



## DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION

# 2022 District Conversion Public Charter School Application

**Rivercrest Jr High Prep Academy**

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Name of Proposed Charter

**Initial Application - Deadline July 1, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.**

Applications will not be accepted after this time.

**Final Application - Deadline September 10, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.**

Applications will not be accepted after this time.

**Any application that is substantially incomplete will not be forwarded to the authorizer for consideration. An application will be considered substantially incomplete if it does not provide enough information to enable staff at the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education to provide a meaningful review.**

**Division of Elementary and Secondary Education  
 Charter School Office  
 Four Capitol Mall  
 Little Rock, AR 72201  
 501-683-5312**

**APPLICANT INFORMATION**

<b>Name of Proposed Charter:</b>	<b>Rivercrest Jr High Prep Academy</b>
<b>School District:</b>	<b>Rivercrest School District</b>
<b>Superintendent:</b>	<b>Michael H. Cox</b>
<b>Superintendent Phone:</b>	<b>870-655-0806</b>
<b>Superintendent Email:</b>	<b>mike.cox@smccolts.com</b>
<b>Primary Contact for Application:</b>	<b>Shantele Raper</b>
<b>Primary Contact Phone:</b>	<b>870-655-0805</b>
<b>Primary Contact Cell:</b>	<b>870-740-5930</b>
<b>Primary Contact Email:</b>	<b>shantele.raper@smccolts.com</b>

- 1. Describe the public hearing which was held for the purpose of assessing support for the establishment of this public charter school. Include the number of attendees and the feedback and/or public comments that were received.**

The Rivercrest School District held a virtual public hearing on June 30, at 11:00 am via Zoom. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the application for a Conversion Charter School which will be referred to as Rivercrest Jr High Prep Academy.

The number of participants was very limited. Local news outlets were also a part of the Zoom.

Comments included: “We see it as a positive to help students have more choices”  
“There are several teachers in our school with various backgrounds that could support something like this charter”  
“This would help with issues of behavior and attendance.”

In addition, a faculty and staff meeting was held for comment, discussion and support. 11 participants were in attendance with overwhelming support for charter addition.

## **2. Describe the educational need for the charter. Include quantitative data related to academic achievement.**

Rivercrest School District is a consolidated school district located in southern Mississippi County and consisting of over 300 square miles. RSD lies in a rural portion of the Arkansas Delta. The district has a population of approximately 1200 students from the preschool through twelfth grade. The uniqueness of RSD is reflected by the diversity of communities it serves. Mississippi County contains 476,502 acres of farmland. Of those acres 98% is used as cropland. According to United States Census data, 41.75% of the residents in Mississippi County are employed in fields related to agriculture, farming, production, and related fields. Rivercrest Jr High Prep Academy intends to focus on preparing students to make informed choices for high school pathways provided by The Academies at Rivercrest High School. Students will be provided exploratory and Tier I courses in trades and skills that are in high demand for employment opportunities in the region.

Of our current population in the Rivercrest School District, 72% are considered economically disadvantaged (ESEA), and 25.7% of all Mississippi County residents live in poverty (U.S. Census Bureau)

*The 2021 School Report for Rivercrest High School shows that RHS was below the state average in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics. The letter grade for RHS dropped from a C to a D in 2019. Further investigation into the data shows cohort groups are also performing below state averages.*

Rivercrest 7th-12th grade students struggle with many of the same problems that exist in many Mississippi Delta schools. Student engagement, remediation rates, test scores, attendance, graduation rates, college readiness, college completion rates, and postsecondary remediation rates are concerns held by parents, teachers, students, community members, and other stakeholders. In order to address these concerns, Rivercrest School District has partnered with Solution Tree to sustain Professional Learning Communities within our buildings. The current needs assessments provides a solid foundation of strengths for our secondary buildings, including the PLC process, a strong partnership with Arkansas Northeastern College for concurrent credits, support and guidance offered from Crowley’s Ridge Educational Cooperative, the school board, and a dedicated staff to the academies. Currently we find our jr high students would benefit from the same process being implemented in The Academies at Rivercrest High School. A pure Freshman Academy is in place with grade level PLCs to nurture and support our students in their journey into high school. We find

our students not on track to graduate are a direct result of loss of credits in 9th and 10th grade. In addition, behavior and attendance is also a hindrance to our graduation rate.

