

Arkansas Department of Education
Office of School Choice and Parent Empowerment

Charter Amendment Request Form

Submit this form and all required documentation to ade.charterschools@ade.arkansas.gov at least 28 calendar days prior to the scheduled Charter Authorizing Panel (CAP) meeting.

Section 1: Administrative Data

District/ School/ Applicant Name	KIPP Delta Public Schools
District/ School LEA (if assigned)	5440700
Superintendent/ Point Of Contact	Kevin Smith
Email Address	Kevin.smith@kipdelta.org
Phone Number	(870) 714-1212
Date of Waiver Request Submission	October 23, 2025

Section 2: Amendment Type *(Select all that apply)*

- ☐ Add a new campus / site
- ☐ Relocate an existing campus / site
- ☐ Increase enrollment cap
- ☐ Change grade levels served (single or multiple campuses)
- ☐ Change educational program / model
- ☒ Other (describe): Change the name of the charter holder and all affiliated schools to reflect the organization's new legal name
- ☒ Other (describe): Formally disaffiliate from the KIPP Foundation as its Charter Management Organization

If requesting a new or relocated campus, attach facilities documentation (lease, FUA, or proof of site control) and fire / safety / occupancy documentation, if available.

Section 3: Description of Requested Amendment, Rationale, and Impact of the Requested Amendment

Request # 1	Amendment Request Topic: Change the name of the charter holder and all affiliated schools to reflect the organization’s new legal name (Delta Preparatory Schools).	
Provide a clear description of the amendment you are requesting.	The new legal name will be Delta Preparatory Schools. Amendments will be filed with the Arkansas Secretary of State and adopted across all governing and operational documents.	
	This amendment will take effect beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, at which time the organization will operate as an independent Arkansas-based public charter school system under its new name.	



If this amendment request affects multiple campuses/sites, complete the table below.			
All Campuses / Site Names	Current Grades	Proposed Grades	Effective School Year
<p>Explain why this amendment is needed at this time. Describe:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How the proposed change aligns with the school's mission and approved charter, • The student/community need the amendment address, and • The expected benefits for students. 	<p>Over the past year, KIPP Delta Public Schools has conducted a comprehensive review of its academic, financial, and organizational systems, incorporating meaningful feedback from families, staff, and community stakeholders. This work has led to measurable gains in both performance and fiscal stability, reinforcing the organization's commitment to aligning its long-term strategy with the needs and priorities of the Arkansas Delta.</p> <p>Following this review, the Board of Directors concluded that, after nearly two decades of partnership, continued affiliation with the KIPP Foundation no longer provides the level of strategic or operational support it once did. The affiliation increasingly introduces duplicative requirements and diverts attention from the district's mission, sustainability goals, and Arkansas-specific initiatives that directly support students and schools. Transitioning to a locally governed, Arkansas-based charter organization will provide greater flexibility to design academic programs, culture, and operations that are uniquely responsive to the region and aligned with Arkansas DESE priorities.</p> <p>This amendment represents a deliberate step toward long-term organizational stability and community-rooted leadership. It reaffirms the organization's commitment to educational excellence while expanding its mission to prepare students for college, career, and community leadership through an independent, locally governed charter system.</p> <p>Academic Impact: There will be no adverse impact on academic programming, student services, or performance goals. The organization will continue to implement its current instructional model, assessments, and improvement plans in full alignment with Arkansas DESE requirements. Disaffiliation from the KIPP Foundation will, in fact, streamline academic planning and compliance by removing duplicative systems and requirements that were often inconsistent with or not integrated into DESE frameworks. This alignment will make expectations clearer for staff and strengthen the district's ability to focus on state standards, student outcomes, and local accountability goals.</p>		



	<p>Financial Impact: The organization’s financial position remains strong and sustainable. The KIPP Foundation currently provides less than one percent (1%) of the district’s total funding; therefore, disaffiliation will not materially affect revenues or expenditures. No changes to the funding structure, revenue sources, or fiscal oversight are anticipated with this transition. Any limited fiscal oversight or assistance previously provided by the KIPP Foundation often resulted in redundant processes and conflicting practices that complicated financial management. Over the past year, the district has streamlined and strengthened its internal controls, successfully resolving those issues and aligning fully with Arkansas DESE fiscal requirements – making this change an operational improvement rather than a loss.</p> <p>Operational Impact: This amendment primarily requires administrative updates to state systems (including APSCN, LEA Insights, and School Performance & Monitoring) and rebranding of materials, signage, and digital assets. Governance and leadership structures will remain unchanged. The Executive Director, Kevin Smith, will continue to serve as the chief executive officer, supported by the Chief of Staff and legal counsel to ensure a smooth and fully compliant transition.</p> <p>The organization will retain its current brand mark design, which has belonged to the district since its inception and symbolizes the Delta region – its river, landscape, and the high standards the district has always held for its schools. This decision preserves a sense of continuity and community identity while eliminating unnecessary rebranding costs that would otherwise burden the district. By maintaining a recognizable visual identity grounded in local history rather than external branding, the district can honor its traditions while responsibly stewarding funds.</p>
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Request # 2	Amendment Request Topic: Disaffiliate from the KIPP Foundation as its Charter Management Organization (CMO)
Provide a clear description of the amendment you are requesting.	This amendment will take effect beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, at which time the organization will operate as an independent Arkansas-based public charter school system under its new name.
Explain why this amendment is needed at this time. Describe:	Over the past year, KIPP Delta Public Schools has conducted a comprehensive review of its academic, financial, and organizational systems, incorporating meaningful feedback from families, staff, and



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How the proposed change aligns with the school's mission and approved charter, • The student/community need the amendment address, and • The expected benefits for students. 	<p>community stakeholders. This work has led to measurable gains in both performance and fiscal stability, reinforcing the organization's commitment to aligning its long-term strategy with the needs and priorities of the Arkansas Delta.</p> <p>Following this review, the Board of Directors concluded that, after nearly two decades of partnership, continued affiliation with the KIPP Foundation no longer provides the level of strategic or operational support it once did. The affiliation increasingly introduces duplicative requirements and diverts attention from the district's mission, sustainability goals, and Arkansas-specific initiatives that directly support students and schools. Transitioning to a locally governed, Arkansas-based charter organization will provide greater flexibility to design academic programs, culture, and operations that are uniquely responsive to the region and aligned with Arkansas DESE priorities.</p>
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Section 4: Certification

I certify that the governing board of KIPP Delta approved the submission of this charter amendment request on October 14, 2025.

School Board Chair / Authorized Designee Name: **see Borad resolution for signature and approval document**

Signature: _____ Date: _____

School Leader (if different) Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____