



# ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

## AGENDA CHARTER AUTHORIZING PANEL

January 15, 2014

Arkansas Department of Education

Auditorium State Education Building

1:00 PM

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### Reports

#### Report-1 Chair's Report

*Presenter: Dr. Tom Kimbrell*

#### Report-2 Update on the Current Charter Application Cycles

*This information is provided to keep the Charter Authorizing Panel apprised of the Department's work with charter applicants.*

*Presenter: Mary Perry*

### Consent Agenda

#### C-1 Minutes – November 13, 2013; November 14, 2013; November 21, 2013; and December 5, 2013

*Presenter: Mary Perry*

#### C-2 Revisions to the 2013-2014 Charter Authorizing Panel Meeting Dates

*The State Board of Education will meet February 13-14, 2014; therefore, the February 12 Charter Authorizing Panel meeting must be changed so that decisions made by the panel can be sent to existing charters, charter applicants, and the State Board of Education at least 14 days prior to the next meeting of the board, as required by Ark. Code Ann. § 6-23-702(b)(1). A March meeting date is also proposed.*

*Presenter: Mary Perry*

### Action Agenda

#### A-1 Request for Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Amendments: KIPP Delta Public Schools

*The State Board of Education approved the application for KIPP Delta Public Schools on March 11, 2002. The charter is approved to serve students in grades K-12 with a current maximum enrollment of 1,550, which will increase to 1,910 in the 2014-2015 school year. Representatives of KIPP Delta Public Schools are appearing before the Charter Authorizing Panel to request amendments to the current charter.*

*Presenter: Mary Perry*

**A-2 Request for Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Amendments: LISA Academy and LISA Academy-North Little Rock**

*The State Board of Education approved the application for LISA Academy on January 12, 2004. The charter was first renewed on April 9, 2007, for a five-year period, and renewed again for a five-year period on April 10, 2012. LISA Academy is currently approved to serve a maximum enrollment of 800 students in grades 6-12. LISA-North Little Rock, operated by the same sponsoring entity and board as LISA Academy-North Little Rock, was approved by the State Board of Education on November 5, 2007, and was renewed for a five-year period on March 14, 2013. LISA Academy-North Little Rock is currently approved to serve a maximum enrollment of 700 students in grades K-12.*

*Representatives of LISA Academy and LISA Academy-North Little Rock are appearing before the Charter Authorizing Panel to request amendments to request approval to merge LISA Academy-North Little Rock with LISA Academy and the approval of additional waivers. Approval of the merger would result in the following, effective July 1, 2014: the charter for LISA Academy-North Little Rock would be surrendered; LISA Academy would be approved to serve students in grades K-12; the LISA Academy enrollment cap would increase from 800 to 1,500; and any waivers of laws and rules previously approved for LISA Academy-North Little Rock would be included as approved waivers for LISA Academy. LISA Academy would include the following: the current LISA Academy Middle School on Corporate Drive in Little Rock; the current LISA Academy High School on Corporate Drive in Little Rock; the current LISA Academy-North Little Rock Elementary School on Landers Road in Sherwood; the current LISA Academy-North Little Rock Middle School on Landers Road in Sherwood; and the current LISA Academy- North Little Rock High School on Landers Road in Sherwood.*

**Presenter:** Mary Perry

**A-3 Request for District Conversion Charter School Amendments: Cross County Elementary Technology Academy**

*The State Board of Education approved the application for Cross County Elementary Technology Academy on January 9, 2012. The charter is approved to serve students in grades K-6 with a maximum enrollment of 500. Representatives of Cross County Elementary are appearing before the Charter Authorizing Panel to request amendments to the current charter.*

**Presenter:** Mary Perry

**A-4 Request for District Conversion Charter School Amendments: Cross County High School, A New Tech School**

*The State Board of Education approved the application for Cross County High School, A New Tech School on January 14, 2011. The charter is approved to serve students in grades 7-12 with a maximum enrollment of 500. Representatives of Cross County High School are appearing before the Charter Authorizing Panel to request amendments to the current charter.*

