



DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION

2023 District Conversion Public Charter School Application

Name of Proposed Charter

Initial Application - Deadline June 19, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

Applications will not be accepted after this time.

Final Application - Deadline August 21, 2023, 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

Name of Proposed Charter:	
School District:	
Superintendent:	
Superintendent Phone:	
Superintendent Email:	
Primary Contact for Application:	
Primary Contact Phone:	
Primary Contact Cell:	
Primary Contact Email:	

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

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

SCHOOL INFORMATION

	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029
Grades to be Offered					

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 conversion public charter school:

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

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

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.

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.

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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

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?

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?

12. Describe how reading instruction and literacy will be addressed. Address each of the following questions.

a) What curricula are used that are aligned to the Science of Reading and are there any limitations to the selected materials?

b) What is the plan for ensuring that all teachers will be trained in the Science of Reading?

c) Will there be Science of Reading assessors in the charter school?

STUDENT SERVICES

13. Describe how the school will provide comprehensive school counseling services for all students. Include a description of the services, who will be providing the services, how the provider(s) will be trained, and the time allotment to carry out the counseling program.

14. Describe how the school will provide library media services for all students. Make sure to address the following questions.

a) How will access to materials that support curriculum, research, and recreational reading be provided to students and teachers.

b) If there will be no librarian who will provide instruction in the use of the library and the Library Media Standards, and how will they be trained to teach the standards?

c) If there is no librarian, who will provide professional development in new and emerging technologies, integration of technology into the instructional programs, and in the laws and policies pertaining to the use and communication of ideas and information, including copyright law?

d) Will the school have written policies for selection, removal, and retention of materials as well as a policy for addressing challenged materials, and who will be responsible for implementing those policies?

15. Describe how the school will provide special education services for all students. Address each of the following areas.

a) Describe how you will identify students who have a disability and may need special education and related services (Child Find).

b) Describe the Least Restrictive Environment continuum available.

c) Describe your plan for adhering to all federal and state special education laws and rules.

d) Describe how you will provide related services such as Speech-Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and Physical Therapy.

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

17. Describe how the school will provide for the needs of English Learners.

- a) How will you be screening, placing, notifying parents/guardians of placements, and annually reviewing English Learners/Former English Learners as per the Arkansas English Learner Entrance and Exit Procedures?**

- b) How do you plan to provide English Language Development and Access to Core instruction aligned with the Arkansas English Language Proficiency Standards to each English Learner?**

- c) How will you communicate information to limited English proficient parents in a language and manner they can understand about any program, service, or activity that is called to the attention of parents who are proficient in English?**

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

19. Describe the plan for developing and implementing Student Success Plans that assist students with achieving readiness for college, career, and community engagement.

20. Describe how food services will be provided for students.

SCHOOL GOVERNANCE AND OPERATIONS

21. 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 conversion public charter school.

22. Describe the facility where the school will be located.

23. If a waiver of teacher licensure is requested, describe the process for vetting applicants.

- a. How will Arkansas Qualified Teacher requirements be ensured for core areas of Math, Science, English, Social Studies, Elementary Ed., Art, Music, and Foreign Languages?**

24. If a waiver of class size and teaching load is requested, describe how this will be used.

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 to meet the goals of the school.

Please use the waiver list provided below. This list includes the appropriate waiver topic and citations to the applicable Arkansas Code Section, Rules, and Standards to fully effectuate the requested waiver.

Each of your waiver requests must include a rationale. Failure to provide a rationale will result in your application being marked as incomplete.

