



Rivercrest School District

1700 W St Hwy 14 Wilson AR 72395

LEA Reconfiguration Rationale: 7–12 Alignment

Clarity in Accountability

Rationale:

Rivercrest Junior High Prep Academy 4706702 and Academies at Rivercrest High School 4706703 function as a single 7–12 system in operation, academics, and culture. However, the current split LEA structure creates unnecessary complexity in accountability reporting and forces choices that make us question metrics over student needs. Unifying our LEAs would bring our structure in line with how we actually serve students.

Key Points:

- **Shared Staffing and Operational Efficiency:**

We currently share 11 out of 34 certified staff between both buildings. The logistics of collaboration, PLCs, and shared leadership structures are more efficient under a unified LEA. One LEA simplifies schedules, coaching, and evaluation systems.

- **Burden of Managing Accountability Logistics:**

Maintaining separate LEAs requires constant navigation of accountability rules, data division, scheduling adjustments, and reporting conflicts. These layers take focus away from direct support of student outcomes.

- **Lost Acceleration Opportunity — AP Seminar:**

AP Seminar, which we planned to offer as part of our 8th grade acceleration pathway, is not permitted by College Board unless 8th grade is part of a high school LEA. This rule blocks one of our strongest early college readiness tools.

- **Lost Acceleration Opportunity — AP Art:**

Although we have a state waiver to meet the art requirement through alternate formats, we would like to offer AP Art to qualifying 8th grade students. However, College Board restrictions prohibit this unless 8th grade is in a high school LEA.

- **Algebra I Accountability Conflict:**

8th Grade Algebra I scores are reported under the high school LEA because instruction takes place there, even though the students are in 8th grade. This makes us question where scores are reported. Concerns for junior high's accountability basket and weakens the 7–8 letter

grade. It forces us to choose between using our top high school Algebra I teacher or preserving accountability metrics.

- Elective Growth Reflects Structural Shift:

Even with two separate LEAs, we've nearly doubled elective offerings since 2019-2020. A unified LEA would support continued growth and make it easier to expand student access. See attachment for comparison.

- Evidence of Acceleration Readiness:

In 2024–2025, 82 eighth grade students earned a combined total of 70 high school credits across core and elective areas. This clearly shows that our students are participating in and benefiting from high school-level instruction.

- Barrier to Title I Support Due to CEP Status:

As a CEP district, our high school's standalone poverty rate no longer meets the threshold for Title I funding. This puts key support positions such as our secondary academic coach at risk. A unified 7–12 LEA would combine data across the full student population, allowing us to meet eligibility and equitably serve all secondary students.

- Duplicated Financial Coding and Clerical Burden:

Maintaining two separate LEAs requires our finance team to split expenditures and assign finance codes across both campuses, even when costs apply to shared services. This results in added clerical work and unnecessary complexity in reporting, auditing, and budget tracking. Examples include coding for:

- Shared staff salaries
- Shared instructional materials
- Professional development expenses
- Technology infrastructure
- Maintenance and operations
- Substitute teacher costs

Combining to a single 7–12 LEA will improve accountability, access, and funding by aligning with how we already serve students.

Elective Growth

2019/2020	2025/2026
Fine Arts	Fine Arts
Beg. Band	6th Grade Band
Jr High Band	7th Grade Band
High School Band	Jr High Band
History of Rock/Music App	Marching Band I-IV/Music Lab I-IV (Marching counts as PE credit)
AP Music	Band I-Band IV
Art I	Jazz Band I-IV
Art History	Music App
Drama	AP Music
Yearbook	Fashion (counts as Fine Art)
	Vocal Music
	Theatre I-IV
	Yearbook
Math	Math
Pre-Cal	Pre-Cal
Social Studies	Social Studies
Psychology/Sociology	AP Human Geography
AR History/African American History	
Career Technical Education	Career Technical Education
CS with Programming I	Intro to Computer Science I
Intro to Bus Communication	Software Development
FACS	EAST I-IV
Nutrition	Survey of Business
Child Development	Management I
	Colt Shop-Small Business Operations

	Supply and Chain I-II
	Survey of Agriculture
	Plant Science I-II
	Ag Mechanics and Fab
	Precision Ag
	Food & Nutrition
	Dynamics of Human Relationships
	Food Science (can count as science credit)
	Colt Cafe-Food Production Management
	Accounting I

Waivers

Rivercrest Junior High Prep Academy

- Teacher Licensure
 - We request to retain our current waiver.
 - 6-15-1004: Qualified Teachers in Every Public-School Classroom
 - 6-17-309: Employment and Assignment Certification Waiver
 - 6-17-401: Teacher's License Requirement
 - 4-D.1
- Minutes required in non-core courses. Ability to blend 7th and 8th grade students in the same grade level courses.
 - We request to retain our current waiver.
 - ☐ 6-16-130(b): 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.
 - ☐ 1-A.1.2.5
 - ☐ 3.02
- Teaching Load
 - We request to retain our current waiver.
 - ☐ 6-17-812: Teachers' Salaries Generally Compensation for Teaching More Than the Maximum Number of Students Permitted
 - ☐ 1-A.5
 - ☐ 1.A.6

Academies at Rivercrest High School

- Planned Instructional Day
 - 6-16-102 School Day
 - 1-A.5.2 Curriculum and Instruction
 - We are in a position to eliminate this waiver moving forward.
- Teacher Minimum Salaries
 - 6-7-2403 Minimum Teacher Compensation Schedule
 - 6-17-902 Arkansas Teachers' Salary Law
 - 6-17-909 Arkansas Teachers' Salary Law
 - We are in a position to eliminate this waiver moving forward.
- Teacher Professional Development
 - 6-17-704 Professional Development Plan
 - 4-G.1 Professional Development
 - We are in a position to eliminate this waiver moving forward.
- Teacher Licensure and Certification
 - We request to retain our current waiver.
 - 6-15-1004 Qualified Teachers in Every Public-School Classroom
 - 6-17-309 Employment and Assignment Certification Waiver
 - 6-17-401 Teacher's License Requirement
 - 4-D.1 Teacher License Requirement
 - 15.03.1 Licensure and Renewal
 - Rules Governing Educator Licensure –2-1.0, 2-2.0, 2-3.0, 2-4.0