

District Conversion Public Charter School Renewal Application for

Fayetteville Virtual Academy

Final Application Submitted 12/7/20



Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Charter School Office Four Capitol Mall Little Rock, AR 72201 501.683.5313

Charter Information

Name of Charter:	Fayetteville Virtual Academy
LEA Number:	7203703
Authorization Date:	November 18, 2015
Expiration Date:	June 30, 2021
Enrollment Cap:	5,000
Grades Served:	K-12
Superintendent/Director:	Dr. John L Colbert
Charter Mailing Address:	300 S Ray Ave Fayetteville, AR 72701
Charter Physical Address:	300 S Ray Ave Fayetteville, AR 72701
Contact for the Application:	Kim Cook, Principal
Contact Email:	kim.cook@g.fayar.net
Contact Phone Number:	479-445-1612

Number of Years Requested for Renewal (1-5):

5

Section 1: Charter Data

Current Accreditation Status: Accredited

Level of Support: General

Enrollment (3 Quarter ADM)

2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
52.17	195.69	212.34	159.12

Graduation Rates

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
4 Year	N/A	N/A	100	-
5 Year	N/A	N/A	N/A	-

Letter Grades

2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
А	А	А	N/A

ESSA SCHOOL INDEX

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Overall Index	79.26 State Avg = 67.43	77.66 State Avg = 66.28	82.21 State Avg = 66.48	N/A
Weighted Achievement	85.53 State Avg = 55.81	78.69 State Avg = 49.4	81.07 State Avg = 49.1	N/A
Growth	75.1 State Avg = 79.84	77.69 State Avg = 79.74	79.61 State Avg = 79.69	N/A
SQSS	78.49 State Avg = 52.54	75.15 State Avg = 52.4	73.14 State Avg = 52.95	N/A

Section 2: Charter Mission Statement

Previous mission statement:

Fayetteville Virtual Academy will offer a virtual learning experience, as well as specialized field experiences, to kindergarten through 12th grade students who demand or require accelerated learning opportunities, greater flexibility, and/or aid in overcoming challenging circumstances, enabling them to graduate college and career ready.

If the mission statement for the charter will change, please provide the new mission:

What type of educational model does the school follow?

- □ Alternative Learning Environment
- □ Traditional
- **⊠** Virtual Only
- □ College Prep
- □ Credit Recovery
- Other Focus Area: ______

Section 3: Charter Goals

Goal 1	Metric	Evaluation of Goal
FVA students will attain proficiency in reading. 80% of FVA students will meet or exceed the state	3rd-11th grade: ACT Aspire and ACT state mandated	Percent of FVA Students Scoring Ready or Exceeds Year Reading 2017 68
average in reading.	assessments in reading; K-2: State mandated tests	2017 08 2018 66 2019 60

*Insert graph or data table below reflecting the progress toward the goal over the last five years.

		Reading						
	FVA 2017	State 2017	FVA 2018	State 2018	FVA 2019	State 2019	FVA 2020	State 2020
Grade 5	56%	35%	63%	38%	62%	41%	-	-
Grade 6	88%	47%	91%	45%	78%	43%	-	-
Grade 7	53%	39%	73%	40%	59%	39%	-	-
Grade 8	70%	49%	71%	51%	70%	53%	-	-
Grade 9	-	-	63%	38%	50%	37%	-	-
Grade 10	-	-	45%	34%	45%	32%	-	-

Goal 2	Metric	Evaluation of Goal
FVA students will attain proficiency in mathematics. 80% of FVA students will meet or exceed the state average in math.	3- 11th grade: ACT Aspire and ACT State mandated assessments in math; K-2: State mandated tests	Percent of FVA Students Scoring Ready or ExceedsYearMath201759201854201957