Waiver #1 Topic	
Arkansas Code Annotated	
Standard for Accreditation	
ADE Rules	
Rationale for Waiver	

Waiver #2 Topic	
Arkansas Code Annotated	
Standard for Accreditation	
ADE Rules	
Rationale for Waiver	

Waiver #3 Topic	
Arkansas Code Annotated	
Standard for Accreditation	
ADE Rules	
Rationale for Waiver	

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Waiver #4 Topic	
Arkansas Code Annotated	
Standard for Accreditation	
ADE Rules	
Rationale for Waiver	

Waiver #5 Topic	
Arkansas Code Annotated	
Standard for Accreditation	
ADE Rules	
Rationale for Waiver	

Waiver #6 Topic	
Arkansas Code Annotated	
Standard for Accreditation	
ADE Rules	
Rationale for Waiver	

Waiver #7 Topic	
Arkansas Code Annotated	
Standard for Accreditation	
ADE Rules	
Rationale for Waiver	

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Waiver #8 Topic	
Arkansas Code Annotated	
Standard for Accreditation	
ADE Rules	
Rationale for Waiver	

Waiver #9 Topic	
Arkansas Code Annotated	
Standard for Accreditation	
ADE Rules	
Rationale for Waiver	

Waiver #10 Topic	
Arkansas Code Annotated	
Standard for Accreditation	
ADE Rules	
Rationale for Waiver	

Waiver Topic Names with Arkansas Code Annotated, Standards, and DESE Rules (when applicable)

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>178 Instructional Days – standard only</u></p> <p>Standard 1-A.4.1</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Acquisition of Commodities</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. § 6-21-303</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Adopt School Calendar</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. § 6-10-106</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Alternative Learning Environment (ALE)</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-15-1005(b)(5) 6-18-503(a)(1)(C)(i) 6-48-102 6-48-103</p> <p>DESE Rules Governing Student Special Needs Funding – Section 4</p> <p>Standard 2-I.1</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Arkansas History</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-16-124(a)(2) 6-17-418 6-17-703</p> <p>Standard 1-A.1.2.8</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Attendance</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-213(a)(2)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Board of Directors</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-13-608 6-13-611 6-13-612(c) 6-13-613 6-13-615 6-13-616(a) 6-13-617 6-13-618 6-13-619(a), (c), (d)(1)(A), (d)(4) 6-13-620(5) 6-13-622(b) 6-13-630 6-13-631 6-13-634 6-13-635 6-13-1303 6-14-101, et seq.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Body Mass Index (BMI) Assessment</u></p> <p>DESE Rules Governing Nutrition and Physical Activity and Body Mass Index for Age Assessment Protocols in Arkansas Public Schools, Section 5.02.5, 12.00</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Class Size & Teaching Load</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-812</p> <p>Standard 1-A.5 (Class Size) Standard 1-A.6 (Teaching Load)</p> <p>DESE Rules Governing Class Size and Teaching Load</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Classified Employee Minimum Salary</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-17-2201, et seq. 6-17-2403</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Clock Hours</u></p> <p>Standard 1-A.2</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Comprehensive School Counseling Program & School Counselor</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-18-2002(2)(A) 6-18-2003(a)(2)(A) Standard 4-E.1, 4-E.2</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Credit for College Courses</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-223</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Curriculum – Advanced Placement Courses</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-16-1203(a) 6-16-1204(a), (c), and (d)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Curriculum – Career & Technical Education</u></p> <p>Standard 1-A.1.2.7 (5-8) 1-A.1.3.9 (9-12)</p>

