



Friendship  
Education Foundation  
*A community of learners*

January 09, 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: Friendship Aspire Academies of Arkansas

Dear Ms. Summons:

Pursuant to Section 4.02.4 of the ADE 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 the following amendments to our charter:

- 1.) Receive the Pine Bluff Lighthouse Elementary and Middle Schools, located at 708 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Pine Bluff, AR 71601, and Capital City Lighthouse School, 3901 Virginia Drive, North Little Rock, AR 72118, from Lighthouse Arkansas Charter Schools, Inc.;
- 2.) Starting with the 2023-2024 school year, continue school operations at the current Capital City Lighthouse school as a Friendship Aspire school, and accept students from the Pine Bluff Lighthouse Elementary and Middle Schools into the appropriate, existing Friendship Aspire schools in Pine Bluff;
- 3.) Add a new K-5 Friendship North Little Rock campus (former Capital City Lighthouse School in North Little Rock, Arkansas);
- 4.) Open all grades in School Year 2023-2024;
- 5.) Increase our enrollment cap from 2,285 to 2,785 students, to accommodate the additional students to be served pursuant to 2.) above;
- 6.) One-year school, academic accountability waiver for ALL former Lighthouse students, enrolled in any Friendship School;
- 7.) Pre-Lottery enrollment preference waiver for any former Lighthouse student wishing to enroll in any Friendship school; and
- 8.) Close out transferred grade levels and only enroll new students at the kindergarten level over the next three years or until existing students exit the school. This will allow Friendship to provide existing Lighthouse students with intervention and additional educational support, i.e., one-on-one intervention, before/after school tutoring, etc.

I am requesting that this amendment request be placed on the February 2023 agenda of the Charter Authorizing Panel for consideration.

I am also contemporaneously sending a copy of this notice letter to the Superintendents of the North Little Rock and Pine Bluff School Districts.

Sincerely,

Joe Harris, CEO for  
Phong Tran, Ed. D.  
Superintendent  
Friendship Education Foundation

Cc: Superintendent Gregory Pilewski  
North Little Rock School District  
2400 Willow Street  
North Little Rock, AR 72114

Superintendent Jennifer Barbaree  
Pine Bluff School District  
1215 West Pullen Street  
Pine Bluff, AR 71601