



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@ade.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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- 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
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- Current year to date free and reduced lunch



Charter Amendment Request Form

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

Charter Name: Friendship Aspire Academy Public Charter School **LEA:** 3544700

Superintendent or Director: Dr. Phong Tran

Email: ptran@friendshipaspire.org **Phone:** 504-458-4512

Type of Amendment(s) Requested

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

Address: 2 Country Club Cir, Maumelle Ar 72113
School District: Friendship Aspire Academy Public Charter School

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

Campus Name: _____
Current Address: _____
Proposed Address: _____
School District: _____

☐ **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: State Accountability

Rationale for Waiver:

Friendship Aspire Academy would like to change our LAB School for Dyslexia into a public charter school for dyslexia. The rationale behind the change is to offer dyslexia services to additional students without tuition being involved. We currently have 25 students that attend the school and tuition is \$13,000.00 a year. We believe that changing the LAB school into a public charter school will change the landscape of dyslexia services in the state. We understand that many students don't receive these services because they can not afford it. Through our research with our charter school students receiving services from our LAB school, we have found that 80% of our charter school students showed growth in reading. We strongly believe that a public charter school for dyslexia will change the lives of the students in the state that attend the school.

Statute/Standard/Rule to be Waived: School Letter Grades

Rationale for Waiver:

Friendship Aspire Academy would like to petition the state to use an alternative method of evaluation if our LAB School for Dyslexia is approved to be a public charter school for dyslexia. The rationale behind this ask is that our students with dyslexia do not test on the same levels as other students. While most of them get the skills they need to go on to public, private, or other charter schools when they leave our school, we are afraid this would be to the detriment of the school considering the special needs of all of the students that attend the school. An alternative method of evaluation would allow Friendship to serve this very unique group of students for years to come and we believe the outcomes will be very favorable.

Statute/Standard/Rule to be Waived: _____

Rationale for Waiver:

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Statute/Standard/Rule to be Waived: _____

Rationale for Waiver:

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Facilities Utilization Agreement

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

Lessor (Owner): Friendship Aspire Academy

Lessee (Tenant): Friendship Aspire Academy

Information regarding affiliation, family ties or other relationships between the Lessor and Lessee:

There are no family ties, or other relationships between the Lessor and Lessee.

Address of Premises: 2 Country Club Cir, Maumelle Ar 72113

Describe the present use of the facility: The facility is currently being used as a private school for dyslexia.

Square Footage: 12,756 Rental Amount: \$6,504.81

Terms of Lease: 30

Contingency: The terms of this agreement are contingent upon Friendship Aspire Academy
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.

Lessee: Friendship Aspire Academy

By: _____ Date: _____
Signature

Lessor: Centennial Bank

By: _____ Date: _____
Signature

Google Maps 2 Country Club Pkwy



Imagery ©2024 Airbus, Map data ©2024 20 ft



2 Country Club Pkwy
Building

- 
Directions
- 
Save
- 
Nearby
- 
Send to phone
- 
Share

 2 Country Club Pkwy, Maumelle, AR 72113

Photos

FRIENDSHIP ASPIRE ACADEMIES ARKANSAS

Enrollment by District on October 1

2024 - 2025

Cycle: 2

	GRADE TOTAL	WHITE		BLACK		HISPANIC		ASIAN		NATIVE AMERICAN / ALASKAN NATIVE		HAWAIIAN / PACIFIC ISLANDER		TWO OR MORE RACES		GENDER TOTALS	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
K Enrollment	156	1	1	69	73		2				1	1		3	5	74	82
01 Enrollment	161	1		72	84	1	1		1					1		75	86
02 Enrollment	184		1	89	92		1								1	89	95
03 Enrollment	179	2	1	84	82	1	5	1	1			1		1		89	90
04 Enrollment	152	1	1	64	78	3	1		2					1	1	69	83
05 Enrollment	144	1		62	77	3			1							66	78
06 Enrollment	116			42	70		3								1	42	74
07 Enrollment	106	1		47	51	3	3		1							51	55
08 Enrollment	76		2	32	37	2	2							1		35	41
09 Enrollment	46	1		22	23											23	23
10 Enrollment	30		1	14	14					1						15	15
TOTAL ENROLLMENT	1,350	8	7	597	681	13	18	1	6	1	1	1	1	7	8	628	722

