

Unit Represented	Question from application being addressed (Provide question #)	Comments	Remaining Questions
Public School Accountability	#1	There was no one in attendance for the informational meeting	Have additional meetings been scheduled in order to gauge interest in a potential charter?
School Performance	#2	They are looking at achievement in a very NCLB manner. Also, they only have to participate in iReady K-2, not K-12	
GT & AP	#6	Note that an AP offering in each of four core areas of ELA, math, science and social studies is required	
GT & AP	#6	pg 13- rigor includes a reference to offering Pre-AP curriculum to students in 6th - 8th grade. Please be aware of all changes to Pre-AP from the College Board (CB Pre-AP Site) and the Arkansas State Supported Pre-AP Program (Commissioner's Memo , Webpage)	
School Performance	#6	I am very confused by their math curriculum statement. The curriculum they named are state assessments.	
School Performance	#7	They should have similar goals for mathematics 3-8, Algebra I, Geometry, and beyond.	Are they aware that they can choose one of the 4 assessments at the K-2 level?
Curriculum	#8	They state they are requesting a waiver initially as they will not offer grades 9-12 initially, but no timeline for offerings is provided.	What is the timeline for fully providing the Required 38? How many years is a waiver being requested for?
Public School Accountability	#8	It isn't clear that the school would offer an AP class in each of the core content areas.	Please outline which AP courses would be offered in ELA, math, social studies, and science.
GT & AP	#8	Note that an AP offering in each of four core areas of ELA, math, science and social studies is required	
Curriculum	#9	Curriculum programs are not identified	What specific high-quality curriculum programs will be used for math, ELA , and science?
Curriculum	#10a	Wonders K-2 is not an approved program. Wonders K-2 (2023) is currently under review, but all prior publications of Wonders are NOT approved. Wonderworks is not an approved intervention program.	Which version of Wonders is being referenced? If Wonders (2023) is not approved, what program will be used in its stead?
Curriculum	#10b	Clear plan for ensuring teachers have completed a pathway is not outlined. See approved pathways - https://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/Offices/learning-services/rise-arkansas/prescribed-pathway-credentials	What is the expectation regarding the pathway for training in the Science of Reading that would lead to proficiency?
School Counseling	#11	I am glad to see that you will be following the ASCA model. However, I do not see anything mentioned about Act 190, which is the law that governs the implementation of a comprehensive school counseling program. The law is based off of the ASCA National Model but varies on the use-of-time and has a few different components that are Arkansas specific. I would like to see a statement of assurance that law will be followed.	
Library Media	#12	The intent to eventually hire a school library media is welcome but there is concern about training the teachers to teach the library media standards which will be done by the school administration at the beginning of the school year. The application indicates that the school administration will participate in state trainings for school librarians and join the Arkansas Association of Instructional Media. This is a laudable effort but doesn't equal the master's degree in school librarianship that a school librarian must have.	
Special Education	13a.	The application states that a request for a formal evaluation will be made by the Problem Solving Team as part of the RTI process.	How will they ensure that IDEA is followed and that parents understand their right to request a psycho-educational evaluation at any time?
Special Education	13a	The application states that the PST will refer a student for a formal evaluation after they determine that the student is not making sufficient progress on Tier III interventions.	OSEP has said that RTI cannot be used to delay a referral for a Special Education evaluation.
Special Education	13a	The application states that vision/hearing must be resolved before an evaluation is conducted.	OSEP has said that said that while every attempt should be made to correct any vision/hearing loss, it shouldn't delay the evaluation.