	Math							
	FVA 2017	State 2017	FVA 2018	State 2018	FVA 2019	State 2019	FVA 2020	State 2020
Grade 5	33%	52%	69%	50%	62%	49%	-	-
Grade 6	63%	62%	91%	56%	78%	54%	-	-
Grade 7	61%	48%	41%	47%	71%	48%	-	-
Grade 8	59%	44%	65%	46%	60%	48%	-	-
Grade 9	-	-	50%	34%	34%	36%	-	-
Grade 10	-	-	36%	29%	36%	29%	-	-

Goal 3	Metric	Evaluation of Goal
FVA students will attain proficiency in language	3- 11th grade: ACT Aspire	Percent of FVA Students Scoring Ready or Exceeds
arts. 80% of FVA	and ACT State	Year English
students will meet or exceed the state average	mandated assessments in I.	2017 91 2018 88
in language arts.	arts; K-2:	2019 89
	State mandated	
	tests	

	ENGLISH							
	FVA 2017	State 2017	FVA 2018	State 2018	FVA 2019	State 2019	FVA 2020	State 2020
Grade 5	88%	72%	75%	73%	95%	73%	-	-
Grade 6	88%	74%	100%	73%	77%	73%	-	-
Grade 7	100%	79%	96%	79%	100%	78%	-	-
Grade 8	89%	73%	100%	75%	90%	74%	-	-
Grade 9	-	-	79%	58%	91%	59%	-	-
Grade 10	-	-	84%	60%	84%	60%	-	-

Goal 4	Metric	Evaluation of Goal
FVA students will attain proficiency in writing. 80% of FVA students will meet or exceed the state average in writing.	3- 11th grade: ACT Aspire and ACT State mandated assessments in writing; K-2: State mandated tests	Percent of FVA Students Scoring Ready or ExceedsYearEnglish201791201888201989

*Insert graph or data table below reflecting the progress toward the goal over the last five years.

	ENGLISH							
	FVA 2017	State 2017	FVA 2018	State 2018	FVA 2019	State 2019	FVA 2020	State 2020
Grade 5	88%	72%	75%	73%	95%	73%	-	-
Grade 6	88%	74%	100%	73%	77%	73%	-	-
Grade 7	100%	79%	96%	79%	100%	78%	-	-
Grade 8	89%	73%	100%	75%	90%	74%	-	-
Grade 9	-	-	79%	58%	91%	59%	-	-
Grade 10	-	-	84%	60%	84%	60%	-	-

Goal 5	Metric	Evaluation of Goal
FVA students will develop a Personalized Learning Plan to support college and career readiness.	Personalized Learning Plan (PLP) records	100% of FVA students complete a Personalized Learning Plan (PLP) annually.

	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
% of FVA students who developed a PLP to support college and career readiness	100%	100%	100%	100%

Goal 6	Metric	Evaluation of Goal
FVA students will participate in a minimum of one field experience each month. 90% of students will report field experience participation in their PLP.	Field Experience records	As of March, 2020, FVA provided students with 110 field experiences since August, 2016. However, we did not attain 90% participation for the 2017, 2018 and 2019 school year. <i>Field experiences were suspended during the 2020 school year due to the COVID 19 pandemic</i>

*Insert graph or data table below reflecting the progress toward the goal over the last five years.

	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
# of Field Experiences &				
Service Learning Projects	30	32	29	19*
% of students who attended 1 or more field experience/service learning project	85%	70%	63%	*Events suspended due to COVID 19
GRADES	4-8	4-12	4-12	4-12

Goal 7	Metric	Evaluation of Goal
FVA students will take college entrance exams. Beginning in 2018-19, a baseline percent will be established with seniors and will increase each year.	ACT	Although FVA continues to exceed the ACT state average, the goal of increasing ACT composite has not been achieved. To support higher achievement on the ACT for our students, we have added an ACT/PSAT/SAT Test Preparation course to our elective course offerings.

	ACT Composite				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Grade 11	N/A	N/A	25.4	22.7	20.9
State Avg.			18.7	18.5	-

Section 4: New Goals

Select performance goals for the period of time requested for renewal that are related to the specific mission of the charter.

