and circumstances that led them away from their educational path.

Graduate Arkansas provides these youth with exactly what they need: a structured, supportive environment designed specifically for dropout recovery and prevention. The collaboration between our juvenile justice system and Graduate Arkansas has been invaluable. I regularly refer students to this school as part of their rehabilitation and success plans, and the results have been consistently positive. The school's student success coaches work seamlessly with probation officers to ensure that each young person receives coordinated support both academically and personally. This integrated

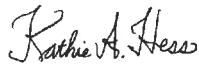
approach addresses not just educational needs, but the whole person, helping youth overcome the challenges that initially derailed their education.

What distinguishes Graduate Arkansas is their unwavering commitment to meeting students where they are. The staff understands that these young people require flexibility, encouragement, and individualized attention. Time and again, I have seen students who were disengaged and hopeless find renewed purpose and direction through the programs offered at Graduate Arkansas. Students who might otherwise have become statistics are instead earning diplomas and building futures. Every student who graduates represents not just an individual success story, but a positive ripple effect throughout our community.

I strongly urge you to renew the charter for Graduate Arkansas Charter High School. This institution fills a crucial gap in our educational system and serves students who desperately need what it offers. The partnership between Graduate Arkansas and the juvenile justice system has proven to be an effective model for supporting youth in crisis, and I am confident that this school will continue to change lives for years to come.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any additional information or would like to discuss my experiences working with Graduate Arkansas.

Sincerely,



Kathie A. Hess
Circuit Judge
First Judicial District
PO Box 2232
Forrest City, AR 72336
870-633-5995 Office
870-317-7262 Cell



Sixth Judicial District - State of Arkansas

TJUANA BYRD MANNING
CIRCUIT JUDGE
PULASKI AND PERRY COUNTIES

EIGHTH DIVISION

3001 WEST ROOSEVELT ROAD-2ND FLOOR
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72204
(501) 340-6666
FAX (501) 340-6928

December 9, 2025

Re: Letter of Support

Dear Members of the Board of Directors:

I am writing to express my support for the charter renewal of Graduate Arkansas Charter High School. As a judicial officer who regularly works with young people navigating significant personal, academic and legal challenges, I have witnessed firsthand the positive impact Graduate Arkansas had had on the students who appear in my courtroom.

Several of those students have enrolled in Graduate Arkansas and have successfully earned their high school diplomas. The school's flexible scheduling, personalized instruction, and wraparound support services have allowed these students to re-engage with their education in a setting that meets them where they are. For many, this has been a critical turning point—creating stability, improving decision-making, and opening pathways to employment, college, or vocational training.

The success of Graduate Arkansas is not simply academic; it has a meaningful impact on public safety and community well-being. Students who regain educational momentum are far more likely to avoid future court involvement and far more likely to secure productive futures. The school has become a vital partner in helping young people redirect their lives in a positive direction.

Another impactful component of the school's approach is the work of its success coaches. These staff members play a vital role in supporting the students by maintaining regular, proactive communication with our probation officers. This collaboration ensures that everyone involved in a young person's case is aligned, informed, and able to provide coordinated support. Success coaches share updates on academic progress, attendance, engagement, and any emerging challenges, which allows probation officers — and ultimately the court — to make more informed decisions and to reinforce consistent expectations across school and legal settings. It is an invaluable partnership that directly benefits the students' stability and long-term success.

Because of its demonstrated effectiveness, its commitment to equity, and its indispensable role in supporting our most vulnerable youth, I strongly endorse the renewal of Graduate Arkansas Charter High School's charter. The school is a vital educational partner and an important resource for both students and the broader community.

I welcome the opportunity to provide any additional information or to share more of my personal experience working with Graduate Arkansas. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "T. Manning".

Tjuana Byrd Manning
Circuit Judge
Sixth Judicial District
3001 W. Roosevelt Road
Little Rock, AR 72204
501-340-6666 Office
501-247-3626 Cell



Arkansas Juvenile Officers Association

P.O. Box 1166, Stuttgart, AR 72160 • 870-717-0020 (Ph) • arjuvenileoa@gmail.com

Lavon Chatman

President

Arkansas Juvenile Officers Assn

607 Ouachita Ave. Room 120

Hot Springs, AR. 71901

Lchatman@garlandcounty.org 501-622-3772

December 1, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Arkansas Juvenile Officers Association (AJOA), I am writing to offer our full support for **Graduate Arkansas** as part of their renewal application. Our organization has had numerous opportunities to collaborate with Graduate Arkansas, and we have consistently seen the positive educational impact they provide for justice-involved youth across our state.

Graduate Arkansas has proven to be an essential partner for juvenile officers, court personnel, and youth-serving agencies. Their team provides a reliable pathway for students who need flexible, high-quality educational support in order to move toward graduation. For many of the young people involved in the juvenile justice system, traditional school settings present significant barriers. Graduate Arkansas fills that gap by offering individualized learning environments, structured accountability, and compassionate support—all of which contribute to students' academic and personal success.

Over the years, we have witnessed firsthand how this program has changed the trajectory of youth who might otherwise fall further behind academically. **Students referred through our officers have returned to school routines, re-engaged academically, and, in several cases, earned their high school diplomas after long periods of disengagement.** One particular young person—who had struggled for years with school attendance—was able to regain confidence, build consistent study habits, and successfully complete coursework through Graduate Arkansas. Their success became a turning point, reducing further system involvement and opening new opportunities for employment and continuing education. (Details have been generalized to maintain confidentiality.)

