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6/15/20

Secretary of Education
Johnny Key
Arkansas Department of Education
Four Capitol Mall, Room 304-A
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Secretary Key,

As the Head of Schools of Arkansas Virtual Academy, I am requesting a charter amendment to increase the enrollment cap of ARVA, currently 3,000, to extend to 3,500 students in the wake of COVID-19 and its devastating affects on schools and families.

Arkansas Virtual Academy has served as a trusted virtual offering in the state since 2003 and is currently experiencing increased enrollments due, in part, to the pandemic. With this in mind, and with the clear legacy of experience in offering virtual instruction, we feel it is important for Arkansas students to receive their education and instruction virtually when deemed applicable and appropriate. Many families are fearful about their return to school and this increase would ensure that each student who would seek ARVA as a comforting and safe option would have the ability to do so.

Additionally, I will be sharing with the members of the Charter Authorizing Panel some initial growth and satisfaction data that we feel is representative of the clear direction and focus to which ARVA has committed for the improved outcomes of their students and the direction with which we will serve an increased population.

I will be submitting the request along with other supporting documents requested within the week to the Charter Office. We respectfully request that you please waive 4.02.03 and 4.02.5 of the ADE Rules Governing Charter Schools, so that this request can be heard at the July 14th Charter Authorizing Panel Meeting. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. Please feel free to contact me if further explanation is required or needed on my cell at 870-504-2081.

Sincerely,

Amy Johnson
Head of School
Arkansas Virtual Academy
amjohnson@arva.org
870-504-2081 cell



Division of Elementary and Secondary Education

Transforming Arkansas to lead the nation in student-focused education

Johnny Key
Secretary

June 17, 2020

Amy Johnson, Superintendent
Sent via e-mail

**State Board
of Education**

RE: Charter Amendment Request

Diane Zook
Melbourne
Chair

Dear Ms. Johnson:

Charisse Dean
Little Rock
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

R. Brett Williamson
El Dorado

Johnny Key
Secretary of Education

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