

June 13, 2023

Ms. Dorie Summons
Director of Public Charter Schools
Arkansas Department of Education
Division of Elementary and Secondary Education
Four Capitol Mall, Box 26
Little Rock, AR 72201


Re: Imboden Area Charter School Amendment Request- Change of Physical Location

Dear Ms. Summons:

Pursuant to Section 4.02.3 of the DESE Rules Governing Public Charter Schools, I have enclosed a completed Charter Amendment Form (with the required attachments and related documents) for the purpose of requesting that our charter be amended to permit a change in the physical location from its current location at 605 West Third Street, Imboden, AR to 207 Saint Joseph Street, Black Rock, AR. The new location of the school will be within the boundaries of the Lawrence County School District. We intend for the change in location to become effective for the 2023-2024 school year. I am requesting that this amendment request be placed on the July 18, 2023 agenda of the Charter Authorizing Panel for consideration.

I am also contemporaneously emailing a copy of this notice letter to the Superintendents of the Hillcrest, Lawrence County, Pocahontas and Sloan-Hendrix School Districts.

Sincerely,



Matthew Wells
Superintendent
Imboden Area Charter School

Cc: Superintendent Mike Smith
Hillcrest School District
Email: mickel.smith@eagles1.k12.ar.us

Superintendent Terry Belcher
Lawrence County School District
Email: terry.belcher@bobcats.k12.ar.us

Superintendent Lesa Grooms
Pocahontas School District
Email: lesa.grooms@pocahontaspsd.com

Superintendent Clifford Rorex
Sloan-Hendrix School District
Email: crorex@sloan-hendrix.com



Charter Amendment Request Instructions

The Charter Amendment Request Form, with any additional documentation pertaining to the amendment request, must be received, via email at ade.charterschools@arkansas.gov, at the Arkansas Department of Education at least 35 days prior to the meeting of the Charter Authoring Panel.

Documentation to be Included with ALL Amendment Requests

- Budget projections that include the costs associated with the amendment request and demonstrate that the approval of the request will not place an undue financial burden on the charter
- Current year to date enrollment by race and grade
- Current year to date free and reduced lunch

Additional documentation for requests to add a campus or relocate an existing campus

- Map of present location
- Map of proposed location
- Signed Facilities Utilization Agreement
- Desegregation Analysis

Additional documentation

- Budget projections that include the costs associated with the amendment request and demonstrate that the approval of the request will not place an undue financial burden on the charter
- Current year to date enrollment by race and grade
- Current year to date free and reduced lunch

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- Current year to date enrollment by race and grade
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Charter Amendment Request From

The Charter Amendment Request Form and all required documentation must be received via email (ade.charterschools@arkansas.gov) at the Arkansas Department of Education at least 35 days prior to the Charter Authorizing Panel meeting.

Charter Name: Imboden Area Charter **LEA:** 3840700

Superintendent or Director: Matthew Wells

Email: mwells@iacs.k12.ar.us **Phone:** 870-378-0016

Type of Amendment(s) Requested

Add a New Campus (Must also submit the Facilities Utilization Agreement)

Address: _____
School District: _____

Relocate Existing Campus (Must also submit the Facilities Utilization Agreement)

Campus Name: Imboden Area Charter School
Current Address: 605 W. 3rd St. Imboden, AR
Proposed Address: 207 Saint Joseph St. Black Rock, AR
School District: Imboden Area Charter

Increase Enrollment Cap

Current Cap: _____
Proposed Cap: _____

Change Grade Levels Served

Current Grade Levels Served: _____
Proposed Grade Levels Served: _____

Waiver(s)

Statute/Standard/Rule to be Waived: _____

Rationale for Waiver:

Statute/Standard/Rule to be Waived: _____

Rationale for Waiver:

Statute/Standard/Rule to be Waived: _____

Rationale for Waiver:

Statute/Standard/Rule to be Waived: _____

Rationale for Waiver:

Facilities Utilization Agreement

To be completed and submitted with an amendment request to add a new campus or relocate an existing campus

Lessor (Owner): City of Black Rock
Imboden Area Charter School

Lessee (Tenant): _____

Information regarding affiliation, family ties or other relationships between the Lessor and Lessee:
None

Address of Premises: 207 Saint Joseph St. Black Rock, AR

The facility is currently vacant other than a small museum displaying artifacts from the former Black Rock School District.