Graduate Arkansas continues to serve as a **critical resource** for youth navigating both academic and legal challenges. Their responsiveness, collaboration, and student-centered approach make them an invaluable partner to juvenile officers and agencies committed to rehabilitation, accountability, and long-term success for Arkansas youth. We strongly support the renewal of Graduate Arkansas and encourage its continued operation and funding. The program plays a vital role in ensuring that justice-involved young people have access to meaningful educational pathways that can change their lives for the better.

If additional information is needed, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Lavon Chatman

President

Arkansas Juvenile Officers Association (AJOA)



Rev. Eric Walden Jr., M.Div., MBA
Assistant Chief of Staff - Sixth Division Circuit Court
Board Member - Arkansas Juvenile Officers Association (AJOA)
301 E. 2nd Ave
Pine Bluff, AR, 71601
ewalden@jeffersoncircuitcourt6.org | 870-718-5123

12/11/2025

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If additional information is needed, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "EW", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Eric Walden Jr., M.Div., MBA
Arkansas Juvenile Officers Association (AJOA)



OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT JUDGE

Eleventh East Judicial Circuit
Arkansas County Courthouse
P.O. Box 1166
Stuttgart, AR 72160

DONNA D. GALLOWAY
Circuit Judge

Court Reporter

KATHRYN GORDON
Trial Court Assistant

FONDA SCHERM
Juvenile Officer
870.659-2082

STEVE WALKER
Bailliff
870.659-2084

JALICIA WYATT
Juvenile Intake Officer
870-659-2071

December 1, 2025

Dear Members of the Arkansas State Board of Education,

I am writing to express my strong support for the charter renewal of Graduate Arkansas, as it has proven to be an invaluable resource for the students and families in our community, particularly those involved with the Arkansas County Juvenile Office.

Graduate Arkansas has played a pivotal role in assisting at-risk youth by offering them a second chance at completing their high school education in a non-traditional setting. This is particularly important for students who may have faced personal or academic challenges in traditional school environments. One of the most compelling examples of Graduate Arkansas' positive impact comes from the story of a local student who was dropped from his previous high school due to circumstances beyond his control. With limited options, this student turned to Graduate Arkansas. Despite the initial setback, Graduate Arkansas staff worked tirelessly to support him. They provided a personalized learning plan, accommodated his individual needs, and guided him toward earning his high school diploma. In just two months, this student completed his coursework, obtained his diploma, and was able to transition directly into college. This remarkable achievement is a testament to Graduate Arkansas' effectiveness in helping students overcome obstacles and move forward in life.

What sets Graduate Arkansas apart is the dedication and availability of its staff. They are always accessible, whether it's assisting students in completing assignments, providing guidance to parents, or collaborating with our office to ensure the success of these young individuals.

Arkansas and the Arkansas County Juvenile Office seen firsthand the impact Graduate Arkansas has had on helping students overcome barriers to education. Their personalized approach, commitment to student success, and continued availability make them an essential partner in supporting the educational goals of our youth.

For these reasons, I wholeheartedly support the renewal of Graduate Arkansas' charter and encourage you to recognize the vital role they play in helping students who need alternative pathways to success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jalicia Wyatt".

Jalicia Wyatt, MSW
Arkansas County Juvenile Intake Officer
Office: 870-659-2082
Email: jaliciawyatt@gmail.com



DECEMBER 1, 2025

To the Board of Directors,

I am writing to support the renewal of the Charter for Graduate Arkansas. I have worked with Graduate Arkansas for over 10 years. I worked with Graduate Arkansas as their child nutrition specialist while employed with the State of Arkansas Child Nutrition Program and witnessed the growth and the enthusiasm to overcome obstacles to offer a program that would benefit the youth of Arkansas in every area of their lives. The degree to which Graduate Arkansas is willing to go to provide a nurturing atmosphere to ensure the success of every enrolled student is beyond what anyone could imagine.

They are professional, knowledgeable, and compassionate. The administration strives to provide the staff with the necessary tools and incentives to be successful. This allows the staff to focus on the needs of the students, so they are successful.

Based on the above, I wholeheartedly recommend and support the renewal of Graduate Arkansas' Charter. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Shelia Bailey'.

Shelia Bailey, Child Nutrition Director
Founder, SKB Consulting LLC
501.590.5425
sbailey@skbconsultingllc.com



**14TH Judicial District
Circuit Court
Juvenile Division**

**COUNTY OF BAXTER
JUVENILE SERVICES
312 Bomber Boulevard
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www.bcjs.org**

December 1, 2025

Katie Hatley, Ed. S | Superintendent
Graduate Arkansas Charter High School

Dear Ms. Hatley,

As a juvenile probation officer, I have had the privilege of working with Graduate Arkansas, and I continue to be impressed by their dedication to our youth. Their willingness to collaborate, their quick responses in getting students enrolled, and the ease of reaching a live, helpful staff member makes a tremendous difference.

Just two weeks ago, one of our young men earned his high school diploma, and the confidence it gave him was remarkable. The program's self-paced structure and its ability to track individual growth and progress have been highly motivating for our students.

We've also had the benefit of two certified teachers, along with the Graduate Arkansas team, working directly with our kids, and the results have been outstanding.

I am truly thankful and honored, as a probation officer, to have access to such an impactful educational program.

Sincerely,

Jessica Ethridge
Juvenile Probation Officer