

Unit Represented	Question from application being addressed (Provide question #)	Comments	Remaining Questions
School Performance	Question #2	AMS claims that 0 student within a 10-minute drivetime boundary attend an A-School, yes LRSD had 3 A schools in 2022. They also claim that expanding the drivetime boundary gives you better options specifically naming North Little Rock (which had 0 A schools in 2022 and PCSSD which had only 2 A schools in 2022) to give a total of 4 A schools. I didn't pull any data for area OEC.	
School Performance	Question #6	I expected to see more of a specific emphasis on math and science (hence the name).	
Public School Accountability	#8	The applicant talks about Act 930 and DESE would like more clarification.	Act 930 of what year? What is the annotated code for this piece of legislation?

School Performance	Question #8	<p>Teaching Algebra II in a K-8 building is not allowable. The section of law below clarifies for me that Geometry must be taken no earlier than grade 9 now that we are moving to EOC. The ESSA plan has a section for an 8th grade math exception for early testing of the Algebra I EOC, but does not have a section to write in for 7th grade. *The 8th grade math exception in ESSA will allow students to take the Algebra I exam in lieu of the grade 8 math exam if the student is enrolled in the appropriate course.</p> <p>ESEA Sec. 1111 (a)(2)(B)(v)(I) in the case of mathematics and reading or language arts, be administered— (aa) in each of grades 3 through 8; and (bb) at least once in grades 9 through 12;</p> <p>Same for Biology... Students must assess once for science in grades 10-12 ESEA Sec. 1111 (a)(2)(B)(v)(II)(cc)</p>	
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School Counseling Unit	#9	<p>I read both articles used in the rationale for a waiver of the 1:450 ratio. Here is a quote from the first article cited "As the student-to-counselor ratios increase, the number of students who cannot be adequately served by the counselor also increases, thus reducing the overall effectiveness of the counselor as perceived by students, parents, and school staff members." The second article is about the effectiveness of school counselors within a PBIS system of support. The articles did not provide rationale for the request. In fact, they support lower ratios. In addition, the amount of services you stated would be provided by the counselor in question #11 would need the lowest ratio possible. Current research (see link below) recognizes 1:250 ratios as being most effective. Measuring the Impact of School Counselor Ratios on Student Outcomes</p>	
School Counseling Unit	Question #11	<p>I see that the school counseling program will use MTSS and Second Step. I do not see anything that pertains to the adherence of a comprehensive school counseling program as outlined in Act 190. In the response to this question, it states that "Although time allotment may vary depending on individual student needs, the typical time allotment for participation in the counseling program is six full weeks of official in-service school days. Students with an official diagnosis or with counseling services assigned through an IEP may receive additional counseling hours beyond six full weeks of official in-service school days." I want to make sure that school counselors adhere to their scope of practice.</p>	

Library Media	#12	The intent to eventually hire a school library media is welcome but there is concern about training the teachers to teach the library media standards which will be done by the school administration at the beginning of the school year. The application indicates that the school administration will participate in state trainings for school librarians and join the Arkansas Association of Instructional Media. This is a laudable effort but doesn't equal the master's degree in school librarianship that a school librarian must have.	
ADE-OSE	Question # 13a	In the description of the MTSS process, Child Find responsibilities are not noted to extend past that process. Parents and teachers can ask for a referral. I did read on and found that a note is made in the answer to question 17 about not blocking referrals, but it needs to be part of the answer to 13a.	Describe your full Child Find plan beyond MTSS. How will you inform parents of your Child Find plan?
Special education	#13a	The description sounds as if all students who may be in need of special education must go through the MTSS process. OSEP states that RTI and MTSS cannot delay referrals.	How will the district ensure the MTSS process does not delay a referral?
ADE-OSE	Question #13b	There is a list of services they will have available and a mention of contracting services if private separate day school program is needed.	
Special education	#13b	The answer includes ALE. ALE is not a special education placement.	
ADE-OSE	Question #13c	no feedback	
ADE-OSE	Question #13d	no feedback	
Special education	#13d	The application states some related service providers will be contract.	Who will be potential contracted providers?
special education	#13d	The application states that some services are based on the student's tri-annual evaluation.	What if a service is needed prior to the next 3 year evaluation date?

