



Global Innovation Academy: Charter School

May 21, 2026

Mr. Martin Mahan, Superintendent

Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics (STEM)

Charter School Proposal

Global Innovation Academy (GIA)

“Where Global Connections Meet Local Innovations”



Vision & Mission of Global Innovation Academy

Vision

GIA will cultivate a world-class community of innovators through instruction of Singapore Math, Mandarin Language, and PITSCO Science within a supportive, small school community.



Mission

To inspire curiosity and creativity, prepare students for advanced study and STEM careers, and foster collaboration, resilience, and ethical responsibility in scientific and technological advancement.

Our Why

Students of Incoming Military and Fort Smith Families Deserve:

- Rigorous STEM Focus
- Project-driven Learning
- Personalized Instruction
- Academic Enhancements
- Specialized Opportunities
- Extracurricular Resources



Program Design

GIA Highlights:

- A dedicated **STEM Academy** housed within the existing school.
- 21st-Century Skills: STEM careers are among the fastest-growing in the U.S.; **to compete globally**, students need technical knowledge & problem-solving skills.
- Specialized **classrooms/labs** for drones, coding, engineering design, and science research.
- Cohort model: Student **collaborative teams**.
- Equity & Access: Many students lack exposure to STEM fields; this model **ensures equitable access** to charter school supports.
- Engagement & Retention: **Smaller STEM cohorts** allow personalized instruction, stronger teacher-student relationships, and greater academic motivation.



Global Innovation Academy will Provide

Accelerated
Learning

Mentoring

Singapore
Math

Mandarin
Language

PITSCO
Science

Equitable
Access

Fort Smith Community Support

Leverage Formal Partnerships



- Chamber of Commerce Collaboration
- Multiple Meetings with Military Liaison
- Co-planning with Singapore Education Representatives
- [FSPS School Board Resolution](#)
- Stakeholder Input
- Higher Education and Industry Mentors

Stakeholder Input

510 Respondents

Would you be in favor of FSPS creating a STEM-focused academy at an elementary school?

YES

70%

MAYBE

20%

How interested would you be in enrolling a student in a STEM Charter School Academy designed to deliver instruction through the use of advanced curriculum resources and increased instructional expectations?

VERY INTERESTED

54%

NOT SURE

32%

How likely would you be to recommend this school to other families in your community?

VERY LIKELY

55%

SOMEWHAT LIKELY

35%

Educational Model

Instructional Approach:

- Project-based and inquiry-driven learning that exceeds Arkansas Academic Standards.
- Use of design thinking and engineering processes.
- Opportunities for collaboration with local universities, businesses, military, and STEM professionals.
- Integration of coding, data analysis, and emerging technologies across courses.

Extra and Co-Curricular Opportunities:

- STEM Focused Clubs
- Environmental Science
- Early Mandarin Language Integration
- Capstone Projects
- Mentorship and Real-World Connections



Timeline:

2023-2026 ➔ **Extensive Planning and Preparation**

Conducted research on charter schools, visited military bases, met with Singapore education officials, engaged stakeholders, designed an instructional model, and built strategic partnerships

2026-2027 ➔ **Year 1**

Prepare facilities, begin student enrollment, and provide professional development

2027-2028 ➔ **Year 2**

Full Implementation while expanding military, community & industry partnerships

Global Innovation Academy: A STEM School within a School at Bonneville Elementary

Fort Smith Public Schools



GIA will foster innovation, academic excellence, and career readiness. By combining rigorous academics with hands-on projects, mentorship, and real-world applications, the program will prepare students to lead in STEM fields while building an inclusive, collaborative learning community.