Rivercrest Jr High Prep Academy will allow us to transition the academy process into our 7th and 8th grade, bringing a 7th-12th grade cohesiveness to our secondary building. Rivercrest secondary students begin their journey with concurrent credits very early in their high school. In 2022, 14% of our seniors completed an associate degree or Certificate of General Studies by high school graduation. Although impressive, our students need a parallel career path to further their plans into post-secondary. Our desire is to prepare students for Freshman Academy by implementing the following instructional practices.

- Career Exploratory classes in 7th grade
- Tier I CTE courses and Algebra I in 8th Grade
- Social and Emotional Learning in 7th and 8th Grade
- Healthy Lifestyles in 7th and 8th Grade

This will allow for students to have exposure to different career pathways and SEL support for decision making to provide a solid foundation moving into high school. The high school course credits will allow for more students to be CTE concentrators and completers in addition to their concurrent college credits.

In reviewing data for attendance, grades and behavior, we find our jr high building has the lowest attendance rate and the highest behavior infraction rates in our district. In 7th-8th grade, 3% of our students are identified as At Risk in Smart Data. Jr high students have an average of 13% of assignments missing. Our special populations show the highest number of office referrals with 26% Special Education and 39% African American students with office discipline referrals.

The need for an individualized learning opportunity for students is evident. Rivercrest School District is rich in alumni teachers, parental support and engaged students; however, a system of traditional classroom instruction, course offerings and support systems is currently hindering the further success of our students. The proposed charter school would provide a catapult to innovation to support students outside of the traditional expectations.

## SCHOOL INFORMATION

	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028
Grades to be Offered	7-8	7-8	7-8	7-8	7-8
Enrollment Cap	250	250	250	250	250

**3. What type of educational model will the school follow?**

- Traditional
- 100% Virtual
- College Prep
- Credit Recovery/ALE

Other:

**4. Provide the mission statement of the proposed charter school:**

The mission of the Rivercrest Jr High Prep Academy is to provide a comprehensive educational experience for students to support their social, emotional, health, career exploratory and academic needs as they transition to high school.

**5. Provide a list and brief description of the programmatic features that the school will implement in order to accomplish the mission.**

**Social - Emotional Learning**

In order to give students at Rivercrest Jr. High Prep Academy skills to be self-aware, self-managing, responsible decision makers, and to have appropriate relationships, various features will be available through the proposed charter. SEL practices and programs will be embedded throughout our regular curriculum, such as G.U.I.D.E. For Life, the Walking Classroom, “Habits of Mind” toolkit, and scheduled “brain break” times where students will be able to utilize outdoor centers to encourage exploration. Course offerings using middle school SEL curriculum such as Second Step, Guide for Life, or Changing Perspectives will also be available. Additional programs will also be required for any student with a behavior management plan or in our Alternative Learning Environment (ALE) facility.

**Career Exploration**

RJHS Prep Academy, under the proposed charter, would allow students in the 8th grade to explore pathways made available through Academies at Rivercrest High School. Currently, students are not introduced to these survey classes until the 9th grade, which may put students at a disadvantage. Eighth grade students could choose from Survey of Agriculture,

Survey of Family and Consumer Science, Survey of Business, or a Level I JROTC or EAST course so that entering Academies freshmen can begin their chosen Tier II course OR choose a different career pathway. Prep Academy students would also be given additional career exploration opportunities such as volunteering, job shadowing, and collaboration with local professionals. Career Development will be offered in 7th grade and begin our Student Success Plan process.

### **Innovation in Academics**

Using assessment data such as NWEA, ACT Aspire, and STAR, along with expertise from partners at Solution Tree, we will provide targeted intervention and enrichment opportunities for students to help them be successful in core areas. Teacher training will be made available on data tracking, student goal setting, and effective strategies for enrichment and intervention. To provide a personalized learning pathway, with accelerated learning based on individual needs, we will use a scheduling program such as FlexiSched to advance our current work in creating a streamlined intervention process. Once mastery is shown in deficient skills, our grade-level PLC teams will identify and determine appropriate supplemental enrichment opportunities for each student. We will provide outdoor living spaces, supplemental physical education, and other exciting enrichment opportunities for our students.