FRIENDSHIP ASPIRE ACADEMIES ARKANSAS**LEA: 3544700****District Child Nutrition****Cycle: 2****County: JEFFERSON****(Grades: K - 12)****2024 - 2025**

October 1 Enrollment	1,350
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Child Nutrition Student Counts:	
Free Lunch	442
Reduced Lunch	194
Full Paid	315
Direct Certified	399
Total Lunch	1,350

(this total MUST = October 1 Enrollment)

For this school, each student counted on this report as eligible for free or reduced price meal status has a source document to verify that status. The source document can be either the name on a direct certification list, or a correctly approved application on file. The counts by category reflect only students currently enrolled in the school. Students have been correctly added or dropped prior to running this report.

Since going to an on-line system to claim reimbursement for meals, the Child Nutrition Unit no longer collects this report. To verify the free, reduced and paid eligible status numbers, the District can print the reports and keep them on file in the District.



Friendship Aspire Academy
Public Charter School
ARKANSAS

Friendship Aspire Academies of Arkansas Desegregation Analysis

Friendship Aspire Academies of Arkansas (Friendship) is seeking an amendment of its open-enrollment charter from the State's charter authorizer. Friendship has schools located within the boundaries of both the Little Rock School District and Pine Bluff School District and, as an open-enrollment public charter school unconfined by district boundaries, expects to continue to obtain most of its students from within the boundaries of the Little Rock (LRSD), North Little Rock (NLRSD), Pulaski County (PCSSD), Jacksonville-North Pulaski (JNPSD), Pine Bluff (PBSD), Watson Chapel (WCSD), and White Hall (WHSD) School Districts. In its amendment request, Friendship seeks to obtain the transfer of Lighthouse Arkansas Charter Schools, Inc.'s open-enrollment public charter schools currently located within the boundaries of the NLRSD and PBSD, and correspondingly increase its enrollment cap by five hundred (500) students.

I. The Status of Pulaski County Desegregation Litigation

Friendship is providing this desegregation analysis in accordance with Ark. Code Ann. §6-23-106 to review the potential impact that its amendment request would have upon the efforts of all four (4) of the Pulaski County school districts to comply with court orders and statutory obligations to create and maintain a unitary system of desegregated public schools. In conducting its review, Friendship has substantiated that the LRSD and the NLRSD have declared unitary in all respects of their school operations. The Pulaski County desegregation litigation was first filed in 1982. Little Rock School District, et al v. Pulaski County Special School District, et al., Case No. 4:82:cv-00866-DPM. In 1989, the parties entered into a settlement agreement (the "1989 Settlement Agreement") under which the Arkansas Department of Education, the then-three (3) Pulaski County school districts, and the intervenors agreed to the terms of state funding for desegregation obligations.

LRSD successfully completed its desegregation efforts in 2007 and was declared fully unitary by the federal court in 2007. Little Rock School District v. Pulaski County Special School District, Case No. 4:82-cv-0866 (E.D. Ark.), Order filed February 23, 2007. In 2010, LRSD filed a motion to enforce the 1989 Settlement Agreement. The motion contended that operation of open-enrollment public charter schools within Pulaski County interfered with the "M-M Stipulation" and the "Magnet Stipulation." On January 17, 2013, Judge D.P. Marshall Jr. denied LRSD's motion, stating:

"The cumulative effect of open enrollment charter schools in Pulaski County on the stipulation magnet schools and M-to-M transfers has not, as a matter of law, substantially defeated the relevant purposes of the 1989 Settlement Agreement, the magnet stipulation, or the M-to M stipulation."

Little Rock School District v. Pulaski County Special School District, Case No. 4:82-cv-0866 (E.D. Ark.), Order filed January 17, 2013. LRSD appealed to the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals.



