

Hope Academy of Northwest Arkansas
Application Responses

1. Please describe board members responsibilities.

The Hope Academy Board of Directors will be comprised of the following members:

Chair

Vice-Chair

Treasurer

Secretary

At-Large Member

The Northwest Arkansas Children's Shelter is the sponsoring entity for the Hope Academy Board and will approve a written job description for each Hope Academy Board Officer. The Northwest Arkansas Children's Shelter (NWACS) Board of Directors will choose the Chair of the Hope Academy Board of Directors. Once the Hope Academy Board Chair is selected, that person will work with the Northwest Arkansas Children's Shelter Board (sponsoring entity) to select the other members of the Hope Academy Board of Directors, with several members recruited from the NWACS Board of Directors and other members sourced from the local community. Board Member terms are not to exceed three years. All Hope Academy Board Members will receive training through the Arkansas Public School Resource Center.

2. Please clarify who has ultimate decision-making authority over the charter.

The Hope Academy Board of Directors will submit an annual budget for approval to the Northwest Arkansas Children's Shelter Finance Committee. Upon approval, the annual budget will be presented and ratified by the full Northwest Arkansas Children's Shelter Board of Directors. The Hope Academy Board of Directors will assume responsibility for managing all aspects of the annual school budget and operation of the school

3. Please provide a plan for K-4 Health and Safety

K-4 Health and Safety will be embedded in Physical Education curriculum and social/emotional curriculum

4. Please verify whether a waiver for Guidance Counseling will be requested and very the student ratio waiver is requested.

Hope Academy is requesting a waiver for Guidance Counseling. Our organization has counseling services in place and will be moving an existing member of staff over to the position of Student and Family Case Manager. This staff member has a Master's Degree in social Work and is experienced with case management in educational settings. This staff member will act as school counselor under waiver granted by §6-15-103(c). This individual will be charged with carrying out a written plan for a comprehensive school counseling program that will include all components mandated by Act 190 of 2019.

Legal Comments

1. School Board

The Applicant wishes to amend its request for a waiver of Ark. Code Ann. §6-13-619 to a waiver of §6-13-619 (c-d) only. The rationale supporting this request is that we may have board members who either do not live in the local area, and/or have to frequently travel for their jobs, and may have to attend meetings virtually more frequently than a policy created pursuant to §6-13-619 would permit.

The Board of Directors for the sponsoring entity, The Northwest Arkansas Children's Shelter, will approve a written job description for each officer. Hope Academy Board member terms are not to exceed three years. All Hope Academy board members will receive training through the Arkansas Public School Resource Center. A board chair will be selected by the Northwest Arkansas Children's Shelter Board of Directors. The Northwest Arkansas Children's Shelter (NWACS) Board of Directors will choose the Chair of the Hope Academy Board of Directors. Once the Hope Academy Board Chair is selected, that person will work with the Northwest Arkansas Children's Shelter Board (sponsoring entity) to select the other members of the Hope Academy Board of Directors, with several members recruited from the NWACS Board of Directors and other members sourced from the local community.

2. School Nurses and Counselors

Applicant wishes to retitle its request for a waiver of Section 4. of Act 190 of 2019 to a waiver of Ark. Code Ann. §6-18-2001 et seq.

Hope Academy is requesting a waiver for Guidance Counseling. Our organization has counseling services in place and will be moving an existing member of staff over to the position of Student and Family Case Manager. This staff member has a Master's Degree in Social Work and is experienced with case management in educational settings. This staff member will act as school counselor under waiver granted by §6-15-103(c). This individual will be charged with carrying out a written plan for a comprehensive school counseling program that will include all components mandated by Act 190 of 2019.

Hope Academy confirms it will provide nursing services to children through a contract with a third party medical provider. Nurses will be staffed on needs of individual students with health plans, 504s, and IEP's. Applicant confirms knowledge that nothing in Section 504 or IDEA can be waived.

3. Student Policies

Applicant wishes to amend its waiver request to rescind waivers of Ark. Code Ann. §§6-18-501 and 6-18-507-516.

4. General Legal Comments

Applicant wishes to maintain its request for waivers of Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-17-908 and 6-17-919. Applicant wishes to amend its request for a waiver of the entire ADE Rules Governing Educator Licensure to a waiver of only Section 7. of said Rules. Applicant hereby confirms that it is aware that special education licensure cannot be waived, and it is not requesting a waiver of said licensure.