English Learners	Question # 15a	<p>Screening--Arkansas requires use of the statewide Home Language Usage Survey with 9 questions (not 3 questions listed). ELPA21 language testing within 10 calendar days meets both the within first 30 days of school at the beginning of the year and the within two weeks thereafter. Make sure to only use ELPA21 testing results. Please read and follow the AR Entrance and Exit Procedures Manual</p> <p>Notifying Parents/Guardians--we do not allow obtaining consent to identify/assess/place. Parents have right to waive services only. See our manual.</p> <p>Annual Review of EL/FEL-see our manual for exit criteria (two data points) beyond a proficient ELPA21 score; in AR, Former ELs are monitored for four years.</p>	
English Learners	Question # 15b	Integrated ELD is what Arkansas would call integrated supports within content classrooms and targeted ELD is what is expected for ELD specific instruction (this response is ok)	
English Learners	Question #15c	language access plan provided and described (this response is ok)	Will teachers be encouraged to seek licensure?

School Nurse	Waiver #15	<p>A health technician (CNA) is a delegated lay person and cannot perform the same medical tasks a LPN would be able to provide. The school may be limited with ensuring necessary nursing services are available if employing a CNA, based on specific student needs. A CNA would not be able to follow through with a typical Individual Health Plan. Recommend employing a LPN. FTE is not provided for the planned LPN. This should be included. Arkansas law requires a LPN perform all duties under the supervision of an Arkansas licensed registered nurse. This plan is not sufficient to ensure applicable nursing guidelines would be followed in the event a student requires medical care while at school.</p>	
GT & AP	#16	<p>No waiver is included in the waivers listing or mentioned in this response.</p> <p>The response includes procedures and services that are out of compliance with requirements from GT Program Approval Standards. A single criterion or cut off score may not be used to include or exclude students from services (GT Standards, 7.05). Once identified as in need of services, GT services must be provided for a minimum of 150 minutes per week (GT Standards, 8.05). Decisions regarding need for services must be made by a committee of professional educators (GT Standards, 7.03).</p>	

ALE Office	Question # 17	Despite having the correct Law and Rule numbers in Waiver request. It is apparent from the answer that the writer does not understand that ALE is not a Special Education Program. There is plenty of information on DESE-Learning Services- Alternative Education webpage to get a good grasp of what ALE is in Arkansas.	
DCTE	#20:II	Career Exploration is addressed, but how will students be engaged with the student success plans? Is this the only CTE course offering? State Standards stipulates CTE instruction grades 5-8 and did not note any waivers for CTE.	

Child Nutrition Unit	#23	<p>It looks like the school will accommodate grades k-8. There is a meal pattern for lunch and breakfast that accommodates these age/grades. The agreement and policy statement must be completed and on file with the DESE Child Nutrition Office before meals can be claimed for federal reimbursement. Training for meal eligibility is provided every August through the DESE CNU digital learning. The training videos and PPTs are available on the Child Nutrition website under the training tab. Various other topics are taught through out the year. The RFP for food service process is carried out through the DESE CNU office. Contracts for FSMCs are from July 1 thru June 30. Training is required for districts planning to outsource their programs. The process from start to finish takes about 90-100 days to complete. The direct certification portal is a joint effort between the DESE and DHS. The portal is updated 4 times a year, August, September, January, and April. Districts are required to access this portal at least 3 times a year. CNU encourages districts to check as often as needed and especially when a new student enrolls. Districts must use meal</p>	<p>We need to make sure they have an agreement and policy statement through our DESE, CNU office.</p>
School Performance	Waivers	<p>The combination of waivers around teaching licence, class size/teaching load, and instructional materials is of concern to me. This charter is expecting unlicensed teachers to teach large classes of students who are being pulled primarily from D or F schools with instructional materials that may not be of high quality. How will this combination of waivers improve the performance of these students?</p>	

School Performance	Waivers	School Nurse - If they intend on hiring a LPN wouldn't that meet the requirement?	
Curriculum	#22	Given the unique needs of Little Rock students, requesting a waiver of class size seems odd. It is stated that they operate with 31 kindergartners in a class in Arizona, but as this is the first school they are opening in Arkansa and do not yet have evidence that this model would work for Arkansas students. With the importance of face-to-face instruction for foundational skills, the smaller classsize is necessary to ensure instruction is delivered with fidelity.	
Finance	#11	The response states a full-time school counseling and mental health intervention services will be provided on site. The counselor's salary was not listed on the Estimated Salaray schedule.	
Finance	#16	The reponse to question 16 states GT services will be provided to eligible students. However, GT funding was not listed on the budget.	
Finance	#23b	The response to question 23 states a Child Nutrition Director will serve as the Certified food Protection Manager for the school site. The CN manager's salary was not listed on the Estimated Salary schedule.	
Finance	#25	In the response to question 25, it states an Executive Director will lead the organization in all areas including serving as founding principal to open and launch the school. Will the Dean of Students serve as the Executive Director?	