Friendship Aspire Academy
Public Charter School
ARKANSAS

One (1) year later, on January 13, 2014, Judge Marshall approved a Settlement Agreement that included a provision stipulating to the voluntary dismissal with prejudice of LRSD's pending appeal concerning the charter school issues. In lieu of LRSD's unitary status and the parties' 2014 Settlement Agreement, Friendship's charter amendment request cannot interfere with the purposes of the Pulaski County desegregation litigation, which has been fully concluded as to LRSD. After the dismissal and the settlement agreement, the case was completely concluded for all purposes as to LRSD, and the federal court terminated all jurisdiction in the matter. Because of that, there is no possibility that Friendship's charter amendment request could impact LRSD's unitary status. To be clear, Friendship's charter amendment request cannot impact LRSD's unitary status because 1) there is no case in which LRSD's unitary status could be an issue; 2) LRSD made a claim regarding operation of open-enrollment charter schools in federal court in 2010 and lost it; and 3) as a consequence of the 2014 Settlement Agreement, the LRSD released any claims it had concerning the charter school issues. On January 30, 2014, the Court also approved a stipulation among the parties that PCSSD is unitary in the areas of Assignment of Students and Advanced Placement, Gifted and Talented and Honors Programs. Based on the stipulation, the Court released PCSSD from supervision and monitoring in these areas. Thus, as of January 30, 2014, LRSD, NLRSD and PCSSD are unitary in the area of student assignments. On April 4, 2014, the court found that PCSSD is unitary in the areas of Special Education and Scholarships. Subsequently, PCSSD was also found to be unitary in the areas of Staff and Monitoring. Pursuant to Judge Marshall's order on May 6, 2021, both PCSSD and JNPSD are unitary in all areas except School Facilities.

Upon review, Friendship believes that its charter amendment request shall have no negative effects on the efforts of the PCSSD and JNPSD to attain unitary status.

II. Data

According to the 2021-2022 school year third-quarter Average Daily Membership enrollment figures as maintained by the DESE Data Center, LRSD had a student population of 20,518 students, of which 59.94% were Black/African-American; 19.57% were White, and 16.02% were Hispanic. NLRSD's student population was 7,640 students, of which 57.19% were Black/African-American; 25.75% were White, and 11.45% were Hispanic. PCSSD's student population was 11,227 students, of which 44.37% were Black/African-American; 38.61% were White, and 10.17% were Hispanic. JNPSD's student population was 3,841 students, of which 54.81% were Black/African-American; 33.85% were White, and 7.54% were Hispanic. Friendship's student population at its Little Rock campus was 267 students, of which 84.6% were Black/African-American, and 14.2% were Hispanic.

Ark. Code Ann. §6-23-106 requires that Friendship's charter amendment request will not serve to hamper, delay, or in any manner negatively affect the desegregation efforts of a public school district or districts within the state. As explained in more detail above, Friendship's careful review of the relevant



statutes and court orders affecting the LRSD, NLRSD, PCSSD, and JNPSD and their student populations, and its own student population, shows that such negative impact is not present here.

III. Jefferson County Data

According to the 2021-2022 school year third-quarter Average Daily Membership enrollment figures as maintained by the DESE Data Center, PBSO had a student population of 3,333 students, of which 94.6% were Black/African- American, and 2.7% were White. WCSO's student population was 1,918 students, of which 86.8% were Black/African-American, and 10.3% were White. WHSO's student population was 3,003 students, of which 64.9% were White, and 25.7% were Black/African-American. Friendship's student population at its Pine Bluff campuses was 438 students, of which 95.4% were Black/African-American.

Ark. Code Ann. §6-23-106 requires that Friendship's charter amendment request will not serve to hamper, delay, or in any manner negatively affect the desegregation efforts of a public school district or districts within the state. As explained in more detail above, Friendship's careful review of the relevant statutes and court orders affecting the PBSO, WCSO, and WHSO and their student populations, and its own student population, shows that such negative impact is not present here.