## **6. Describe a plan for school improvement that addresses how the conversion charter school will improve student learning and meet the state educational goals.**

The proposed charter model will provide students with opportunities for academic and career exploration and an earlier access to their individual educational goals. The charter will also allow jr high students to be better prepared for the high school charter program with exposure to more occupational pathways for students to explore. In addition, the charter will provide for supplemental opportunities for students with disabilities, economically disadvantaged students and minority students to gain experiences that will reduce the achievement gap. A comprehensive approach to learning will address academic skill deficits and provide a just in time approach to accelerate learning. A social and emotional learning opportunity will be in place to promote a healthy lifestyle, character education, and engagement in learning.

Rivercrest School District proposes comprehensive use of data in decision making, community partnerships, and the belief that every student can be successful. The current and future school improvement plans will address the needs of students through the following:

1. Outline of goals and expected outcomes based on aggregate and individual student needs.
2. Identify supports and interventions that will be provided to the students.
3. Identify professional development needs for staff members.
4. Define the timeline for monitoring and evaluating interventions for effectiveness.
5. Reflect and realign student goals

Simply stated:

- The charter school status would allow the Jr High to seamlessly flow into the already successful high school charter school.

- Our high school students have a longstanding success with Arkansas Northeastern College incorporating concurrent credit into their high school path. We find our students are on track for a two year degree, but the parallel career pathway is not in place. The jr high charter process would provide a much easier schedule option to allow students to begin a pathway program earlier. Most of our high school students are fully embedded in completed course credits by 11<sup>th</sup> grade. The charter would allow students opportunities for individualized CTE pathways early in their high school career.
- The charter school status would allow for a 1.25 million dollar grant to purchase equipment, furniture, supplies and technology. The grant would be used to supplement social/emotional and healthy lifestyle resources, classroom technology, and updated furnishings.
- The charter school status would allow our already vested teachers an opportunity to teach our students a well-rounded curriculum to address all of their INDIVIDUAL needs.
  - Along with our success, we are also aware of the ongoing need to support our students in the middle school years. Allowing our teachers an opportunity to move outside the traditional daily schedule and address individual student needs will set a foundation to eliminate the issues our at-risk students face at the high school level. Our goal is to provide supports for student success as they enter the Freshman Academy

**7. Describe how the licensed employees and parents of the students to be enrolled in the conversion public charter school will be involved in developing and implementing the school improvement plan and identifying performance criteria.**

The school improvement plan will be evaluated at least annually to ensure that outcomes are still aligned with the vision and mission of the school, make changes and additions to academic programs, and to evaluate the effectiveness of the overall charter school. The evaluation will include the superintendent, federal programs coordinator, faculty members, students, parents/guardians, community members, and industry professionals to ensure that all perspectives are represented and considered. After the evaluation, the plan will be submitted to the school board to review and approve. It will also be posted on the district website for review by parents and community members.

**8. Describe how the concerns of licensed employees and parents of students enrolled in the conversion charter school will be solicited and addressed in evaluating the effectiveness of the improvement plan.**

Rivercrest School District possesses a strong foundation of employees and parents who are engaged in the school structure and open to successful options for our students. Parents and

employees are solicited and invited to all stakeholder opportunities by social media, district website and invitations. Survey options are available to parents and teachers. District and school administrators provide for an open communication process to all for evaluating the effectiveness of all plans.

**9. Establish performance criteria that will be used to measure the school’s progress in improving student learning and meeting or exceeding the state educational goals. The mission of the school should be reflected in the performance criteria.**

Goal	Measuring Instrument
Increase the number of jr. high students completing a foundation course for CTE Program of Study,	Triand and/or Cognos Reports and Student Success Plans
Increase the number of jr high students completing a high school credit course	Triand and/or Cognos Reports and Student Success Plans
90% of students will meet growth goals in math, reading and science	Interim and State Assessment
Increase the percentage of jr high students scoring Ready and Exceeding on the state assessment Math, Science, and Literacy by 5% each year	State Assessment
Decrease the number of students at risk (Behavior, attendance, failing grades)	Smart Data

**CURRICULUM**

**10. Will the school provide the required courses as outlined in the Standards for Accreditation and the 38 Required High School Course Offerings? If not, explain what changes will be made. What additional electives will be offered?**

Rivercrest Jr High Prep Academy will offer all courses outlined in the Standards of Accreditation for 7th-8th grade. Innovation in instruction will be addressed in fine arts, library media requirements and career and technical education. Survey of Ag Systems (491150), Survey of Business (492120), Family and Consumer Sciences (493080), Computer Science course and SEL/Healthy Living.