			DESE Rules Governing Grading and Course Credit – Sections 4-1.00 & 6.00 Standard 1-A.1.3-10	
<u>Curriculum – Concurrent Credit</u> Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-16-1203(b) 6-16-1204(b) and (e) DESE Rules Governing Grading and Course Credit – Sections 5.00	<u>Curriculum – CPR</u> Ark. Code Ann. § 6-16-143 Standard 1-C.2.5 Under Ark. Code Ann. § 6-23-401(b) this is NOT waivable unless the charter is fully virtual.	<u>Curriculum – Fine Arts</u> Standard 1-A.1.1.5 (K-4) 1-A.1.2.5 (5-8) 1-A.1.3.6 (9-12)	<u>Curriculum – Foreign Language 9-12</u> Standard 1-A.1.3.5	<u>Curriculum – Visual Art or Music</u> Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-16-130(a) – elementary 6-16-130(b) – grades 7-8 and some 6 th grade DESE Rules Governing Visual Art and Music Standard 1-A.1.1.5, 1-A.1.2.5, & 1-A.1.3.6
<u>Eye and Vision Screening</u> Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-18-1501 6-18-1502 DESE Rules Governing Eye & Vision Screening Report in Arkansas Public Schools	<u>Financial Management – Business Manager</u> Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-2302(b) DESE Rule Governing the Arkansas Fiscal Assessment and Accountability Program – Section 12	<u>Flag Display</u> Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-16-105 6-16-106	<u>Flexible Schedule</u> Ark. Code Ann. § 6-16-102, except (a)(5)	<u>Food Services</u> Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-18-705 (breakfast program) 6-20-701, et seq. (school lunch program) DESE Rules Governing Nutrition and Physical Activity and Body Mass Index for Age Assessment Protocols in Arkansas Public Schools Standard 3-D.1
<u>Gifted and Talented</u> Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-20-2208(c)(6) 6-42-109 DESE Rules Governing Gifted and Talented Program Approval Standards Standard 2-G.1	<u>Grading Scale</u> Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-902(a) DESE Rules Governing Grading and Course Credit – Section 2-2.01	<u>Health Services – School Nurse</u> Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-706	<u>Health and Safety Services</u> Standard 2-E.1, 2-E.2	<u>Instructional Day (includes delay/early release of school and recess)</u> Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-16-102 6-10-126 – Delay or early release of school due to emergency circumstances Standards 1-A.4.2 1-A.4.3 (Recess)

<p><u>Instructional Materials</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. § 6-21-413</p> <p>DESE Rules Governing Instructional Materials – Sections 5.01, 5.01.2</p>	<p><u>Leased Academic Facilities</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. § 6-21-117(2)-(5)</p> <p>Standard 6-A.1, 6-A.2</p>	<p><u>Library Media Services – includes standard for balance of instructional materials</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. § 6-25-103</p> <p>Standard 2-D.1</p>	<p><u>Library Media Specialist</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. § 6-25-104</p> <p>Standard 4-F.1, 4-F.2</p>	<p><u>Maintain School Facilities</u></p> <p>Standard 6-A.1</p>
<p><u>Parent & Family Engagement Plan</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-1701, et seq.</p> <p>DESE Rules Governing Parental Involvement Plans and Family and Community Engagement</p> <p>Standard 5-A.1</p>	<p><u>Period of Silence</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. § 6-10-115</p>	<p><u>Personnel Policies – Classified Employees Personnel Policies</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-17-2301(c) 6-17-2301(c)(1) & (d)(2) 6-17-2302 6-17-2303 6-17-2304 6-17-2305</p>	<p><u>Personnel Policies – Committee on Personnel Policies</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-17-203 6-17-205 6-17-209</p>	<p><u>Personnel Policies – Daily Planning Period</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-114</p>
<p><u>Personnel Policies – Duty-Free Lunch Period</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-111</p>	<p><u>Personnel Policies – Employment of Licensed Personnel</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-301</p>	<p><u>Personnel Policies – Grievance Procedure</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-17-208 6-17-210</p>	<p><u>Personnel Policies – Non-instructional Duties</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-117</p>	<p><u>Personnel Policies – Personnel Policies Incorporated into Teacher Contracts</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-204</p>
<p><u>Personnel Policies – Public School Employees’ Fair Hearing Act</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-17-1701, et seq.</p>	<p><u>Personnel Policies – Requirements</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-201(a) & (c)</p>	<p><u>Personnel Policies – Right to Join Professional Organization</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-202</p>	<p><u>Personnel Policies – School Employees’ Minimum Sick Leave</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-17-1301, et seq.</p>	<p><u>Personnel Policies – Teachers’ Minimum Sick Leave</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-17-1201, et seq.</p>
<p><u>Personnel Policies – Teachers’ Fair Dismissal Act</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-17-1501, et seq.</p>	<p><u>Personnel Policies – Teacher Excellence and Support System (TESS)</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-17-2801, et seq.</p> <p>DESE Rules Governing Educator Support and Development</p>	<p><u>Personnel Policies – Use of Personal Leave</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-211</p>	<p><u>Personnel Policies – Website Requirements</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. § 6-11-129</p> <p>DESE Rules Governing Documents Posted to School District and Education Service Cooperative Websites – Sections 5&6</p>	<p><u>Physical Education</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. § 6-16-132</p> <p>DESE Rules Governing Nutrition and Physical Activity and Body Mass Index for Age Assessment Protocols in Arkansas Public Schools – Sections 7.01, 7.01.1, 7.01.1.1, 7.01.1.2, 7.01.3, 7.09</p> <p>Standards 1-A.1.1.6, 1-A.1.2.6, & 1-A.1.3.8</p>

