



# Division of Elementary and Secondary Education

*Transforming Arkansas to lead the nation in student-focused education*

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**Jacob Oliva**  
Secretary

April 11, 2023

**Dr. Ivy Pfeffer**  
Deputy  
Commissioner

Dr. Debbie Atwell, Superintendent  
Mountainburg School District

**Stacy Smith**  
Deputy  
Commissioner

129 Hwy 71 S W  
Mountainburg, AR 72946

**State Board of  
Education**

RE: Charter Amendment Request

**Ouida Newton**  
*Poyen*  
Chair

Dear Dr. Atwell:

**Dr. Sarah Moore**  
*Stuttgart*  
Vice Chair

I received your letter dated April 5, 2023, requesting a waiver of section 4.02.4 of the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Rules Governing Public Charter Schools. You requested this waiver so that the Charter Authorizing Panel may hear Mountainburg Middle School Brain Academy's request for the amendment of its charter related to grade reconfiguration, during the Panel's April meeting.

**Kathy McFetridge**  
*Springdale*

Pursuant to my authority under Section 4.02.6 of the above rules, I grant Mountainburg School District – Mountainburg Middle School Brain Academy a waiver of section 4.02.4.

**Steve Sutton**  
*Marion*

**Adrienne Woods**  
*Rogers*

Sincerely,

**Randy Henderson**  
*Blytheville*

**Lisa Hunter**  
*White Hall*

Jacob Oliva  
Commissioner of Education

**Jeff Wood**  
*Little Rock*