**Presenter:** Mary Perry

**A-5 Request for District Conversion Charter School Amendments: Eastside New Vision Charter School (Warren)**

*The State Board of Education approved the application Eastside New Vision Charter School on January 9, 2012. The charter is approved to serve students in grades K-3 with a maximum enrollment of 510. Representatives of Eastside New Vision Charter School are appearing before the Charter Authorizing Panel to request an amendment to the current charter.*

**Presenter:** Mary Perry

**Minutes  
Charter Authorizing Panel  
Wednesday, November 13, 2013**

The Charter Authorizing Panel met on Wednesday, November 13, 2013, in the auditorium of the Department of Education building. Commissioner of Education Dr. Tom Kimbrell, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Present: Dr. Tom Kimbrell, Chair; Dr. Megan Witonski, Vice Chair; Jim Boardman; Deborah Coffman; Mike Hernandez; John Hoy, and Dr. Karen Walters

Absent: None

The transcription of this meeting may be accessed on the Arkansas Department of Education website at the following:

<http://www.arkansased.org/about-ade/charter-authorizing-panel/minutes/archive/2013>.

**Reports**

**Chair's Report**

Dr. Kimbrell had no report.

**Update on the Current Charter Application Cycles**

Mary Perry reported that four applications for district conversion charter schools were received by the October 31, 2013 deadline, and the hearings for district conversion applicants will be held at the meeting of the Charter Authorizing Panel in January 2014.

**Consent Agenda**

Dr. Kimbrell stated that the two items on the consent agenda were the minutes from the panel meeting on August 21 and the annual reports for Academics Plus Charter School, the Arkansas Virtual Academy, and Benton County School of the Arts. He asked if panel members had any questions, and Mr. Hoy stated that the minutes did not reflect the official title of the accountability division which is Public School Accountability. Mary Perry, Coordinator for the Charter and Home Schools Office, said the correction would be made to the minutes.

Mr. Hernandez moved, seconded by Dr. Walters, to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

**Action Agenda**

**A-1 Request for Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Amendment: Arkansas Virtual Academy (ARVA)**

Scott Sides explained the ARVA amendment requests to waive Ark. Code Ann. § 6-13-619(a)(1)(A), requiring monthly board meetings; and § 6-13-619(c)(1)(A), requiring a board member to be physically present at a meeting to be counted for purposes of a quorum or to vote and answered questions from panel members.

Mr. Hoy moved, seconded by Dr. Walters, to approve the amendment request. The motion carried unanimously.

## **A-2 Request for Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Amendments: KIPP Delta Public Schools**

Scott Shirey discussed the KIPP Delta requests to expand the grade levels served and the enrollment cap in Blytheville, and the requests to waive Ark. Code Ann. § 6-13-619(c)(1)(A), requiring a board member to be physically present at a meeting to be counted for purposes of a quorum or to vote, and § 6-15-902(c)(2), requiring quality points for Advanced Placement courses be contingent upon teacher AP training documentation. He then answered questions from panel members. In response to questions and comments from panel members and Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) attorney Kendra Clay, Mr. Shirey also requested waivers of Section 4 of the ADE Rules for Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Diploma Incentive Program and Section 4.03(c)(i) of the ADE Rules Governing Uniform Grading Scales for Public Secondary Schools and for Optional Use in Public Elementary Schools. Mr. Hernandez moved, seconded by Dr. Witonski, to approve the amendment requests to expand the grade levels served in Blytheville from 4- 8 to 4-12 and to increase the enrollment cap from 450 to 810 in Blytheville. The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Dr. Witonski, seconded by Mr. Hoy, and approved unanimously to waive Ark. Code Ann. § 6-13-619(c)(1)(A),

It was moved by Mr. Boardman, seconded by Mr. Hernandez, and carried by a 5-1 vote to waive Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-902(c)(2), Section 4 of the ADE Rules for Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Diploma Incentive Program, and Section 4.03(c)(i) of the ADE Rules Governing Uniform Grading Scales for Public Secondary Schools and for Optional Use in Public Elementary Schools. Dr. Walters voted against the motion, stating that without information from the College Board, she was not comfortable voting to approve the waivers.