<p><u>Pledge of Allegiance</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. § 6-16-108</p>	<p><u>Principal</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-302</p> <p>Standards 4-C.1, 4-C.2</p>	<p><u>Professional Development</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-17-703 6-17-704 6-17-705</p> <p>DESE Rules Governing Professional Development</p> <p>Standard 4-G.1</p>	<p><u>Report Cards</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-903(a)(2)</p>	<p><u>Required Instruction</u> <u>K-4</u></p> <p>Standard 1-A.1.1</p>
<p><u>Required Instruction</u> <u>5-8</u></p> <p>Standard 1-A.1.2</p>	<p><u>Required Instruction</u> <u>9-12</u></p> <p>Standard 1-A.1.3</p>	<p><u>Salaries and Compensation</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-17-807 6-17-812 6-17-908 6-17-2401 et seq. 6-21-303(b)</p>	<p><u>School Calendar – School</u> <u>Start Date</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. § 6-10-106</p>	<p><u>School Counselor</u></p> <p>Standard 4-E.1 & 4-E.2</p>
<p><u>School Property and</u> <u>Supplies – Rules</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. § 6-21-303(b)</p>	<p><u>School Safety</u> <u>Policies & Procedures</u></p> <p>Standard 6-A.2</p>	<p><u>Statewide Assessment</u> <u>System</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-2907</p> <p>Under Ark. Code Ann. § 6-23-401(b) this is NOT waivable.</p>	<p><u>Written Student Discipline</u> <u>Procedures</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. 6-18-503(b)(2)</p> <p>DESE Rules Governing Student Discipline and School Safety, 4.11</p>	<p><u>Superintendent</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-13-109 6-17-427</p> <p>DESE Rules Governing the Superintendent Mentoring Program</p> <p>Standard 4-B.1, 4-B.2</p>
<p><u>Teacher Excellence &</u> <u>Support System (TESS)</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-17-2801, et seq.</p> <p>DESE Rules Governing Educator Support and Development</p>	<p><u>Teacher Licensure</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-15-1004 6-17-309 6-17-401 6-17-418 6-17-902 6-17-908 6-17-919</p> <p>DESE Rules Governing Educator Licensure – Section 7</p> <p>Standard 4-D.1</p>	<p><u>Teachers’ Salaries –</u> <u>12-mo. Contract for</u> <u>Vocational Agri Teachers</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-802</p>	<p><u>Tornado & Earthquake</u> <u>Safety Drills</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. § 6-10-121</p> <p>Under Ark. Code Ann. § 6-23-401(b) this is NOT waivable unless the charter is fully virtual.</p>	<p><u>Transportation</u></p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-19-101, et seq.</p>

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS

1. Attach documentation to demonstrate that each of the following requirements of Arkansas Code Annotated § 6-23-201(b)(1)(B) was met:
 - a. The notice of public hearing was distributed to the community, licensed personnel, and the parents of all students enrolled at the public school for which the public school district initiated the application; and
 - b. The notice of the public hearing was published in a newspaper having general circulation in the public school district at least three (3) weeks before the date of the meeting.