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Special Education	#13a	Much of the information in the answer provided goes beyond the scope of the question. The components of an IEP and 504 requirements are not part of child find.	
Special Education	#13a & c	The application states the district will follow the Special Education Process Guide. This guide outlines how to complete some of the requirements of the IDEA and AR Rules.	How will the district ensure all the rules are followed not just guidance from our office?
Special Education	#13b	The applicant did not identify all of the LRE continuum of placement options.	Verify that the full LRE continuum of placement will be available.
Special Education	13 c	The description includes information for 504. 504 is not considered special education.	
Special Education	13 d	The application states the district will use contract providers for related services.	Who will the district contract with. How will the district ensure Medicaid match is met?
Dyslexia	#14	Districts will need to have an approved K-12 Dyslexia Intervention program. See approved programs - https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/e/2PACX-1vRPOaeNyeml2owVwZYfos1eT-TAmFBDq5C-t_sr2GDcPQdDsBOGk9cx92Rkk1qfGkouyWS0yto02iv5pUbhtml?gid=0&single=true	
English Learners	#15a	Application states: The school does need to ask permission or approval to place a student as an EL, nor does the school need to obtain permission to begin services. This should be edited to read "The school does NOT need to ask permission..." Application states: Parents/guardians...may request their child return to EL services at any time. In Arkansas, students are returned to services only if the exit criteria is met - this is monitored for 4 years. See the Arkansas Entrance/Exit Procedures Manual for description of this process.	
English Learners	#15b	While the explanation describes how students will be provided full access to core content classes, it does not satisfactorily describe how students will receive explicit English language instruction.	
English Learners	#15c	Application does not address written communication.	
GT & AP	#16	This response states a waiver is requested for GT, but waivers for this area are not included in the waiver listing. Acceleration can be a great option for meeting academic needs of gifted students. The description in the application sounds as if students who are identified as in need of accelerated coursework will still be required to complete the typical grade level coursework and then given "additional time built into each class to complete accelerated work." It would be more appropriate to have students complete work at their appropriate learning level in place of rather than in addition to other work. Ensure that Pre-AP courses offered are in accordance with requirements for Pre-AP from College Board . Also, be aware of the opportunity to participate in the Arkansas State-Supported Pre-AP Program (Commissioner's Memo, website).	Keeping in mind the feature from question 6 regarding Rigor, Relevance, and Relationships, if a student has already mastered the content, how does having them complete that work when they've already proven mastery fit into the ideas of rigor and relevance for that student? Will there be someone who will oversee the services for students to help ensure all students in need of these services receive them and that the services provided continue to meet the needs of those students?

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GT & AP	#16	<p>This response states a waiver is requested for GT, but waivers for this area are not included in the waiver listing.</p> <p>Acceleration can be a great option for meeting academic needs of gifted students. The description in the application sounds as if students who are identified as in need of accelerated coursework will still be required to complete the typical grade level coursework and then given "additional time built into each class to complete accelerated work." It would be more appropriate to have students complete work at their appropriate learning level in place of rather than in addition to other work.</p> <p>Ensure that Pre-AP courses offered are in accordance with requirements for Pre-AP from College Board. Also, be aware of the opportunity to participate in the Arkansas State-Supported Pre-AP Program (Commissioner's Memo, website).</p>	<p>Keeping in mind the feature from question 6 regarding Rigor, Relevance, and Relationships, if a student has already mastered the content, how does having them complete that work when they've already proven mastery fit into the ideas of rigor and relevance for that student?</p> <p>Will there be someone who will oversee the services for students to help ensure all students in need of these services receive them and that the services provided continue to meet the needs of those students?</p>
ALE Office	#17	No Issues	
Licensure	#21	the explanation given does not reflect an understanding of AQT. AQT is not a certification. The core area teachers must be AQT before hiring not working towards licensure. Being in an educator preparation program does not make you AQT. I will be glad to provide training.	
Public School Accountability	#21/22	School is asking for a waiver of both licensure and class-size/teaching load	Is there a limit to the number of students that would be allowed should the class size/teaching load be waived? How will the school support unlicensed individuals in serving larger classes while developing as teachers?
Child Nutrition	#23	Charter indicates they will provide meals through the NSLP and acknowledge the agreement and policy statement. In Arkansas, FSMCs are registered with the Department of Education rather than the Department of Agriculture. Those registered are available on the DESE CNU website. Charter also acknowledges the free and reduced eligibility process and the basis for eligibility. Arkansas does not have TANF like some other states have. Claims are due on the 10th day of the proceeding month. DESE, CNU follows the 30, 60, 90 day guidance for claims payments.	Assure that DESE, CNU has contact information for this charter.
Public School Accountability	#28	The filling of vacant seats needs more detail regarding time limits for a response	
School Nurse	Waiver #5	A medical assistant is a delegated lay person and cannot perform the same medical tasks a LPN would be able to provide. The school may be limited with ensuring necessary nursing services are available if employing a MA, based on specific student needs. A MA would not be able to follow through with a typical Individual Health Plan. Recommend employing a LPN. FTE is not provided for the planned LPN. This should be included. Arkansas law requires a LPN perform all duties under the supervision of an Arkansas licensed registered nurse. This plan is not sufficient to ensure applicable nursing guidelines would be followed in the event a student requires medical care while at school.	
GT & AP	Waivers	The application states in #16 that waivers are being requested for GT, but there are no GT waivers included.	<p>The application states in #16 that waivers are being requested for GT, but there are no GT waivers included.</p> <p>If the school intends to operate with waivers, then they must be added.</p>

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Finance	#16	The application states a waiver will be sought for inclusion of a gifted and talented program. The charter school needs to have a waiver in place or include on the budget required GT spending, which is 15% foundation funding X 5% of ADM.		
Finance	#32	The application states the Pinecrest Charter School will provide transportation services. These estimated expenses need to be included on the budget.		
Finance	#23 a and b	The application explains the school plans to hire a child nutrition director and offer food services to the students. The child nutrition director salary and the food services need to be included in the budget.		