



Future School of Fort Smith

Cultivating the Limitless Potential of 21st Century Leaders

March 6, 2019

Johnny Key
Commissioner
Arkansas Department of Education
Four Capitol Mall
Little Rock, AR
72201-1019

Dr. Key,

The Future School of Fort Smith is requesting a waiver for seat time. This an essential component of our educational program which places students in off campus internships one day a week. To accommodate student internships, the planned instructional day is 30 minutes shorter on Wednesdays. Therefore, the school has 5 hours, 30 minutes of instruction on Wednesdays instead of the required 6 hour instructional day and 29.5 hours of instruction per week instead of the required 30 hours per week. Future School is not asking for a waiver of graduation requirements, but only a waiver of the clock hour requirement. We will seek this waiver for this year then revisit it again next year.

As background on how the waiver was omitted from our charter: it was omitted from our original application which Trish Flanagan presented to the Charter Authorizing Panel. On the day of the panel meeting, she brought a printout to the panel and distributed it to those in attendance (see attachment A). She also made reference to the request for the seat time waiver as evidenced in the transcript from the hearings that day (see attachment B). Despite the panel approving our charter (including this waiver) as presented, it was not added to our charter and has not been there for the last two years. We have been operating on the assumption that the waiver was on our charter, as it was approved by the panel on that day.

We are currently requesting this one year standards waiver. We intend to appear before the Charter Authorizing Panel prior to the next school year in order to have the waiver added to our charter. Should we not be granted the waiver, we will modify our bell schedule to come in line with current standards.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me if further explanation is necessary.

Boyd Logan
Superintendent
Future School of Fort Smith

Future School Additional Waiver Request

Seat Time Requirements: Section 14.03 of the ADE Standards for Accreditation Rules

Future School wishes to allow for the teaching of online courses where needed to allow for personalization of each student's learning plan and to allow for the integration of graduation credit courses with other courses as necessary. Future School is not asking for a waiver of graduation requirements, but only a waiver of the clock hour requirement. The granting of this waiver will allow a portion of students to participate in self-paced online courses to provide maximum personalization of student learning. The waiver will meet Future School's goal of addressing the needs of all students.