

Harrison High School

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*Information provided by Applicant is in italics.*

**Harrison High School  
Waivers Requested in Original Application  
2016 District Conversion Charter Application**

**I. Instructional Day/Mandatory Attendance**

**Ark. Code Ann. § 6-16-102**

**Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-210**

**Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-211**

**Section 10.01.4 of the Standards for Accreditation**

**Section 3.04 of the ADE Rules Governing Mandatory Attendance for Students in Grades 9-12**

*These waivers were previously approved spring, 2016 under Act 1240. The school now seeks to roll these waivers into the Charter Application. Recent workforce planning grant opportunities have provided the platform for stakeholders (Harrison Public School, North Arkansas College, Harrison Chamber of Commerce and Industry Partners) to come together and realize we are all focused on the same thing - engaging students in relevant educational opportunities that meet their interests and aptitudes toward the world of work. One thing is clear, education cannot continue to be, "the way we've always done things."*

*Therefore, Harrison High School Conversion Charter will implement a personalized learning program within an expanded school day, to provide a flexible and extended instructional day in a teacher facilitated personalized learning environment alongside expanded industry certification and concurrent credit opportunities to increase student engagement and achievement for college and career preparation. The student focused, personalized instruction, and curriculum will be accessible to students anytime-anywhere with the use of 1: 1 technology. Personalized learning will allow the student the opportunity to customize their schedule by controlling their time, pace, place or path. Doing so does not mean that such a student would not then have unintentional "free" time in his/her schedule, but rather there would be a reallocation of instructional time throughout the day.*

*Our school will provide a quality education to best meet the academic goals and levels of each student as agreed upon with the student's mentor. This flexible learning path encourages students to obtain a two-year associates degree prior to high school graduation and/or market-driven career/Workforce programs of study and industry certifications to maximize their individual income potential wherever their careers may take them.*

*The program will accept all students legally enrolled in the district who apply to be part of the program. In the event more students, desire to participate than the program can accommodate, a random anonymous lottery will be held. Once a student is selected via the lottery, he or she is*

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*guaranteed placement in the program for the duration of the program unless he or she leaves voluntarily or is removed for discipline or attendance issues in accordance with the student handbook policies.*

*The District is asking for these waivers to include students in grades 9-12. School administrators, teachers, board president, industry partners, local college representatives and members of the Office of Innovation visited and toured successful locations such as Salt Lake City's Early College High School, West Bend High School in Wisconsin, Siloam Springs Career Academy, Fox Valley Technical College, and others. Born out of those exposures as well as extensive research and stakeholder partnership meetings, is the personalized learning program we propose.*

*The use of Learning Management Software, classroom resources, multidisciplinary project-based learning projects, and student progress monitoring systems, by teachers fully certified in their core areas, will enhance the engagement and competency attainment of our students.*

*Students will check in as early as 7:30 a.m. to a time station that will then electronically notify their parents of their arrival on campus. Conversely, students may check out of the school day as late as 4:30p.m. This notification system will expand parent involvement and touch upon one of the many soft skills our area employers are requesting. With this expansion of the day, students will go from a maximum of 375 daily instructional minutes to 452 available instructional minutes.*

*Each student will have an assigned teacher as mentor to review adequate progress in each core content area. Students will attain various progress levels that will translate to personalized responsibility levels while on campus - again encouraging soft skills attainment. Through these 1:1 mentoring sessions as well as classroom meetings, students will have the opportunity for content delivery through traditional as well as blended means. This will allow students to excel in the ways they learn best.*

*Concurrent and articulated credit offerings are expanding through the District's partnership with North Arkansas College and other post-secondary institutions, alongside Harrison's major employers, have developed new learning opportunities. PACE Industries recently donated \$20,000 in annual scholarships and equipment to increase manufacturing training for area students. Other industry certifications such as A+ Comp Tia Computer Technician have also been implemented. Development continues to potentially offer Manufacturing Skill Standards Council (MSSC) Certified Production Technician and Certified Logistics Technician certification courses as early as fall, 2016. Access to these programs during the school day is expanded with the flexible personalized learning program Harrison proposes.*

**Legal Comments:** Applicant will need the entire set of ADE Rules Governing Mandatory Attendance for Students in Grades 9-12 instead of just a section. Additionally, Applicant has requested waivers of the 6-hour days; however, ADE Legal is uncertain whether students will still meet a minimum of 30 hours a week. If not, a waiver of section 14.03 of the Standards for Accreditation is also needed to effectuate these waivers.