7th Grade:

- Math or Honors Math
- Science
- Social Studies
- English or Honors English
- CREST TIME- Flexible Intervention
- Career Development/SEL
- Elective- Art, Band, Athletics, Keyboarding, Library, Dyslexia, Support Services, Career Exploration Class, PE/Health

- Elective-Art, Band, Athletics, Keyboarding, Library, Dyslexia, Support Services, Career Exploration Class, PE/Health

8th Grade:

- Math or Honors Math
- Science
- Social Studies
- English or Honors English
- CREST TIME- Flexible Intervention
- Computer Science HS Credit
- Elective- Art, Band, Athletics, Library, Dyslexia, Support Services, Tier I CTE Course, Algebra I, PE/Health

**11. Describe the process that will be used to ensure all curriculum materials used in the educational program are aligned with the Arkansas Academic Standards?**

The alignment of curriculum at Rivercrest School District falls within the scope of Professional Learning Communities. A team of lead teachers, instructional facilitator, and principal provide a regular schedule, structure, and protocols for the work of PLCs. The work of PLCs is supported by lead-teachers, building-level leadership, and district level leaders. Curriculum will be evaluated throughout the school year and at the conclusion of each school year to ensure that we are meeting our intended student learning outcomes. Curriculum revision and evaluation has been a key component of the PLC at Work process with Solution Tree.

**STUDENT SERVICES**

**12. Describe how the school will provide guidance and counseling services for all students.**

Currently, the 7th-8th grade has a .25 counselor and access to one career and college coach serving grades 7-12. In addition, a jr high ELA teacher, district administrator and business teacher are certified Career Service Providers. The district has 3 full-time counselors and a college and career coach. Students will be served through the school counselor located on the campus of Rivercrest Jr High. The career and college coach will work with students to develop Student Success Plans. The leadership team and administrators have been trained in National Career Academies.

**13. Describe how the school will provide library media services for all students.**

Students of the charter would be served and continue to have access to the media center located in the 7th/8th grade building.

**14. Describe how the school will provide special education services for all students.**

All students with Individual Education Plans (IEP) will be provided special education services. Certified teachers will work with students individually, in small groups, and indirectly, as stated in their IEP. Students receiving special education services will continue to take state-mandated assessments. The Rivercrest School District will comply with all special education regulations. Current services are in compliance with all state and federal requirements and will continue with charter status. Rivercrest Jr High is fully embracing inclusive practices with a plan of services for all students.

**15. Describe how the school will provide dyslexia screening and services for all students.**

The current dyslexia protocols will continue into the proposed charter. Students will be served by a qualified dyslexia interventionist if, after screening, it is determined that the student displays tendencies of dyslexia.

**16. Describe how the school will provide screening and instruction for English Language Learners.**

The proposed charter will continue to utilize the ELPA21 portal for ELL screening, testing, and data. Using current resources and programs, the proposed charter will continue to provide English Language Learners with instruction in written and verbal communication so they may flourish both academically and socially. LPACs are developed with ELL coordinator, school counselor, principal and teachers.

**17. Describe how the school will address the needs of gifted and talented students.**

The proposed charter students will continue to receive gifted and talented services. Utilizing our personalized Student Success Plan process, currently identified GT students and students meeting the requirements for pre-honors classes, students will be placed in an honors course to prepare for future AP courses. Honors courses will require differentiation which includes options for rigorous pace, product or content. GT students' will be encouraged to participate in enrichment programs developed by the campus GT coordinator and participate in the accelerated course sequences. Utilizing students SSPs, the current gifted and talented instructor will coordinate all appropriate services.

