



Charter Amendment Request From

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

Charter Name:	Jacksonville Lighthouse Charter Schools
LEA Number:	6050700
Superintendent or Director:	LaShawnDa Noel
Email:	Lashawnda.noel@lha.net
Phone:	501-353-8251

**All open-enrollment amendment requests must include evidence that the request was contemporaneously sent by the applicant to the superintendent of the school district where the charter is located.*

Type of Amendment(s) Requested

Other (Describe requested change)

Jacksonville Lighthouse Academy (6050700) would like to absorb/consolidate Pine Bluff Lighthouse Academy (3541700) and Capital City Lighthouse Academy (6056700) into its charter, resulting in one charter license with multiple campuses. All campuses would retain the waivers of Jacksonville Lighthouse Academy (6050700) and grade levels at each campus would remain the same. This consolidation will allow for more effective and efficient administrative services. We believe we are capable of maintaining the unique set of services required at each location under a single LEA.

The charter also requests to change the instructional time presented in the original charter. The programming in the charter application stated that the school calendar would have 190 student-teacher interaction days, as well as, an eight hour instructional day. The school requests a change in the calendar to 178 student-teacher interaction days and a six-hour instructional school day, which is what the Standards for Accreditation requires. This will assist us in aligning with the local districts in which we serve, addresses the concerns of many of our families, and provides opportunity to enhance the teaching and learning environment through the offering of the summer enrichment program.

Name Change

Current Charter Name:	Jacksonville Lighthouse Charter School
New Name of Charter:	Arkansas Lighthouse Academies

Waivers

Waiver Topic #1	Alternative Learning Environment
Arkansas Code Annotated	6-15-1005(b)(5) – Required Program 6-18-503(a)(1)(C)(i) – Placement 6-48-101 - Definitions 6-48-102 – Program Requirement 6-48-103 – Assessment and Intervention Services
Standard for Accreditation	2-I.1
ADE Rules	DESE Rules Governing the Distribution of Student Special Needs Funding – Section 4
Rationale for Waiver	It is the intention and commitment of ALA to educate all students who choose our school. We will make necessary accommodations for students who need support beyond that provided by the general curriculum accommodation program. The guidance program, our devotion to parallel cultures and respect and achievement all help us connect with students who are struggling and make them successful. We will seek to meet individual needs with individual plans as needed. At times, this may include steps such as providing students with an aide, making space available for small groups, or offering extra help. If a student's needs are such that his or her special education team recommends an out-of-district placement, we will follow all laws to ensure that the student's right are always protected. The school will utilize an effective in-school reset environment.

Waiver Topic #2	Board of Directors
Arkansas Code Annotated	6-13-608 – Length of Terms 6-13-611 – Vacancies 6-13-612(c) – Vacancy Due to Felony Conviction 6-13-615 – Election from Single-Member Zones 6-13-616 – Qualifications 6-13-619 (a)(1)(A) - Monthly meetings 6-13-619 (c)(d) - Board Member Presence 6-13-620 – Powers and Duties 6-13-621 – Authority to Convey Section Lands 6-13-630 – Election by Zone and At-Large 6-13-631 – Effect of Minority Population on Election 6-13-634 – Size 6-13-635 – Review and Approval of Salary Increases
Standard for Accreditation	
ADE Rules	
Rationale for Waiver	<p>ALA seeks exemptions from these portions of the Education Code to the extent that they govern school board operations. ALA is requesting this waiver from these statutes, which are on their face applicable only to school districts, to ensure that there is no confusion as to the applicability of the statutes to the governance structure of ALA's charter. ALA also seeks a waiver that would allow school board members to attend meetings via teleconference or electronic communication with no loss of quorum or voting privileges. That would permit ALA to attract high quality board members who are career professionals.</p> <p>ALA seeks this waiver to align all districts. The rationale for The waiver request of Ark. Code Ann. §6-13-621 is that the statute is inapplicable to open- enrollment public charter schools, as it concerns a school district's ability to convey sixteenth section lands.”</p>