## **A-3 Request for Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Amendments: Northwest Arkansas Classical Academy**

Dr. Mary Ann Duncan explained the waivers requested for Northwest Arkansas Classical Academy. Dr. Duncan and other representatives of the charter answered questions from panel members.

It was moved by Dr. Walters, seconded by Mr. Boardman, and approved unanimously to waive ADE Rules Governing School Board Zones and Rezoning and ADE Rules Governing School Election Expense Reimbursement

It was moved by Dr. Witonski, seconded by Ms. Coffman, and approved unanimously to waive 15.02 of the ADE Rules Governing Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and Districts and ADE Rules Governing Educator Licensure.

It was moved by Dr. Witonski, seconded by Mr. Hernandez and approved unanimously to waive Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-17-111, 6-17-201, 6-17-1001 and 6-17-1201 et. seq.

It was moved by Mr. Hernandez, seconded by Dr. Witonski, and approved in a 4-2 roll-call vote to waive Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-211. Dr. Walters and Mr. Boardman voted against the motion stating that they did not see the need for the waiver.

It was moved by Mr. Hoy, seconded by Dr. Witonski, and approved in a 6-0 roll-call vote to deny a waiver of Ark. Code Ann. § 6-16-1204. Ms. Coffman voted in favor of the motion and stated the request was too vague; Mr. Boardman voted in favor of the motion and stated clarification is needed; Dr. Witonski voted in favor of the

motion and said the scope of the waiver request needed to be narrowed; Mr. Hernandez voted in favor of the motion and said clarification is needed; Dr. Walters and Mr. Hoy voted in favor of the motion and said that their reasons had been stated by others.

It was moved by Dr. Walters, seconded by Mr. Boardman, and approved unanimously to waive Ark. Code Ann. § 6-21-303.

It was moved by Dr. Witonski, seconded by Dr. Walters, and approved in a 6-0 roll-call vote to deny a waiver of Section 9 of the Standards for Accreditation. Mr. Hoy voted in favor of the motion and stated that all of the curriculum section should not be waived; Dr. Walters voted in favor of the motion and stated the request was too broad; Mr. Hernandez voted in favor of the motion because the request was too broad; Dr. Witonski voted in favor of the motion and said she looks forward to hearing requests for waivers of the specific parts of that section of rules; Mr. Boardman and Ms. Coffman voted in favor of the motion for the same reasons.

It was moved by Ms. Coffman, seconded by Mr. Hoy, and approved in a 6-0 roll-call vote to deny a waiver of 9.03.4 of the Standards for Accreditation. Ms. Coffman voted in favor of the motion and said she would like the charter leaders to return with a plan of how the 38 units will be offered for the student to obtain the required 22 units; Mr. Boardman voted in favor of the motion and said that he would like to see a plan; Dr. Witonski, Mr. Hernandez, and Dr. Walters voted in favor of the motion for the same reasons; and Mr. Hoy voted in favor of the motion stating a phase-in plan is needed.

It was moved by Dr. Walters, seconded by Mr. Hernandez, and approved unanimously to waive 19.04 of the Standards for Accreditation.

It was moved by Dr. Walters, seconded by Mr. Boardman, and approved unanimously to waive Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-25-101 et. seq., 6-18-706 and Section 16 in the Standards for Accreditation with the requirement that expenditure reports for health services and counseling be submitted to the ADE in September 2015.

It was moved by Dr. Witonski, seconded by Mr. Boardman, and approved in a 5-1 roll-call vote to deny a waiver of Ark. Code Ann. § 6-11-129. Mr. Hoy voted in favor of the motion and stated it was an issue of transparency; Dr. Walters voted in favor of the motion and stated the documents are on the website for transparency; Dr. Witonski voted in favor of the motion for transparency; Mr. Boardman voted in favor of the motion for the same reasons; Ms. Coffman voted in favor of the motion and stated it was because transparency for taxpayers is necessary and so that information can assist others in better educating children. Mr. Hernandez voted against the motion because the same waiver was previously approved for another charter.