SMART Goal

Fayetteville Virtual Academy will earn and maintain a state letter grade of B or higher as reported by Arkansas Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Fayetteville Virtual Academy will exceed the state average for Reading/English/Math/Science proficiency as measured by the ACT Aspire test data.

Fayetteville Virtual Academy will exceed the state graduation rate as reported by the Arkansas Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

100% of FVA students in grades 4 - 12 will create a personalized learning plan or student success plan that will identify college and career interests to include corresponding coursework.

100% of FVA seniors will complete a service learning project before graduation.

Section 5: Waivers

Waiver #1	Statute/Standard/Rule	Rescind or Continue Waiver
School Day	Ark. Code Ann. § 6-16-102 (a)(5)	Rescind
& Recess	DESE Rules Governing Nutrition and Physical Activity Standards and Body Mass Index 7.01.1.1 Standards for Accreditation: Standard 1: Academics 1-A.4.2 (instructional day) 1-A.4.3 (recess) 1-A.2 (120 clock hours)	⊠ Continue Waiver

Explain how the above waiver has enhanced student learning opportunities, promoted innovation or increased equitable access to effective teachers.

Since Fayetteville Virtual Academy is a virtual school, a recess waiver is requested. Families will be provided with suggested schedules that will include time set aside for recess; however, families have the flexibility to set their child's personalized learning schedule and determine what activities constitute "recess".

Students have the flexibility to set their own personalized learning schedule within the parameters of the school calendar. A suggested pacing calendar is provided to each student. Teachers monitor student progress to ensure that students are actively engaged in coursework and complete courses on time. This waiver allows students to earn credit based on subject matter competency without regard to seat time.

If the waiver is continued, will the service be provided in an alternate way?

Waiver #2	Statute/Standard/Rule	Rescind or Continue Waiver		
CPR	Ark. Code Ann. § 6-16-143 Cardiopulmonary resuscitation instruction	RescindContinue Waiver		
Eveloin how the observe weiver has enhanced student learning encodering and without presented				

CPR is a graduation requirement that can not be waived; therefore, FVA is rescinding this waiver request.

If the waiver is continued, will the service be provided in an alternate way?

Waiver #3	Statute/Standard/Rule	Rescind or Continue Waiver
Library Media Services	DESE Rules Governing Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts:	□ Rescind⊠ Continue Waiver
	Standard 4-F Library Media Specialists 4-F.1 (licensed media specialist) 4-F.2 (media specialist ratio)	

Fayetteville Virtual Academy requests a continuance of the Library Media waiver since we are a virtual school and students do not physically attend on-site. FVA maintains a classroom library to provide students with the required texts for their coursework.

If the waiver is continued, will the service be provided in an alternate way?

The Fayetteville Public Library provides FVA students with a library card that allows them to check out online materials and access tutoring services to support their learning. In addition, Fayetteville Public School libraries are accessible to students enrolled at Fayetteville Virtual Academy.

Waiver #4	Statute/Standard/Rule	Rescind or Continue Waiver
Food Services	Ark. Code Ann. § 6-20-709 DESE Standards of Accreditation 3-D.1 Food Service	□ Rescind⊠ Continue Waiver

Since FVA is a virtual academy and students do not attend school on site, we are requesting a continuance of the Food Services waiver.

If the waiver is continued, will the service be provided in an alternate way?

Waiver #5	Statute/Standard/Rule	Rescind or Continue Waiver
Licensure	Ark. Code Ann. §6-15-1004 Qualified teachers in every public school classroom Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-302 Public School Principals- Qualifications and responsibilities Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-309 Licensure- Waiver Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-401 Teacher's license requirement Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-902 Definitions Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-919 Warrants void without valid certificate and contract DESE Rules Governing Educator Licensure - Educator licensure (Section 7)	 □ Rescind ⊠ Continue Waiver

Teachers are licensed in the state of Arkansas except for those situations when a local teacher cannot be identified. In cases when a local teacher cannot be identified, FVA will continue to contract with the curriculum provider who will employ teachers who are licensed in the states they reside. While certified teachers are sought, FVA continues to request the discretion to hire the best leaders and teachers for the school. Continuing this waiver will aid in increasing achievement by providing students with staff who can implement our full catalog of courses. Fayetteville Virtual Academy will comply with Arkansas Qualified Teacher requirements as applicable.

