



Friendship Aspire Academy  
Public Charter School  
ARKANSAS

April 11, 2023

Ms. Dorie Summons  
Director of Public Charter Schools  
Arkansas Department of Education  
Division of Elementary and Secondary Education  
Four Capitol Mall, Box 26  
Little Rock, AR 72201

Re: Friendship Aspire Academy Arkansas

Dear Ms. Summons:

Puruant to Section 4.02.1 of the ADE Rules Governing Public Charter Schools, I have enclosed a completed Charter Amendment Form (with the required attachments and related documents) for the purpose of requesting the following amendment to our charter:

- 1.) Rescission of our waiver of Ark. Code Ann. 6-17-2403, concerning the minimum teacher compensation schedule.

I am requesting that this amendment request be placed on the May, 2023 agenda of the Charter Authorizing Panel for consideration.

I am also contemporatneously sending a copy of this notice letter to the Superintendents of the Little Rock, Pulaski County Special, North Little Rock, Pine Bluff, and Watson Chapel School Districts.

Sincerely,

Phong Tran, Superintendent

Friendship Aspire Academy Arkansas

Cc: Superintendent Jermall Wright  
Little Rock School District  
810 W. Markham St.  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Superintendent Charles McNulty  
Pulaski County Special School District  
925 E. Dixon Rd  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72206

Superintendent Dr. Gregory J. Pilewski  
North Little Rock School District  
2400 Willow Street  
North Little Rock, Arkansas 72114

Superintendent Jennifer Barbaree  
Pine Bluff School District  
1215 West Pullen St.  
Pine Bluff, Arkansas 71601

Superintendent John Wilson  
Watson Chapel School District  
4100 Camden Road  
Pine Bluff, Arkansas 71603



## Charter Amendment Request Form

The Charter Amendment Request Form and all required documentation must be received via email ([ade.charterschools@arkansas.gov](mailto:ade.charterschools@arkansas.gov)) at the Arkansas Department of Education at least 35 days prior to the Charter Authorizing Panel meeting.

**Charter Name:** Friendship Aspire Academy Arkansas **LEA:** 3544

**Superintendent or Director:** Phong Tran

**Email:** ptran@friendshipusa.org **Phone:** (504) 458-4512

### Type of Amendment(s) Requested

**Add a New Campus** (Must also submit the Facilities Utilization Agreement)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

School District: \_\_\_\_\_

**Relocate Existing Campus** (Must also submit the Facilities Utilization Agreement)

Campus Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed Address: \_\_\_\_\_

School District: \_\_\_\_\_

**Increase Enrollment Cap**

Current Cap: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed Cap: \_\_\_\_\_

**Change Grade Levels Served**

Current Grade Levels Served: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed Grade Levels Served: \_\_\_\_\_

**Waiver(s)**

Statute/Standard/Rule to be Waived: Rescind waiver of Ark. Code Ann.17-2403,  
concerning the minimum teacher compensation schedule.

**Rationale for Waiver:**

Friendship Aspire Academy Arkansas is requesting to amend its charter by rescinding its waiver of Ark. Code Ann. Section 6-17-2403, concerning the minimum teacher compensation schedule. The rationale for requesting the rescission of the waiver is to assist our charter school in qualifying for the additional funding available under Section 35 of the LEARNS Act (Act 237 of 2023), in order to implement the new statutory minimum teacher compensation schedule and offer competitive salaries to our current prospective teachers.

Statute/Standard/Rule to be Waived: \_\_\_\_\_

**Rationale for Waiver:**

**Friendship Aspire Academy Arkansas**  
**2023-2024**  
**Salary Schedule**

Beginning Teacher (0 Yrs Exp)	\$50,000
All current teachers in the 2022-2023 school year earning less than \$48,000 base.	\$50,000
All current teachers in the 2022-2023 school year earning \$48,000 or more based on their current salary placement.	\$2,000 Increase

**Friendship Aspire Academy Arkansas**

**Waiver Rescission Request**

**Additional Required Information**

**Current Year to Date Free and Reduced Lunch:**

Our current charter wide free and reduced lunch percentage is 80%

# Friendship Aspire Academies Arkansas ENROLLMENT REPORT Enrollment Date: Apr 11, 2023

Enrollment Count	Asian		Black		Hawaiian/Pacific Islander		Hispanic		Two or More		White		Grade Totals			
	Females	Race Totals	Females	Males	Race Totals	Females	Males	Race Totals	Females	Males	Race Totals	Females		Males	Race Totals	
Friendship Aspire Academy																
01			25	18										1	1	45
02			57	45	1	1						1	1	2	2	107
03	1	1	45	41												87
04			39	29					1			1	1	2	2	71
KF			24	20												44
<b>Building Totals</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>354</b>
Little Rock Elementary																
01			23	20			4									47
02			21	17				2		1						41
03			33	27				3	3							66
04			18	12				4	4							38
KF			23	17				2		1						44
<b>Building Totals</b>			<b>118</b>	<b>93</b>			<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>			<b>236</b>
Little Rock Middle School																
06			4	8				7	3				1			23
07			5	8				5	3							21
08			8	8				8	2							26
<b>Building Totals</b>			<b>17</b>	<b>24</b>			<b>20</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>28</b>				<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>70</b>
Pine Bluff Downtown																
01			27	37									1			66
KF			47	34												81
<b>Building Totals</b>			<b>74</b>	<b>71</b>									<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>147</b>
Southeast																
05	1	1	28	20				2								52
12			6	12												19
<b>Building Totals</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>32</b>				<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>				<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>71</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>878</b>