Describe the present use of the facility: _____

Square Footage: approx. 5,000 Rental Amount: \$5000.00/ Month

Terms of Lease: _____

Imboden Area

Contingency: The terms of this agreement are contingent upon _____
Charter School receiving approval by the Authorizer to operate an open-enrollment public charter school at the premises identified.

No indebtedness of any kind incurred or created by the open-enrollment public charter school shall constitute an indebtedness of the State of Arkansas or its political subdivisions and no indebtedness of the open-enrollment public charter school shall involve or be secured by the faith, credit or taxing power for the state or its political subdivisions. An open-enrollment public charter school shall not incur any debt, including lease, without the prior review and approval of the Commissioner of Education.

We affirm that the facility is, or will be prior to charter occupancy, compliant with ADE/IDEA accessibility regulations and will remain so while the charter occupies the location.

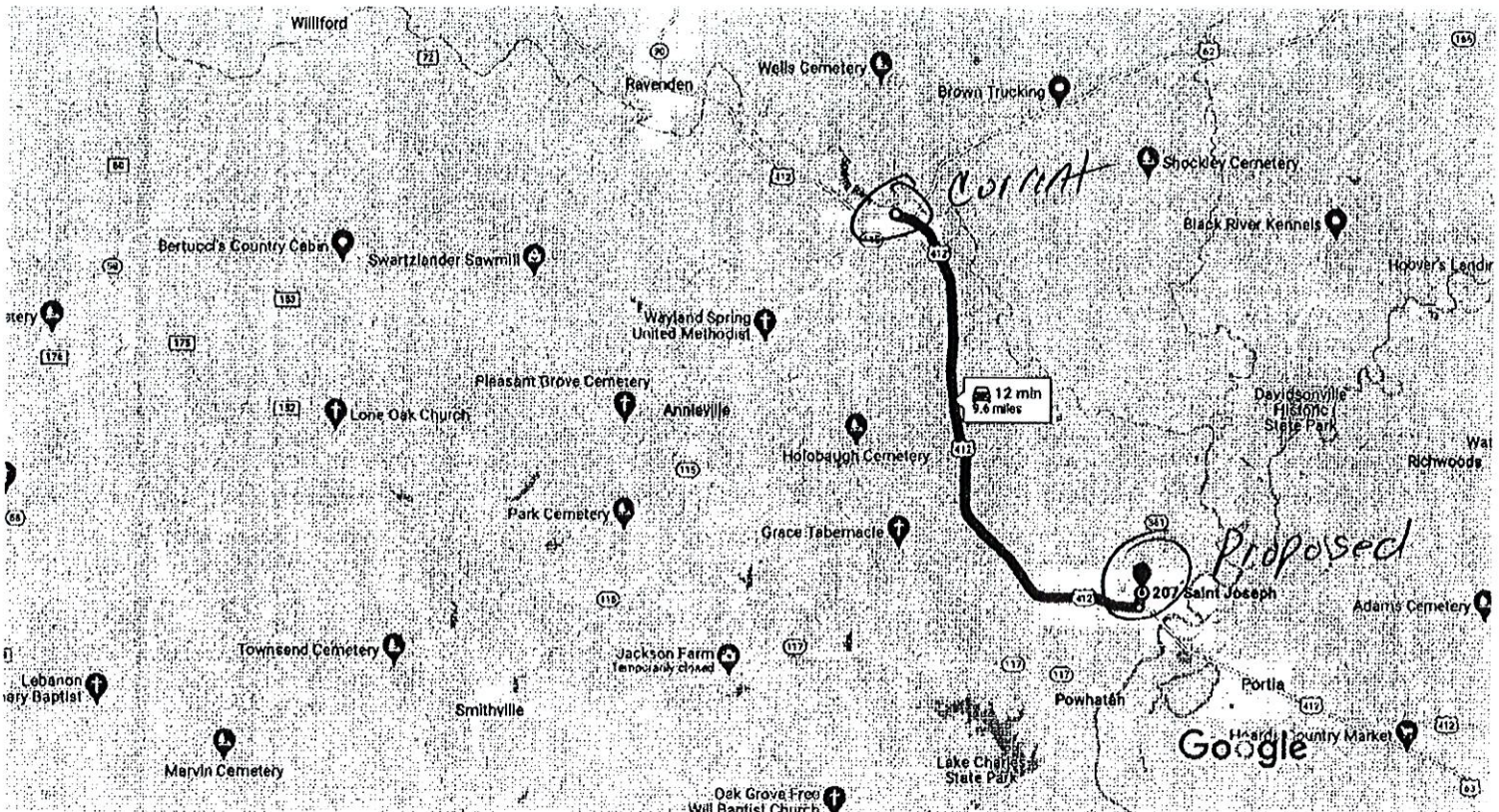
Imboden Area Charter School

Lessee: _____

By: Matthew Williams Date: 6/5/23
Signature

Lessor: Jah Williams

By: _____ Date: 6/5/23
Signature
City of Black Rock



Map data ©2023 Google 2 mi



via US-412 E/US-63 S

12 min

Fastest route now due to traffic conditions

9.6 miles

Explore 207 St Joseph



Restaurants



Hotels



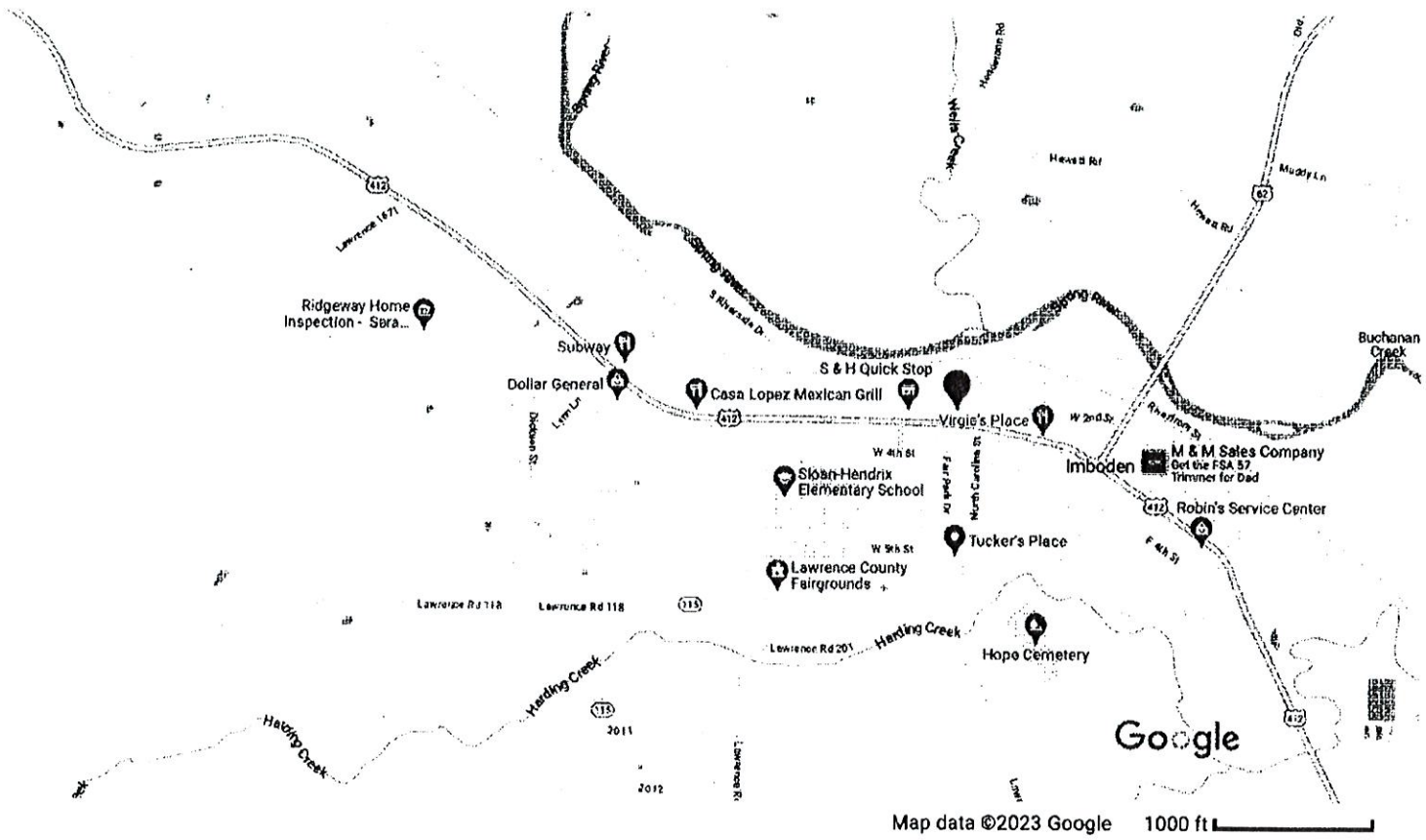
Gas stations



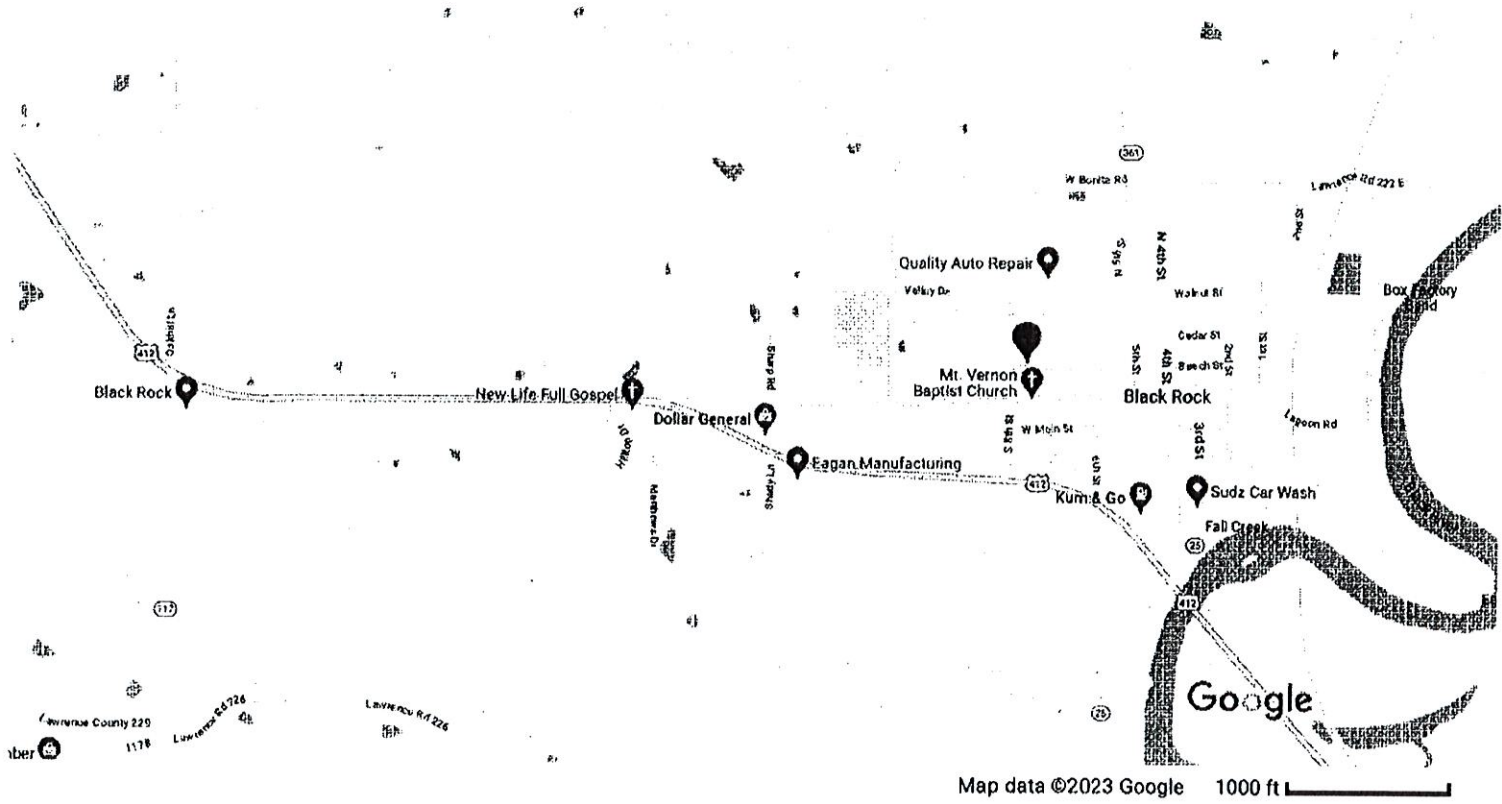
Parking Lots



More



Current Location



Proposed Location

Imboden Area Charter School
Budget Projections for Moving Facility

FY 23 Average Expenses per Month

Monthly Lease	\$2,666.67
Water	\$210
Trash	\$212.10
Lawn Care	\$175.00
Electricity	\$425.00
Natural Gas	\$245.00
Total	\$3933.77 per month

FY 24 Proposed- The proposed lease agreement with the city of Black Rock includes the rent of the facility along with the following utilities included. Water, trash service, lawn care and grounds upkeep, electricity, and natural gas.

Monthly Lease including said utilities	\$5000.00