**18. Describe how food services will be provided for students.**

Rivercrest School District participates in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) where all students in the district will be provided a breakfast and a lunch at no charge. At minimum, it will continue through the 2024- 2025 academic year. With 72% of the student population qualifying for free/reduced lunch programs, Rivercrest will continue to ensure all students, especially students from homes of poverty, have access to the nutrition programs on campus.

## **SCHOOL GOVERNANCE AND OPERATIONS**

**19. Describe the student recruitment process and timeline that will provide an equal opportunity for all parents and students to learn about and apply for admission to the proposed public charter school.**

Rivercrest Jr High Prep Academy will remain the only source of instruction for students 7th-8th grades. Therefore, the school will enroll every eligible student who seeks admission, including students who enroll by legal transfer or school choice. The enrollment cap of 250 should provide ample room for all students seeking admission. If future growth nears the enrollment cap, Rivercrest School District would petition the state charter authorizer for an increase in the enrollment cap. If the petition is denied, Rivercrest would use a random number generator to determine simple random sampling. Siblings of currently enrolled students would be given priority. Students enrolling under school choice or legal transfer would be accepted according to the statutory provisions that govern those areas. Rivercrest School District gained 43 School Choice students and lost 3 students for 2022-2023 school year. We anticipate continued growth in the next few years.

**20. Describe the facility where the school will be located.**

Rivercrest Jr High Prep Academy will use the current facilities that house the current Rivercrest Jr High School. The facility is ADA accessible and provides the requirements for an approved facility.

## WAIVERS

Complete the following tables indicating all sections of Title 6 of the Arkansas Code Annotated, the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education rules, and the Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts from which the public charter school seeks to be exempted in order to meet the goals of the school.

<b>Waiver #1 Topic</b>	Minutes Required in Non-Core Courses (art, music, keyboarding). Ability to blend 7th and 8th grade students in the Same Grade Level Course.
<b>Arkansas Code Annotated</b>	6-16-130: General Provisions- Visual Art or Music Section: (b) A student enrolled in grade seven (7) or grade eight (8) shall participate in: (1) Visual arts instruction, appreciation, and application; or (2) Performing arts instruction, appreciation, and application.
<b>Standard for Accreditation</b>	1-A.1.2.5
<b>ADE Rules</b>	
<b>Rationale for Waiver</b>	<p>The waiver request will not result in a reduction of Art or Music course offerings nor interrupt access for any student to take Art or Music if desired. Rivercrest Jr High Prep Academy has a strong art and music program with many students determining a path to fine arts as early as 6th grade. We will continue to offer Art and Music at all grade levels; however, we request the requirement that every 7th and 8th-grade student receive instruction in Art or Music be waived. In addition, K-6 students are provided a full technology curriculum with input technologies in place. If students are proficient in keyboarding, they will not be required to take the course. For example, if 8th grade students choose to take a CTE Tier I course in place of an Art class, we want them to do that without penalty. This waiver will allow the applicant to increase course offerings that will permit students a choice between Art or Music, athletics, support services and CTE offerings, ultimately leading directly to a CTE program of study at the high school level. The proposed charter is a small school, many teachers of elective courses are shared between middle school and high school campuses. Therefore, elective courses are often offered during the same period due to the limited number of elective teachers on campus. This waiver supports the charter goal of increasing the number of students who complete a foundational/entry level course offered through the high school charter.</p> <p>Currently our students are being asked to “give up” an interest or passion due to requirements. If students received support</p>