FVA is aware that special education must be taught by a certified special education teacher and has employed a full-time special education teacher.

Teachers will be required to successfully complete criminal background and Child Maltreatment Registry checks. We request flexibility to make timely personnel decisions to meet the needs of online students. All efforts will be made to support teachers to be successful in the virtual learning environment. Staffing flexibility will help to meet student goals and support our goal of flexibility.

While the Fayetteville School District currently employs a full time, certified principal at Fayetteville Virtual Academy, FPS requests the continuance of the Principal Licensure waiver to ensure the district has the flexibility to hire the most qualified applicant.

If the waiver is continued, will the service be provided in an alternate way?

Waiver #6	Statute/Standard/Rule	Rescind or Continue Waiver
Guidance Counseling Services	School Counseling Improvement Act of 2019, Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-2001 Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-2004	 □ Rescind ⊠ Continue Waiver

Although a full-time certified school counselor is currently employed at Fayetteville Virtual Academy, a continuance of the waiver is requested with the modification of the School Counseling Improvement Act of 2019, Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-2001 and Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-2004, the very nature of the virtual school setting is not always conducive for direct or indirect services to students to ensure 90% of the time for the counselor duties directly for students. In some cases, the counseling assistance is needed for teachers, parents or guardians, community etc. FVA would like the flexibility to continue to assign necessary tasks to the counselor through varied services for academic success.

If the waiver is continued, will the service be provided in an alternate way?

Waiver #7	Statute/Standard/Rule	Rescind or Continue Waiver
Class Size and Teaching Load	Standard 1-A.5 A.C.A. § 6-17-812 DESE Rules Governing Class Size and Teaching Load	 □ Rescind ⊠ Continue Waiver

Fayetteville Virtual Academy teachers support students with an Arkansas approved digital learning curriculum. With the digital curriculum and online platform, teachers can accommodate larger student groups. Fayetteville Virtual Academy recognizes that class sizes can not be waived for special education courses.

If the waiver is continued, will the service be provided in an alternate way?

Waiver #8	Statute/Standard/Rule	Rescind or Continue Waiver
School Nurse	A.C.A. § 6-18-706 2-E.1 (nurse)	 Rescind Continue Waiver

Since FVA is a virtual academy and students do not regularly attend school on site, we are requesting a continuance of the School Nurse waiver.

If the waiver is continued, will the service be provided in an alternate way?

Students may access health services located at the FPS Health and Wellness Clinic at Owl Creek School or through the City of Fayetteville.

Waiver #9	Statute/Standard/Rule	Rescind or Continue Waiver
Health Services	Standards 2-E.1, 2-E.2 A.C.A. § 6-18-705 A.C.A. § 6-18-706	 Rescind Continue Waiver

Fayetteville Virtual Academy continues to request a waiver for day to day health services. Since students are not required to physically attend FVA, the Fayetteville Public Schools will provide health services on an as-needed basis and students will have full access to the FPS Health and Wellness Community Clinic at Owl Creek School.

If the waiver is continued, will the service be provided in an alternate way?

Vision, hearing, and body mass index screenings will be made available to students at the FPS Health & Wellness clinic should the parent/guardian choose to access those services.

Waiver #10	Statute/Standard/Rule	Rescind or Continue Waiver
Eye & Vision Screening	Ark. Code Ann. §6-18-1501 et seq. Mandated Eye and Vision Screening Procedures and Tests for Children ADE Rules - Eye and Vision Screening Report in Arkansas Public Schools	 □ Rescind ⊠ Continue Waiver

FVA students will not be physically present at the school campus routinely to receive eye and vision screening exams. The waiver supports the flexibility needed by the virtual academy to meet the goals.

