

June 26, 2020

Johnny Key, Commissioner of the Arkansas Department of Education
Division of Elementary and Secondary Education
Four Capitol Mall, Room 304-A
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Secretary Key,

Thank you for your ongoing support of public schools during the closing of schools for on-site instruction. The support of the Arkansas Division of Elementary and Secondary Education has provided Fayetteville Public Schools with flexibility during this unprecedented time. The waivers, timely communication, and extension of AMI days allowed schools to continue serving students.

Recently, we assembled a Ready for Learning Committee to assess the needs of parents, staff, and students. One of the questions that continues to arise is around virtual learning. In 2016, Fayetteville Public Schools opened the first district conversion charter online school in the state. Fayetteville Virtual Academy has a 100% graduation rate and earned an 'A' rating from the Arkansas Department of Education in 2018. The school is recognized as the highest performing virtual school in the state. The charter allows our district to enroll students in grades 4-12.

Bentonville Public Schools and Springdale Public Schools recently extended their virtual school enrollment to k-12 students. In order to offer the same opportunity to Fayetteville Public Schools families, I am writing to request permission to speak before the Charter School Authorizing Panel in July. The panel requires a 35 day notification in advance to appear before the panel. We would like to extend enrollment in Fayetteville Virtual Academy to K-12 students, in order to prepare for the reopening of schools and to meet the requests of our Ready for Learning Committee. Please consider this request to allow Fayetteville Public Schools to speak before the Charter School Authorizing Panel on July 14.

Respectfully Submitted,

John L Colbert, Ed.D.
Superintendent



Division of Elementary and Secondary Education

Transforming Arkansas to lead the nation in student-focused education

Johnny Key
Secretary

July 1, 2020

Dr. John Colbert, Superintendent
Sent via e-mail

**State Board
of Education**

RE: Charter Amendment Request

Charisse Dean
Little Rock
Chair

Dear Dr. Colbert:

R. Brett Williamson
El Dorado
Vice Chair

I received your letter requesting a waiver of Section 4.02.5 of the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Rules Governing Public Charter Schools. You requested this waiver so that the Charter Authorizing Panel may hear your school's request for an amendment of its charter during the Charter Authorizing Panel's July meeting.

Susan Chambers
Bella Vista

Dr. Fitz Hill
Little Rock

Pursuant to my authority under Section 4.02.6 of the above rules, I grant a waiver of Section 4.02.5.

Kathy McFetridge
Springdale

Dr. Sarah Moore
Stuttgart

Sincerely,

Ouida Newton
Poyen

Steve Sutton
Marion

Johnny Key
Secretary of Education

Adrienne Woods
Rogers

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