

Rivercrest School District

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June 20, 2025

To the Charter Authorizing Panel

Division of Elementary and Secondary Education
Four Capitol Mall
Little Rock, AR 72201

Subject: Request for Grade Reconfiguration – Rivercrest Secondary LEAs

Dear Charter Authorizing Panel Members,

Rivercrest School District respectfully submits this request for a grade reconfiguration of the following open-enrollment charter schools:

- Rivercrest Junior High Prep Academy (LEA 4706-702), currently serving grades 7 through 8
- Academies of Rivercrest High School (LEA 4706-703), currently serving grades 9 through 12

We are requesting to reconfigure these schools into a single 7 through 12 grade configuration under one LEA.

These two campuses have historically operated as one secondary school. Instruction, administration, and resources are already integrated, with 32 percent of our certified staff teaching across both buildings. Students experience a unified school environment and transition fluidly between grades, yet the current LEA separation introduces unnecessary barriers in accountability, reporting, and course alignment.

In the 2024–2025 school year, 82 eighth grade students earned a total of 70 high school credits. Despite this success, the current structure prevents us from fully optimizing course offerings. For example, advanced coursework such as AP Seminar could be offered at the 8th grade level if those students were included in a high school LEA. Similarly, placement decisions for Algebra I must factor in which school receives the accountability scores, rather than focusing solely on instructional best fit.

Our stakeholders, including students, parents, teachers, and administrators, already view this as one 7 through 12 experience. A unified charter configuration would reflect operational reality, simplify transitions, and enhance educational opportunities for our students.

We appreciate your consideration of this request and believe this reconfiguration will better support our long-term vision for student success. Please contact me directly if additional documentation or clarification is needed.

Sincerely,

Michael H. Cox

Superintendent

Rivercrest School District