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**Applicant Response:**

*Harrison requests a waiver of Section 14.03 of the ADE Standards for Accreditation Rules and the ADE Rules Governing the Arkansas Mandatory Attendance Requirements for Students in Grades 9 – 12.*

*These waivers pertain to students making adequate progress within the Personalized Learning Environment, attending job shadowing or internship activities, concurrent credit/college course offerings, and/or approved digital course offerings.*

*It is entirely possible that students may attend beyond the minimum of 360 minutes in order to master the content. However, there may also occasionally be the student that masters course content in less than the 360 minutes. In these cases, the student may then wish to devote time to such things as personal pursuits, job shadowing, internship opportunities, college credit or the workplace.*

**Remaining Issues: None**

**2. Licensure**

**Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-1004**

**Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-309**

**Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-401**

**Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-919**

**Section 15.03 of the Standards for Accreditation**

**ADE Rules Governing Educator Licensure**

*These waivers were previously approved spring, 2016 under Act 1240. The school now seeks to roll these waivers into the Charter Application.*

*Harrison began having students as young as 7th grade take and pass the A+ Comp Tia Computer Technician Certification Test during the 2015-2016 school year. This was initially done under the Junior High EAST Program Classroom Teacher's licensure umbrella with District Computer Technician, Austin Bright, the facilitator. Mr. Bright is working to complete his bachelor's degree with 13 years of industry related service in the IT field. North Arkansas College has deemed him qualified to teach the same course at their campus. Harrison sought and received waivers through Act 1240 to implement this course as a means to industry certification without the limited enrollment of EAST involvement. Until such time as ACE approval, proper certification is attained and/or the course is folded within an approved Conversion Charter Application, the district was given permission to give local course credit in the form of electives with Mr. Bright as classroom teacher of record for the computer related*

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*course(s) for grades 7-12.*

*Through this Charter application, the district seeks to roll such waiver approval into its conversion charter application for grades 9-12.*

*Additionally, Harrison received an Act 1240 waiver to have other area industry experienced instructors teach introductory courses in manufacturing and healthcare related fields. PACE Industries and North Arkansas Regional Medical Center are both major employers in our District. They are also a partner in the Workforce Planning Grant and Implementation Grant submission. Pace recently donated training equipment to North Arkansas College as well as \$20,000 in scholarship opportunities for area students. The district has sent students to "manufacturing day" activities and summer programs/camps geared toward expanding interest in manufacturing and health related careers. Harrison and PACE representatives toured Wisconsin's West Bend High School and Lakeshore Technical College where partnership training programs between industry and area schools were well established. Conversations continue over the possibility of putting introductory local credit courses such as Precision Measurement, CNC, Introduction to GADD, Manufacturing Technologies and/or Certified Nurse Assistant related courses into the students' school day, potentially taught by industry acknowledged experts in their career field.*

*As with the A+ and other Computer related courses, until such time as ACE approval, proper certification is attained and/or the courses are folded within an approved Conversion Charter Application, the district received Act 1240 waivers to give local course credit in the form of electives with industry experts as classroom teachers of record for local board approved course(s) in manufacturing technologies and/or healthcare related fields.*

*Finally, a new partnership with FedEx Freight is forming with the option of MSSC Certified Logistics Technician beginning to take shape. The district continues to work on developing and enhancing more business partnerships and relationships.*

*Currently, these courses are being offered and developed under Act 1240 waivers as local elective credit. The district seeks to obtain course approval through the Department of Education and development of new career completer networks as GTE courses that respond to local employer needs and the attainment of marketable skills for our scholars which may lead to diploma credit.*

**Legal Comments:** None

**Remaining Issues:** In order to effectuate these waivers, a waiver of Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-902 is also needed.

