

Pine Bluff Lighthouse Charter School

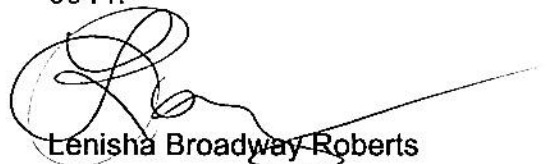
March 12, 2019

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

Dear Commissioner Key,

The Pine Bluff Lighthouse Charter School District is requesting a waiver on Standard 4- E.2 for District Student/Guidance Counselor Ratio for the remainder of the 2018-2019 school year. The school will offer a comprehensive guidance program but request the waiver for flexibility on hiring a certified guidance counselor. The school will contract with a counseling agency to provide the support required for implementation of the required program and with a large focus through daily interventions on the social and emotional learning. The school will employ a Culture Coordinator that will work closely with the counseling agency to ensure that all aspects of the SEL and Guidance requirements are met. PBLCS will implement intervention strategies that cultivate a positive culture and climate among students and provide services to families. We would also incorporate our restorative approach to not only students but with families and staff to build community. Finally, we have spoken with Ms. Virginia Perry from the Office of Charter Schools, who after researching our waivers, recognized that we did have a waiver for the statute for Service Act but it did not specify the specific standard that was cited for Guidance Counselor Ratio. She also stated that we would need to request for this specific waiver in order to be fully in compliance with the new standards.

Before the 2019-2020 school year begins we will rectify this issue by submitting a waiver request to the CAP. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. Please feel free to contact my office if further explanation is required or needed at 501-454-0044.



Lenisha Broadway Roberts
Superintendent

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