

Friendship Aspire Academies of Arkansas

Amendment Summary

The Friendship Aspire Academies of Arkansas requested an amendment to receive three schools from Arkansas Lighthouse Charter Schools. Friendship will receive the two (2) Pine Bluff campuses and one (1) North Little Rock campus. Friendship intends to close the two (2) Pine Bluff campuses and accept those students into existing Friendship schools currently located in Pine Bluff. Friendship also intends to reopen the North Little Rock campus as a Friendship school for the 2023-2024 school year.

Friendship requested to add a new campus in North Little Rock (former Lighthouse campus) that would serve grades K-5 and open for the 2023-2024 school year.

Friendship requested an enrollment progression at the new North Little Rock campus that will allow them to provide any new Lighthouse student with intervention and additional education supports as needed.

Friendship requested a waiver of Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-2101 for the new North Little Rock campus for the 2023-2024 school year only.

Friendship requested an increase of its current enrollment cap by five hundred (500) students, making its new enrollment cap 2,785.

Friendship requested permission to have an enrollment preference for the 2023-2024 school year for any former Lighthouse student wishing to enroll in a Friendship school.

The two charters have a transition timeline and have worked out various issues including finding jobs for the current staff of the transferring schools, assumption of debts, and inventory.