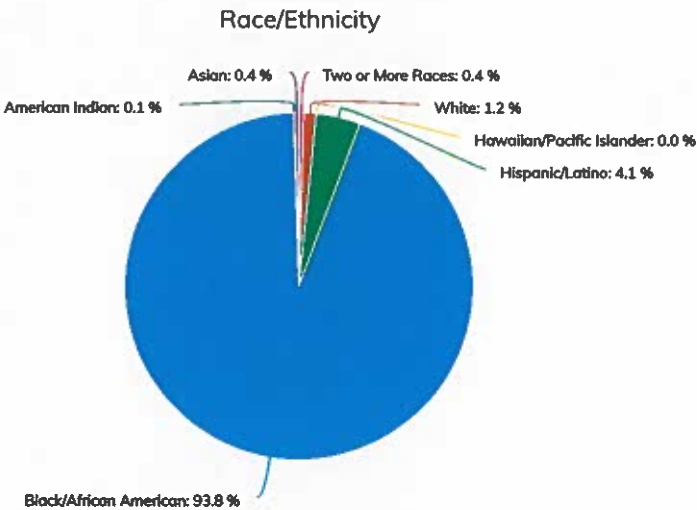
IV. Conclusion

Friendship submits that upon the basis of its review, neither any existing federal desegregation order affecting the PCSSD, LRSD, NLRSD, and JNPSD, nor the 1989 Settlement Agreement prohibit the State's charter school authorizer from granting its charter amendment request with school locations contained within the geographic boundaries of the LRSD, PBSO and now the NLRSD.

Friendship further submits that upon the basis of its review, nothing would prohibit the State's charter school authorizer from granting its charter amendment request to continue operating open-enrollment public charter schools within the geographic boundaries of the LRSD, PBSO, and now the NLRSD.

Statistics

College Going Rate	N/A
Per Pupil Expenditures	\$0.00
Graduation Rate	N/A
Student to Teacher Ratio	14 : 1
Average Class Size	22
English Learners	3%
Low Income	82%
Average Years Teaching Experience	4.59
Students Eligible to Receive Special Education	6%



Friendship Aspire Academy - All Schools
Projected Financials

	Budget	Projected	Projected	Projected	Projected
Year	24-25	25-26	26-27	27-28	28-29
Enrollment	1360	1460	1560	1660	1760
State Foundation PPF	\$7,771	\$7,926	\$8,084	\$8,246	\$8,411
State Facility PPF	\$563	\$574	\$586	\$598	\$610
Other State PPF	\$1,150	\$1,173	\$1,197	\$1,221	\$1,245
Federal PPF	\$1,421	\$1,449	\$1,478	\$1,508	\$1,538
Food PPF	\$636	\$649	\$661	\$675	\$688
Revenue					
State assistance	\$12,898,240	\$14,122,580	\$15,392,520	\$16,706,685	\$18,067,374
Federal assistance	\$1,932,560	\$2,115,540	\$2,305,680	\$2,503,280	\$2,191,200
Food	\$864,960	\$947,540	\$1,031,160	\$1,120,500	\$1,210,880
CSP	\$1,600,000				
Other revenue	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$400,000
Total Revenue	\$17,695,760	\$17,585,660	\$19,129,360	\$20,730,465	\$21,869,454
Expenses					
Instructional Staff Salaries	\$3,213,000	\$3,250,000	\$3,500,000	\$3,900,000	\$4,200,000
Administrative Staff Salaries	\$4,766,768	\$4,800,001	\$4,900,538	\$5,100,000	\$5,200,000
Personnel Benefits (% of salaries)	\$2,334,740	\$2,093,000	\$2,121,615	\$2,340,000	\$2,444,000
Lease	\$2,395,436	\$2,450,000	\$2,450,000	\$2,650,000	\$2,650,000
Facility Occupancy (other)	\$1,457,882	\$1,460,000	\$1,565,000	\$1,799,653	\$1,886,671
Supplies	\$695,423	\$710,000	\$800,000	\$900,000	\$950,000
Contracted Services	\$1,658,451	\$1,665,000	\$1,800,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,400,000
Food	\$825,653	\$900,000	\$954,025	\$1,000,000	\$1,200,000
Other Expenses	\$56,346	\$65,809	\$269,455	\$350,000	\$350,000
Total Expenses	\$17,403,699	\$17,393,810	\$18,360,633	\$20,039,653	\$21,280,671
Capital Outlays	\$0	\$0	\$386,552	\$386,552	\$386,552
Change in Net Assets	\$292,061	\$191,850	\$382,175	\$304,260	\$202,231