	services, this further eliminates options. This waiver would allow parents and students to choose a course of interest. The grade level team would closely monitor students and allow movement if necessary.
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<b>Waiver #2 Topic</b>	Teacher Licensure
<b>Arkansas Code Annotated</b>	6-15-104: Qualified Teachers in Every Public School Classroom 6-17-309: Employment and Assignment Certification Waiver 6-17-401: Teacher's License Requirement
<b>Standard for Accreditation</b>	4-D.1
<b>ADE Rules</b>	Section 7 only of Rules Governing Educator Licensure
<b>Rationale for Waiver</b>	The applicant is requesting this waiver in the event it becomes necessary to utilize an individual outside our current certified staff. Rivercrest Jr High Prep Academy needs this waiver in order to utilize an individual who possess outstanding credentials and/or work history but do not hold a valid Arkansas Teaching License. Any individual utilized in this manner will meet all other requirements, such as Highly Qualified Teacher status, criminal background checks, and Child Maltreatment Registry Checks. All teachers, including Special Education, will meet Arkansas Highly Qualified Teacher Requirements. This waiver may be used when no other option is available. This waiver will allow Rivercrest Jr High Prep Academy students to take CTE and SEL/Health courses that might not otherwise be available in a traditional jr high school setting. The flexibility will also help meet the goals set in students' SSPs. This waiver will be used mostly (if not totally) for instruction of non-core courses. In the event the district employs a non-licensed expert to teach on campus, training will be provided for the non-licensed instructor to help them acclimate to the classroom setting. This waiver will help Rivercrest Jr High Prep Academy meet the goal to increase the number of students who enter high school with Tier I CTE credits. Teachers who demonstrate quality instruction and document experience or course credits in a specific area will be utilized in core areas if absolutely necessary.

<b>Waiver #3 Topic</b>	Class Size and Teaching Load
<b>Arkansas Code Annotated</b>	6-17-812: Teachers' Salaries Generally Compensation for

	Teaching More Than the Maximum Number of Students Permitted
<b>Standard for Accreditation</b>	on 1-A.5
<b>ADE Rules</b>	Class Size and Teaching Load
<b>Rationale for Waiver</b>	<p>The applicant is requesting this waiver to the extent it may be necessary to exceed the current limit for teachers. When considering growth anticipated through the new charter, without this waiver, Rivercrest Jr High Prep Academy will be forced to hire a new teacher mid-year. Rivercrest Jr High Prep Academy may utilize this waiver during the instruction year but will not use the waiver unless absolutely necessary. Rivercrest Jr High Prep Academy will not exceed teacher load to more than 32 students per class period and not over 150 students per day in core classes.</p> <p>Waiver for class size in Physical Education to hold larger classes for physical activity periodically. If one teacher can work through the students' physical course with 30-40 students, the other teacher could use the physical activity time to re-teach to learners who are not quite ready to move on with the rest of the class. This idea would be a response to our daily formative assessment. These students would still attend physical activity, but have time and a teacher to address their academic challenges first.</p>

<b>Waiver #4 Topic</b>	Media Center and Media Specialist
<b>Arkansas Code Annotated</b>	6-25-103 Library Media Services Program 6-25-104 Library Media Specialist
<b>Standard for Accreditation</b>	4-F.1 Library Media Specialists 4-F.2 Library Media Specialists
<b>ADE Rules</b>	
<b>Rationale for Waiver</b>	<p>Rivercrest Jr High Prep Academy would utilize the media center to create a learning environment that supports students beyond the traditional library setting. We seek the option to utilize the media specialist to meet the individual needs of students. As students explore their potential future story, resources of space and personnel must shift from managing and directing learning to empowering students to direct, coordinate, and focus on their own learning. The media center will become a learning environment where flexible,</p>

	anytime/everywhere learning becomes the norm. With flexibility in time, duties, and the defined role of the media specialist, he or she will be better able to support student success.
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<b>Waiver #5 Topic</b>	
<b>Arkansas Code Annotated</b>	
<b>Standard for Accreditation</b>	
<b>ADE Rules</b>	
<b>Rationale for Waiver</b>	

<b>Waiver #6 Topic</b>	
<b>Arkansas Code Annotated</b>	
<b>Standard for Accreditation</b>	
<b>ADE Rules</b>	
<b>Rationale for Waiver</b>	

<b>Waiver #7 Topic</b>	
<b>Arkansas Code Annotated</b>	
<b>Standard for Accreditation</b>	
<b>ADE Rules</b>	
<b>Rationale for Waiver</b>	

<b>Waiver #8 Topic</b>	
<b>Arkansas Code Annotated</b>	
<b>Standard for Accreditation</b>	

<b>ADE Rules</b>	
<b>Rationale for Waiver</b>	

<b>Waiver #9 Topic</b>	
<b>Arkansas Code Annotated</b>	
<b>Standard for Accreditation</b>	
<b>ADE Rules</b>	
<b>Rationale for Waiver</b>	

<b>Waiver #10 Topic</b>	
<b>Arkansas Code Annotated</b>	
<b>Standard for Accreditation</b>	
<b>ADE Rules</b>	
<b>Rationale for Waiver</b>	



STATE OF ARKANSAS

# House of Representatives

June 21, 2022

Dr. Kiffany Pride  
Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Learning Services  
Arkansas Department of Education  
Four Capitol Mall, Mail Slot #3  
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Dr. Pride:

I am writing to express my full support for the Rivercrest Junior High School's Conversion Charter School application for the 2022-2023 school year. The opportunity to align academics with a state-of-the-art and proven charter for the school is an amazing plan to follow through on, because it will improve the lives of our students.