It was moved by Dr. Walters, seconded by Ms. Coffman, and approved unanimously to waive Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-201 et. seq.

It was moved by Mr. Hernandez, seconded by Dr. Witonski, and approved in a 6-0 roll-call vote to deny a waiver of Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-2802. Ms. Coffman voted in favor of the motion and stated there is a process in place to request an alternative model to the Teacher Excellence and Support System; Mr. Boardman voted in favor of the motion and stated the panel would look at an alternative; Dr. Witonski voted in favor of the motion and said she would

like to see the alternative model; Mr. Hernandez, Dr. Walters, and Mr. Hoy voted in favor of the motion and each stated the same reasons.

It was moved by Mr. Hernandez, seconded by Ms. Coffman, and approved in a 6-0 roll-call vote to deny a waiver of Ark. Code Ann. § 6-21-304. Mr. Hoy voted in favor of the motion and said transparency, over flexibility in the bidding process, is needed; Dr. Walters voted for the motion and stated she did not hear any reason how the waiver of the bidding process would be pertinent to daily operations or to student learning; Mr. Hernandez voted in favor of the motion and said the charter needs to follow current procurement policies; Dr. Witonski, Mr. Boardman, and Ms. Coffman voted in favor of the motion for the same reasons.

It was moved by Dr. Walters, seconded by Mr. Hernandez, and approved unanimously to waive Section 21 in the Standards of Accreditation.

ADE staff attorney Kendra Clay explained that waivers of other rules were needed to effectuate some of the waivers that were granted. Charter representatives stated that they would like to request these additional waivers. It was moved by Dr. Walters, seconded by Mr. Hernandez, and approved unanimously to waive Sections 4-8 of ADE Rules Governing Personnel Policies, Salary Schedules, and Documents Posted to District Websites.

#### **A-4 Request for Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Amendments: Premier High School of Little Rock**

Dr. Mary Ann Duncan requested permission to rescind the waiver requests for Premier High School of Little Rock that were denied by the panel for Northwest Arkansas Classical Academy.

It was moved by Dr. Witonski, seconded by Mr. Boardman, and approved unanimously to allow Premier High School of Little Rock to rescind the waiver requests that the panel denied for Northwest Arkansas Classical Academy.

It was moved by Mr. Boardman, seconded by Dr. Witonski, and approved unanimously to waive 10.02 in the Standards of Accreditation.

It was moved by Dr. Walters, seconded by Dr. Witonski, and approved unanimously to waive the laws and rules just waived for Northwest Arkansas Classical Academy, with the same stipulations placed on some of the waivers.

#### **A-5 Request for Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Amendments: Quest Middle School of Pine Bluff**

Dr. Mary Ann Duncan requested permission to rescind the waiver requests for Quest Middle School of Pine Bluff that were denied by the panel for Northwest Arkansas Classical Academy.

It was moved by Dr. Witonski, seconded by Mr. Hernandez, and approved unanimously to allow Quest Middle School of Pine Bluff to rescind the waiver requests that the panel denied for Northwest Arkansas Classical Academy.

It was moved by Ms. Coffman, seconded by Mr. Boardman, and approved unanimously to waive Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-902(a) with the stipulation that the charter follow a more rigorous grading scale than the one provided by state statute.

It was moved by Mr. Hernandez, seconded by Mr. Hoy, and approved unanimously to waive Ark. Code Ann. § 6-16-102 with the stipulation that the waiver is approved only for students in grades 9-12.

It was moved by Mr. Hernandez, seconded by Mr. Boardman, and approved unanimously to waive Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-21 and the rules associated with the statute.

It was moved by Dr. Witonski, seconded by Dr. Hoy, and approved unanimously to waive the laws and rules waived earlier in the meeting for Northwest Arkansas Classical Academy and Premier High School of Little Rock.