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IACS does anticipate some costs of moving materials from the current location to the proposed location, however these costs should be minimal as IACS staff and parents, along with Black Rock's city council members have all volunteered their time and vehicles to move materials from one facility to the other.

With the above-mentioned information, the financial stability of Imboden Area Charter School is generally dependent upon student enrollment. Over the course of our history, IACS has typically enrolled around 60 students per school year. At an average of 60 students, IACS has stayed financially stable but has never truly prospered. It is the feeling of IACS Administration and Board of Directors that the restraints imposed by the physical space available in our current location, along with considerable competition from the Sloan-Hendrix School District located less than a mile away has contributed to this lack of growth.

Given the physical space of our current facility, it is rather difficult to comfortably house more than 60 students. The facility being offered to us by the City of Black Rock is nearly twice the physical size and would comfortably house significantly more students than what we currently enroll. At an expected cost of roughly \$12,000.00 per year more than what we currently spend, IACS theoretically could make up the difference in costs by having an enrollment increase of only a few students for the year.

Based on initial community interest, it appears very likely that IACS will see an enrollment growth for the 2023-24 school year if the location change is approved. Currently, IACS has over 90% of last year's student body returning and many registration forms have been completed by perspective families with many citing the potential move as a major contributing factor. At a rate of \$7618.00 per student, the costs of the move and increase in rent is easily covered with only a few additional students enrolling, with the overall goal of growing much closer to our enrollment cap of 150 students.