If the waiver is continued, will the service be provided in an alternate way?

FVA students may elect to have eye and vision screenings at the FPS Health & Wellness clinic.

Waiver #11	Statute/Standard/Rule	Rescind or Continue Waiver
Flags/Period of Silence/Pledge of Allegiance	Ark. Code Ann. §6-10-115 Period of Silence Ark. Code Ann. §6-16-105 United States flag Ark. Code Ann. §6-16-106 Arkansas flag Ark. Code Ann. §6-16-108 Recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance	 Rescind Continue Waiver

Fayetteville Virtual Academy will display the U.S. and Arkansas flags, though not as prescription by the A.C.A. Since FVA is a virtual school, we would not be able to monitor the period of silence or recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

If the waiver is continued, will the service be provided in an alternate way?

The United States and State of Arkansas flag will be displayed inside of the building.

Waiver #12	Statute/Standard/Rule	Rescind or Continue Waiver
School meals	Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-705 Breakfast Program Ark. Code Ann. §6-20-701 et seq. School Lunch Program	RescindContinue Waiver

As a virtual academy, FVA will not serve meals since students do not physically attend on campus.

If the waiver is continued, will the service be provided in an alternate way?

Waiver #13	Statute/Standard/Rule	Rescind or Continue Waiver
Teacher Fair Dismissal Act	A.C.A. § 6-17-1501 et seq.	 Rescind Continue Waiver

Fayetteville Virtual Academy requests the continuance of the Teacher Fair Dismissal waiver in order to have the flexibility to make timely decisions regarding hiring and retaining a highly qualified teaching staff. In addition, the waiver will allow the district to continue to offer a wide variety of elective offerings and assist in providing services to support student success plans. Staffing flexibility will help to meet student goals and support our goal of flexibility.

Fayetteville Virtual Academy is aware that special education must be taught by a licensed special education teacher.

Teachers will all be required to successfully complete criminal background and Child Maltreatment Registry checks.

Due to the unique nature of Fayetteville Virtual Academy, it is important to have the ability to provide the highest level of virtual instruction to our students. In the case that any teacher, after receiving training and support to the best of the district's ability, has shown that they don't meet the students' needs in the virtual setting, the district can make changes quickly to support the school's vision.

If the waiver is continued, will the service be provided in an alternate way?

Waiver #14	Statute/Standard/Rule	Rescind or Continue Waiver
Public School Employee Fair Hearing Act	A.C.A. § 6-17-1701 et seq.	 Rescind Continue Waiver

Fayetteville Virtual Academy requests the continuance of the Public School Employee Fair Hearing waiver in order to have the flexibility to make timely decisions regarding hiring and retaining a highly qualified teaching staff.

Due to the unique nature of Fayetteville Virtual Academy, it is important to have the ability to provide the highest level of virtual instruction to our students. In the case that any teacher, after receiving training and support to the best of the district's ability, has shown that they don't meet the students' needs in the virtual setting, the district can make changes quickly to support the school's vision.

If the waiver is continued, will the service be provided in an alternate way?

Waiver #15	Statute/Standard/Rule	Rescind or Continue Waiver
Secondary Units Offered Instrumental and Vocal Music	Ark. Code Ann. § 6-16-130	 Rescind Continue Waiver

Elementary students in grades 1-6 are not offered 40 minutes of weekly instruction of the calendar year. Students are offered semester courses to incorporate into their schedule experiences including visual art, music, instrumental, photography, etc. These courses provide many opportunities for students to engage in visual art, music, and culture. Many learning experiences have a central focus of performing, visual, creation art and music.

If the waiver is continued, will the service be provided in an alternate way?