#### **A-6 Request for Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Amendments Arkansas School for Integrated Academics and Technologies (SIATech)**

Ms. Katie Tatum explained the SIATech relocation request.

It was moved by Dr. Walters, seconded by Mr. Hernandez, and carried by unanimous vote to approve the relocation of SIATech to the address on the lease as previously approved by the Commissioner.

#### **A-7 Request for District Conversion Public Charter School Amendments: Washington Academy in the Texarkana School District**

Mr. Terry Taylor explained the request for waivers of licensure laws and rules.

Mary Perry stated that the charter also needs a waiver of the portion of 15.03 in the Standards of Accreditation dealing with teacher licensure, and Mr. Taylor requested the waiver.

It was moved by Dr. Witonski, seconded by Dr. Walters, and approved unanimously to waive Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-5-1004, 6-17-309, 6-17-401, 6-17-902, 6-17-919, 15.03 in the Standards of Accreditation, and the ADE Rules Governing Educator Licensure as they deal with teacher licensure.

#### **A-8 Hearing of Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Application: Capitol City Lighthouse Charter School, North Little Rock, Arkansas**

Mary Perry discussed the open-enrollment charter application process.

Ms. Lenisha Broadway provided an overview of the proposed charter school.

Representatives of the North Little Rock School District and Little Rock School District spoke in opposition to the charter.

Dr. Phillis Nichols Anderson, vice-president for Lighthouse Academies, responded to the opposition.

A question and answer period followed.

It was moved by Dr. Walters, seconded by Mr. Hernandez, and carried 5-1 in a roll-call vote to deny the open-enrollment charter application for Capitol City Lighthouse Charter School. Mr. Hoy voted against the motion; Dr. Waters voted in favor of the motion and stated concerns about the curriculum and the desire to see gains at the existing Lighthouse charters; Mr. Hernandez voted in favor of the motion and stated that there needs to be demonstrated gains and clear curriculum; Dr. Witonski voted in favor of the motion and stated she would like to

see some improvement in the curriculum; Ms. Coffman voted in favor of the motion and stated her belief that the curriculum would not provide the very best education for students.

**A-9 Hearing of Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Application: Exalt Academy of Southwest Little Rock, Little Rock, Arkansas**

Mr. Ben Lindquist and other Exalt representatives provided an overview of the proposed charter school.

A representative of the Springdale School District spoke in opposition to the charter, and Mr. Lindquist responded.

A question and answer period followed.

It was moved by Dr. Witonski, seconded by Mr. Hoy, and carried unanimously to approve the open-enrollment charter application for Exalt Academy of Southwest Little Rock, with the stipulation that the charter provide an annual report each September of the outside nursing and counseling services to be provided.

**A-10 Hearing of Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Application: Ozark College & Career Academy, Springdale, Arkansas**

Dr. Christine Silano provided an overview of the proposed charter school.

A representative of the Little Rock School District spoke in opposition to the charter, and Dr. Silano responded.

A question and answer period followed.

It was moved by Mr. Hoy to approve the open-enrollment charter application for the Ozark College & Career Academy, but the motion died for lack of a second.

It was moved by Mr. Hernandez, seconded by Dr. Witonski, and carried in a 5-1 roll-call vote to deny the open-enrollment charter application for the Ozark College & Career Academy. Mr. Hoy voted against the motion; Dr. Walters voted in favor of the motion and stated concerns about the high school curriculum and the budget; Mr. Hernandez voted in favor of the motion and stated fiscal and curriculum concerns; Dr. Witonski voted in favor of the motion and stated concerns about assessments, curriculum, instruction, and sustainability; Mr. Boardman voted in favor of the motion and stated that there were too many unknowns; Ms. Coffman voted in favor of the motion and stated curriculum concerns.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:44 p.m.