### **3. Grading Scale**

**Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-902(a)**

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### Section 12.02 of the Standards for Accreditation

#### ADE Rules Governing Uniform Grading Scale for Secondary Students

*Currently a student can receive an "F" or "D" with 60% or less percentage points and move on to other content, whether they have achieved academic content knowledge or not. Within the Personalized Learning Program, the high school proposes setting a minimum 70% threshold for advancement within each HALO course delivered.*

*The 70% threshold was approved previously under Act 1240.*

*As Competency-Learning and its relation to Carnegie Units is developed, appropriate adjustments to grading policies will be developed.*

**Legal Comments:** None

**Remaining Issues:** None

#### **4. Attendance/Digital Learning**

##### **Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-213**

*In addition to the previous waiver topic under High School Flexible Schedule (Arkansas Code Annotated Section 6-16-201; Standards for Accreditation Rules Section 10.01.4, and ADE Rules Governing Mandatory Attendance for Grades 9-12 Section 3.04), the district requested and was granted to encompass grades k-12 as they relate to Digital Learning Days.*

*From time to time, schools must be closed due to exceptional or emergency circumstances. Also, 21<sup>st</sup> century learners need exposure to true digital learning experiences. Finally, the world of work increasingly requires their employees to have the discipline to work from home.*

*For these varied reasons, the District seeks permission, 9-12, to prepare learning packets and personalized learning opportunities for each student to ensure that learning continues during a maximum of two such days annually. Through the use of technology, Internet resources, District email, Remind 101 and other applications, students can continue their learning whether at home or at school. Teachers will monitor email, their Google Classroom platforms, etc. to keep in contact with students and facilitate their learning further. Packets will be prepared for all students in the instance that Internet is not available. Upon return to the regular school day, teachers will grade each student's body of work and assign grades appropriately. The completion of these packets will constitute attendance and count toward a maximum of two of the 178 instructional days as well as fulfilling up to two of the teacher's 190 days contract.*

**Legal Comments:** None

## **Remaining Issues: None**

### **5. Carnegie Units/Clock Hours**

#### **Sections 9.03.3.11 and 14.03 of the Standards for Accreditation**

*The charter will determine academic success by each student's ability to demonstrate mastery of content and skills without regard to length of the course as measured by clock hours. This type of self-paced instruction is referred to as mastery learning or competency-based learning. Rather than logging 120 clock hours before progressing to the next course, students must demonstrate proficiency of essential competencies. District-designed competencies are based on Arkansas curriculum standards. The required 38 units will be taught Competency-based learning provides students the opportunity to complete a course by demonstrating mastery with fewer than 120 clock hours in a course (6-16-124(a)(2)). Conversely, students will be able to take more time to reach proficiency and will not be required to move to the next level inadequately prepared.*

*As students transition into a system where all coursework is described in terms of demonstrating proficiency, the importance and relevance of content becomes clear to each student.*

*Competencies will be created and implemented. Competencies will meet the most rigorous level. To guide competency development, nationally recognized rubrics, such as the New Hampshire Competency Validation Rubric, will be used. Competencies will:*

- 1) Align with national, state, and local standards; areas may be combined or clustered for learning.*
- 2) Clearly and descriptively articulate importance in understanding the content area.*
- 3) Connect content to higher concepts across other content areas.*
- 4) Include skills that are transferable across content areas and applicable to real-life situations.*
- 5) Require an understanding of relationships among theories, principles, or concepts.*
- 6) Require a deep understanding and an application of knowledge to a variety of settings.*
- 7) Ask students to create conceptual connections and exhibit a level of understanding that is beyond the stated facts or literal interpretation and defend their position or point of view through application of context.*
- 8) Promote complex connections through creating, analyzing, designing, proving, developing, or formulating.*
- 9) Define what is to be measured in clear and descriptive language.*
- 10) Promote multiple and varied opportunities to demonstrate evidence of learning in interdisciplinary fashion.*

**Legal Comments:** Section 9.03.3.11 is the requirement for Arkansas history and doesn't relate to Applicant's rationale on clock hours and competencies. Applicant should confirm it intended to request a waiver of this section, or provide the correct section it is requesting that relates to its intended purpose.

**Applicant Response:** *Harrison withdraws its request to waive Section 9.03.3.11 of the ADE Standards for Accreditation Rules as well as 6-16-124(a)(2) as these pertain specifically to*

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### *Arkansas History.*

**Remaining Issues:** None – a waiver of Section 14.03 is covered in #1 above, other waivers have been rescinded.

**Desegregation Analysis: Fully Responsive**