If the charter is approved, the school district will be able to provide vital resources to students and the community. It has been brought to my attention that the Rivercrest School District (RSD) is collaborating with small businesses, industry leaders, healthcare professionals, and institutions of higher education, so the students can gain experience and properly prepare for their future by being aware of existing and future opportunities.

Hence, I will continue to work with the RSD on innovative learning experiences to improve the lives of our students. I am respectfully asking that every consideration be given to the application.

Sincerely,

Monte Hodges  
State Representative  
District 55

MH/prs

REPRESENTATIVE

Monte Hodges  
P. O. Box 773  
Blytheville, Arkansas 72316-0773

870-763-4443 Business  
870-763-1322 Residence  
870-762-5312 FAX  
monte.hodges@abcglobal.net

DISTRICT 55

Counties:  
Part Mississippi  
Part Crittenden

COMMITTEES:

Revenue and Taxation  
Income Taxes--Personal and Corporate  
Subcommittee

Insurance and Commerce  
Vice Chairperson,  
Financial Institutions Subcommittee

Alternate,  
Joint Committee on Advanced  
Communications and Information  
Technology

Alternate,  
Joint Committee on Energy

Joint Budget

CITY OF WILSON  
WILSON, ARKANSAS 72395

BECTON BELL  
MAYOR

LINDA DAWSON  
RECORDER/TREASURER

June 20, 2022

Charter Authorizing Panel  
Arkansas Department of Elementary and Secondary Education  
Four Capitol Mall  
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Panel Members,

The City of Wilson is submitting this letter of support for Rivercrest Jr. High Prep Academy's application for a Jr. High conversion charter school. The Rivercrest Jr. High Prep Academy will be a great vehicle for Rivercrest School District to achieve this goal and better serve their students and community.

Charter approval would help Rivercrest School District prepare students for career success through personalized hands on training opportunities. The goal of the charter is to expand the middle school curriculum, to allow students to begin exploring future career choices. This charter will align with the current high school charter programs offered. Therefore, the students will enter high school with a goal and plan that will set students on a pathway to success. By partnering with local intuitions, business and industries, Rivercrest School District will provide diverse pathways to meet the interest of students as well as the workforce needs of the community.

This is a definite win/win for the Rivercrest School District and their students as well as the community. The City of Wilson is pleased to be a part of this great effort.

With all of that in mind, we respectfully request that the Charter Authorizing Panel approve Rivercrest Jr. High Prep Academy's application.

Thank you,



Becton Bell, Mayor  
City of Wilson

Rivercrest School District  
 Jr High Charter Meeting  
 June 16, 2022 1:30 pm



Name	Position	Signature
Brooke Brewer	5 <sup>th</sup> grade teacher	<i>Brooke Brewer</i>
David DiGregorio	Bus. Teacher	<i>David DiGregorio</i>
Jennifer Lewis	8 <sup>th</sup> grade English Teacher	<i>Jennifer Lewis</i>
Opal Loven	SpEd Parapro	<i>Opal Loven</i>
MERCÉDITAS FEUZZO	Math Teacher	<i>Mercéditas Feuzzo</i>
FRANCISCO FEUZZO	Math Aide	<i>Francisco Feuzzo</i>
<i>Bill</i>	SpEd	<i>Bill</i>
Jennifer Purley	SpEd	<i>Jennifer Purley</i>
Daylon Rainwater	High School Teacher	<i>Daylon Rainwater</i>
Bill Benjic	Principal	<i>Bill Benjic</i>
Heather Lucin	4 <sup>th</sup> grade English	<i>Heather Lucin</i>