*Minutes recorded by Mary Perry.*

**Minutes  
Charter Authorizing Panel  
Thursday, November 14, 2013**

The Charter Authorizing Panel met on Thursday, November 14, 2013, in the auditorium of the Department of Education building. Commissioner of Education Dr. Tom Kimbrell, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Present: Dr. Tom Kimbrell, Chair; Dr. Megan Witonski, Vice Chair; Jim Boardman; Deborah Coffman; Mike Hernandez; John Hoy, and Dr. Karen Walters

Absent: None

The transcription of this meeting may be accessed on the Arkansas Department of Education website at the following:

<http://www.arkansased.org/about-ade/charter-authorizing-panel/minutes/archive/2013>

**Action Agenda**

**A-1 Hearing of Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Application: Quest Middle School of West Little Rock, Little Rock, Arkansas**

Dr. Edwin Strickland and others discussed the proposed charter school.

A representative of the Little Rock School District spoke in opposition to the charter. Gary Newton and Chuck Cook responded.

A question and answer period followed.

The applicant withdrew the requests for waivers of Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-11-129, 6-16-102, 6-16-1204, and 6-21-304.

The applicant modified the request for a waiver of Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-902(a) to specify the grading scale implemented by the charter would be more rigorous than the one required in statute and the request for a waiver of 9.03.4 of the Standards for Accreditation to state that all 38 units will be offered by the time the charter has its first senior class.

The applicant requested waivers of Ark. Code Ann. § 6-13-619(c)(1)(A), requiring a board member to be physically present at a meeting to be counted for purposes of a quorum or to vote, ADE Rules Governing Uniform Grading Scales for Public Secondary Schools and for Optional Use in Public Elementary Schools, and Sections 4-8 of ADE Rules Governing School District Requirements for Personnel Policies, Salary Schedules, Minimum Salaries, and Documents Posted to District Websites.

It was moved by Dr. Witonski, seconded by Mr. Hernandez, and carried unanimously to approve the open-enrollment charter application for Quest Middle School of West Little Rock, with the requirement that expenditure reports for health services and counseling be submitted to the ADE in September 2015.

**A-2 Hearing of Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Application: Redfield Tri-County Charter School, Redfield, Arkansas**

Amanda Kight discussed the proposed charter school.

A question and answer period followed.

Dr. Witonski moved, seconded by Mr. Hernandez, and carried unanimously in a roll-call vote to deny the open-enrollment charter application for Redfield Tri-County Charter School. Mr. Hoy voted in favor of the motion, stating concerns with the curriculum and projected first year financial balances; Dr. Walters voted in favor of the motion and stated curriculum and financial concerns; Mr. Hernandez voted in favor of the motion and stated concerns with sustainability; Dr. Witonski voted in favor of the motion, stating concerns over finance and capacity; Mr. Boardman voted in favor of the motion and stated curriculum, finance, and sustainability concerns; Ms. Coffman voted in favor of the motion and stated curriculum and budget concerns.

**A-3 Hearing of Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Application: Young Adult Magic Johnson Bridgescape Academy of Crittenden County, Sunset, Arkansas**

Sally Wilson and representatives of Edison Learning discussed the proposed charter school.

Superintendent Gary Masters of the South Mississippi County School District expressed concerns about the charter school.

Mr. Mike Malone of Edison responded to the concerns.

A question and answer period followed.

Dr. Walters moved to approve the charter, and additional discussion followed.

The applicant withdrew the waiver request pertaining to student/teacher ratios and clarified that they would comply with Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-31. A discussion of the 38 units and ALE followed.

Dr. Walters withdrew her motion.

Mr. Hernandez moved, seconded by Dr. Walters, and carried unanimously to table the application for the Young Adult Magic Johnson Bridgescape Academy of Crittenden County to allow time for the applicant to consult with ADE staff and address the panel's remaining concerns.

**A-4 Hearing of Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Application: Young Adult Magic Johnson Bridgescape Academy of Mississippi County, Osceola, Arkansas**

Sally Wilson discussed the proposed charter school.

Superintendent Gary Masters of the South Mississippi County School District expressed concerns about the charter school.

A question and answer period followed.