Waiver Topic #3	School Counseling - Licensure
Arkansas Code Annotated	6-18-2003(a)(2)(A) – Program Implemented by Arkansas Certified School Counselor
Standard for Accreditation	4-E.1
ADE Rules	
Rationale for Waiver	The school will offer a comprehensive guidance program but request the waiver for flexibility on hiring a certified guidance counselor. The school will make effort to do so but if efforts are not successful, the school will contract with a counseling center to provide the support required for implementation of the program. The school will hire a Social and Emotional Intelligence coordinator who will maintain required certifications in this area.

Waiver Topic #4	Gifted and Talented
Arkansas Code Annotated	6-20-2208(c)(6) – Expenditures 6-42-109 – Annual Reporting
Standard for Accreditation	2-G.1 – Gifted and Talented Services
ADE Rules	DESE Rules Governing Gifted and Talented Program Standards
Rationale for Waiver	<p>ALA is as committed to providing support for gifted/talented and academically advanced students, just as it is to providing support for students who are lagging academically. Our educational program design is supportive of this population in several ways. We will gather data and write a simple learning contract that addresses areas of need with specific goals and strategies. Students may receive tutoring or extra coaching, or regular assignments may be enriched to better challenge and engage students. Gifted students may be asked to produce more complex pieces of writing, to incorporate arts to a greater depth, or to present work in a more challenging or individualized way. An ALA designee - usually the classroom teacher - will be assigned to track each student's progress and report to parents/guardians frequently. Because the learning contract can call for goals to be established in all subject areas, students who are advanced in one or two areas will not be held back in those subjects because of weaknesses in other areas. Conversely, we will not allow students to focus on their strengths and ignore areas where skill deficits exist. However, we do not have the capacity to hire a specific gifted-and-talented teacher but offer an academic program that will meet their needs. Thus, we request a waiver from the requirement to follow specific guidelines in providing appropriate levels of challenge to gifted and talented children.</p>

Waiver Topic #5	Non-Instructional Duties
Arkansas Code Annotated	6-17-117 – Additional Non-Instructional Duties
Standard for Accreditation	
ADE Rules	
Rationale for Waiver	<p>ALA seeks a waiver from this portion of the Educational Code to the extent that it requires teachers to be contracted if they are assigned to more than sixty (60) minutes of non-instructional duties per week. ALA requests that the time increased to two hundred forty (240) minutes. This waiver request would allow us to utilize our teachers to perform both instructional and non-instructional duties to achieve efficient and economical operation of the school. Applicant requests this wavier to be able to, as needed, provide its teachers with the required planning time during their regularly scheduled hours of work, but not during the students' instructional day (i.e. during a time range of 7am-8am or 4pm to 5pm). Applicant requests a waiver to allow it to effectively utilize its staff in making assignments for duty free lunches. Although we will continue to provide 150 minutes of duty free lunch per week, we request the ability to use the time in a manner that will address our staffing needs.</p>

Waiver Topic #6	Salaries
Arkansas Code Annotated	6-17-902 – Teacher Definition 6-17-919 – Warrants Void without License and Contract
Standard for Accreditation	
ADE Rules	
Rationale for Waiver	The school already has a waiver for teacher license. The additional statutes are needed to effectuate the teacher licensure waiver.

Waiver Topic #7	Library Media Services
Arkansas Code Annotated	6-25-103(a) – Library Media Services 6-25-103(b) – Library Media Specialist Time Requirements 6-25-104 – Library Media Specialist Licensure
Standard for Accreditation	4-F.1 – Library Media Licensure 4-F.2 – Library Media Ratio
ADE Rules	
Rationale for Waiver	The school will offer library media services through classroom libraries and an application that will provide students access to thousands of online books. The nature of the educational program is such that it will offer variation of a library media program and resources will be made available to students through online and classroom resources.