Imboden Area Charter School
Desegregation Analysis

Imboden Area Charter School (IACS) is seeking to amend its charter to change its physical location, and submits this Desegregation Analysis to the State Charter Authorizer pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. §6-23-106 and Section 4.02.3.3 of the DESE Charter School Rules. IACS is currently located in Imboden, Arkansas within the boundaries of the Sloan-Hendrix School District, and is seeking to relocate the school to a facility in Black Rock, Arkansas within the boundaries of the Lawrence County School District. As an open-enrollment public charter school unconfined by district boundaries, IACS expects to continue to obtain the majority of its students from within the boundaries of the Lawrence County, Sloan-Hendrix, Hillcrest and Pocahontas School Districts as well as students who were formerly home-schooled.

In carefully reviewing the potential impact that IACS' school relocation would have upon the efforts of the Lawrence County School District; the Sloan-Hendrix School District, and the other contiguous districts to comply with court orders and statutory obligations to create and maintain a unitary system of desegregated public schools, the applicant finds that neither the Sloan-Hendrix and Lawrence County School Districts, nor the Hillcrest, Lawrence County and Pocahontas School Districts, have ever been subject to federal court orders to create and maintain a unitary system of desegregated public schools. As an open-enrollment public charter school, IACS must be race-neutral and non-discriminatory in its student selection and admission processes, and its operation in its new location will not serve to hamper, delay, or in any manner negatively affect the desegregation efforts of any public school district or districts within the state.

In conclusion, IACS submits that the granting of its charter amendment request by the State Charter Authorizer to relocate the school from its current location within the Sloan-Hendrix School District to a location within the Lawrence County School District would not hamper, delay or in any manner negatively affect the desegregation efforts of a public school district or public school districts in the state.

IMBODEN AREA CHARTER SCHOOL

Student Demographic Percentages

Excludes PK Students

61 Total Active Students On 06/07/2023

Building Gender Percentages

Gender	Count	Percentage
Females	24	39.34%
Males	37	60.66%
Gender - Total	61	100.00%

Building Primary Race Percentages

Race	Race Count	Race Percentage
Black	1	1.64%
Hispanic or Latino	1	1.64%
Native American/Alaskan Native	6	9.84%
White	53	86.89%
Primary Race - Total	61	100.00%

Building Curriculum Percentages

Curriculum Name	Curriculum Count	Curriculum Percentage
Regular Student	60	98.36%
Unassigned	1	1.64%
Curriculum - Total	61	100.00%

Building G/T Percentages

G/T	G/T Count	G/T Percentage
No	61	100.00%
G/T - Total	61	100.00%

Building Special Ed Percentages

Special Ed	SPED Count	SPED Percentage
Active	7	11.48%
Inactive	2	3.28%
No	52	85.25%
Special Education - Total	61	100.00%

Building 504 Percentages

504	504 Count	504 Percentage
No	58	95.08%
Yes	3	4.92%
504 - Total	61	100.00%

Building Meal Status Percentages

Meal Status Code	Meal Status Count	Meal Status Percentage
01	14	22.95%
02	8	13.11%
03	20	32.79%
04	18	29.51%
Unassigned	1	1.64%
Meal Status - Total	61	100.00%

Building Residency Percentages

Residency Name	Residency Count	Residency Percentage
Resident/District	61	100.00%
Residency - Total	61	100.00%

Building Homeless Percentages

Homeless Status	Homeless Count	Homeless Percentage
Not Applicable	61	100.00%
Homeless - Total	61	100.00%

Building ELL/LEP Percentages

ELL	ELL Count	ELL Percentage
No	61	100.00%
ELL - Total	61	100.00%

Building Migrant Percentages

Migrant	Migrant Count	Migrant Percentage
No	61	100.00%
Migrant - Total	61	100.00%

Building Home Language Percentages

Language	Home Language Count	Home Language Percentage
English	61	100.00%
Home Language - Total	61	100.00%