The applicant withdrew the waiver request pertaining to student/teacher ratios and clarified that they would comply with Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-31. A discussion of the 38 units and ALE followed.

Mr. Hoy moved, seconded by Mr. Boardman, and carried in a 3-2 vote to table the application for the Young Adult Magic Johnson Bridgescape Academy of Mississippi County to allow time for the applicant to consult with ADE staff and address the panel's remaining concerns.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

*Minutes recorded by Mary Perry.*

**Minutes  
Charter Authorizing Panel  
Thursday, November 21, 2013**

The Charter Authorizing Panel met on Thursday, November 21, 2013, in the auditorium of the Department of Education building. Commissioner of Education Dr. Tom Kimbrell, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

Present: Dr. Tom Kimbrell, Chair; Dr. Megan Witonski, Vice Chair; Jim Boardman; Deborah Coffman; Mike Hernandez; John Hoy, and Dr. Karen Walters

Absent: None

The transcription of this meeting may be accessed on the Arkansas Department of Education website at the following:

<http://www.arkansased.org/about-ade/charter-authorizing-panel/minutes/archive/2013>

**Action Agenda**

**A-1 Continuation Hearing of Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Application: Young Adult Magic Johnson Bridgescape Academy of Crittenden County, Sunset, Arkansas**

It was moved by Dr. Witonski, seconded by Mr. Hernandez, and approved unanimously to pull the charter application for the Young Adult Magic Johnson Bridgescape Academy of Crittenden County off the table.

Leah Mallon of Edison Learning addressed the waiver requests of the 38 units and ALE.

Questions and answers followed.

Marion School District Superintendent Don Johnson and West Memphis School District Superintendent Jon Collins expressed concerns about the charter and answered panel member questions.

It was moved by Mr. Boardman, seconded by Dr. Witonski, and carried by a 5-1 roll-call vote to deny the open-enrollment charter application for the Young Adult Magic Johnson Bridgescape Academy of Crittenden County. Mr. Hoy voted against the motion; Dr. Walters voted in favor of the motion and stated fiscal concerns; Mr. Hernandez voted in favor of the motion due to financial concerns and a concern about sustainability; Dr. Witonski voted in favor of the motion and stated concerns about plans for successful long-term sustainability; Mr. Boardman voted in favor of the motion due to financial concerns; and Ms. Coffman voted in favor of the motion due to the lack of a clear governance structure.

**A-2 Continuation Hearing of Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Application: Young Adult Magic Johnson Bridgescape Academy of Mississippi County, Osceola, Arkansas**

It was moved by Dr. Witonski, seconded by Mr. Hoy, and approved unanimously to pull the charter application for the Young Adult Magic Johnson Bridgescape Academy of Mississippi County off the table.

Sally Wilson and Leah Mallon stated that the waiver requests for this application were identical to the requests for the application just discussed.

Questions and answers followed.

It was moved by Mr. Hernandez, seconded by Dr. Witonski, and carried unanimously in a roll-call vote to deny the open-enrollment charter application for the Young Adult Magic Johnson Bridgescape Academy of Mississippi County. Ms. Coffman voted in favor of the motion for the reasons previously stated; Mr. Boardman voted in favor of the motion for the same reasons; Dr. Witonski voted in favor of the motion due to concerns about finances and sustainability; Mr. Hernandez voted in favor of the motion because of financial implications; Dr. Walters voted in favor of the motion for the same reasons that she previously stated; Mr. Hoy voted in favor of the motion because of academic concerns.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

*Minutes recorded by Mary Perry.*

**Minutes  
Charter Authorizing Panel  
Thursday, December 5, 2013**

The Charter Authorizing Panel met on Thursday, December 5, 2013, in the auditorium of the Department of Education building. Dr. Megan Witonski, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Present: Dr. Megan Witonski, Vice Chair; Jim Boardman; Deborah Coffman; Mike Hernandez; John Hoy, and Dr. Karen Walters

Absent: Dr. Tom Kimbrell

The transcription of this meeting may be accessed on the Arkansas Department of Education website at the following:

<http://www.arkansased.org/about-ade/charter-authorizing-panel/minutes/archive/2013>

**Action Agenda**

Dr. Witonski explained the purpose of the meeting and the procedures to be followed during the meeting.