Waiver #16	Statute/Standard/Rule	Rescind or Continue Waiver
Commodity Bidding	Ark. Code Ann. §6-21-301 et seq. Acquisition of Commodities Generally	 □ Rescind ⊠ Continue Waiver

FVA will continue to contract with an approved online curriculum provider for provision of its education program. The selection of the best available curriculum to meet student needs and district requirements may limit sources. A continuance of waiver for ACA §6-21-305 is requested for curriculum provider purchase specifically, and enables FVA to best serve students and meet the goals of the academy. All other purchases will be subject to ACA §6-21-301 et seq.

FVA is aware the Arkansas Charter Authorizing Panel and State Board of Education do not have the ability to waive any bidding requirements in place from other state agencies.

If the waiver is continued, will the service be provided in an alternate way?

Waiver #17	Statute/Standard/Rule	Rescind or Continue Waiver
Report Cards	Ark. Code Ann. §6-15-903(a)(2) Requiring report cards to be mailed, given to a parent at a conference, or sent home with the student	 □ Rescind ⊠ Continue Waiver
Explain how the above waiver has enhanced student learning opportunities, promoted innovation or increased equitable access to effective teachers.		
FVA parents/guardians and learning coaches are provided a parent observer account that allows them to review their child's grades, online activity, assignment submissions, assessments, and teacher feedback in real time.		
If the waiver is continued, will the service be provided in an alternate way?		
Yes, grades are provided to parents on a semester-basis. Parents can view their child's current progress daily.		

Waiver #18	Statute/Standard/Rule	Rescind or Continue Waiver		
Curriculum	ADE Standards 9.03.4.12 & 9.03.3.12	⊠ Rescind		
		Continue Waiver		
Explain how the above waiver has enhanced student learning opportunities, promoted innovation or increased equitable access to effective teachers.				
FVA seeks to rescind the waiver since standards have been repealed.				
If the waiver is continued, will the service be provided in an alternate way?				

Waiver #19	Statute/Standard/Rule	Rescind or Continue Waiver
Credit for College Courses	Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-223 Credit for college courses	 Rescind Continue Waiver

FVA seeks the continuance of the A.C.A. § 6-18-223 Credit for College Course waiver to enable qualified students below 9th grade to take and receive concurrent credit for college courses. This waiver will provide students the opportunity to reach academic learning goals included in their personalized learning plans.

FVA will defer to the Arkansas Division of Higher Education rules and guidelines related to participation in concurrent credit programs and those rules can not be waived by the Arkansas Charter Authorizing Panel or the Arkansas State Board of Education.

If the waiver is continued, will the service be provided in an alternate way?

Provide information on new waivers that are being requested.

Waiver Topic	Statutes/Standards/Rules	Rationale
Body Mass Index	DESE Rules Governing Nutrition and Physical Activity Standards and Body Mass Index for Age Assessment Protocols 12.01 Screening Process for BMI Assessment	FVA students will not be physically present at the school campus routinely to BMI screening exams. The waiver supports the flexibility needed by the virtual academy to meet the goals.

Section 7: Amendment Requests

List any amendment requests and provide a rationale for each (i.e., changes to grade levels, enrollment cap, location, addition of campus)

	Торіс	Rationale
1	Enrollment Cap	During the summer of 2020, Fayetteville Virtual Academy received approval from the Charter Authorizing Panel and the Arkansas School Board of Education to increase the enrollment cap due to the unknown effects resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Based on current information and enrollment, the Fayetteville Public School District is requesting a reduced enrollment cap of 2,500 students for Fayetteville Virtual Academy.
2		
3		
4		
5		

Section 8: Desegregation Analysis

*Required for Amendment Requests Only

Describe the impact, both current and potential, of the public charter school on the efforts of affected public school district(s) to comply with court orders and statutory obligations to create and maintain a unitary system of desegregated public schools.

Fayetteville Public Schools will continue to operate in compliance with all applicable Arkansas laws and operate in a manner that maintains a desegregated school district and does not impede any district's ability to maintain a desegregated school district. Fayetteville Public Schools is not under any court orders concerning the desegregation of schools.