**A-1 Consideration of Request to Resubmit an Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Application: Capitol City Lighthouse Charter School, North Little Rock, Arkansas**

Michael Ronan, Founder and CEO of Lighthouse Academies, explained the request to resubmit the open-enrollment charter application for the Capitol City Lighthouse Charter School.

Superintendent Kelly Rodgers and others from the North Little Rock School District spoke against the resubmission of the charter application.

Questions and answers followed.

It was moved by Dr. Walters, seconded by Mr. Hernandez, and carried unanimously to deny the resubmission of the Capitol City Lighthouse Charter School application.

**A-2 Consideration of Request to Resubmit an Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Application: Redfield Tri-County Charter School, Redfield, Arkansas**

Amanda Kight explained the request to resubmit the open-enrollment charter application for the Redfield Tri-County Charter School.

Questions and answers followed.

It was moved by Mr. Hernandez, seconded by Mr. Hoy, and carried by a 3-2 vote to deny the resubmission of the Redfield Tri-County Charter School application.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

*Minutes recorded by Mary Perry.*

**REVISED 2013-2014 MEETING DATES  
CHARTER AUTHORIZING PANEL**

**All meetings will be held in the ADE auditorium and begin at 8:30 a.m.**

Thursday, January 16, 2014  
District Conversion Applicant Hearings

Thursday, January 23, 2014  
Panel Work Session

~~Wednesday, February 12, 2014~~  
Wednesday, February 19, 2014  
Renewal Applicant Hearings

Wednesday, March 19, 2014

Wednesday, April 16, 2014

Wednesday, May 14, 2014



**CHARTER AMENDMENT REQUEST FORM**

**Charter Name** KIPP Delta Public Schools

**LEA Number** 5440700

**Type of Amendment Requested:**

- Other:** Please accept this as KIPP Delta's official request for a wavier from Arkansas code § 6-13-635. Our Board of Directors already approve the district budget where increases of staff salaries in the amount of five percent or greater are reflected. Therefore, a separate resolution for these increases is redundant. Furthermore, our Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer already have procurement authority of up to \$25,000 as reflected in our Board-approved fiscal policies. It is unlikely that any salary increase would exceed this amount.

**Charter Leader** Scott Shirey

**Email address** scott.shirey@kipdelta.org

**Phone number** 870-753-9035



**CHARTER AMENDMENT REQUEST FORM**

**Charter Name** KIPP Delta Public Schools

**LEA Number** 5440700

**Type of Amendment Requested:**

- Other:** Please accept this as KIPP Delta's official request for a wavier from Arkansas code § 6-17-1301 et seq. As it stands now, our policy allows all salaried employees to accumulate sick leave. Hourly employees, nearly all of whom are non-exempt, do not require sick leave as paid-time-off. They are paid for the hours that they report to work, and we feel that this is sufficient and fair compensation. Most are bus drivers and food service workers who work partial days. When they are unable to report to work due to illness, they report their absence and a substitute worker is found. Their earnings for that week/pay period will reflect hours actually worked.

**Charter Leader** Scott Shirey

**Email address** scott.shirey@kipdelta.org

**Phone number** 870-753-9035



**CHARTER AMENDMENT REQUEST FORM**

**Charter Name** KIPP Delta Public Schools

**LEA Number** 5440700

**Type of Amendment Requested:**

**Other:** Please accept this as KIPP Delta's official request for a wavier from Arkansas code § 6-17-2205. KIPP Delta already has a waiver from § 6-17-114, providing for daily planning periods for instructional employees. We seek a waiver to provide consistency in this area, as several teaching assistants and non-licensed teachers fall under the purview of "classified employee." Furthermore, despite our waiver from 6-17-114, our current school bell schedules do provide at least one planning period for all instructional staff. Staff members are free to use planning periods both for instructional planning or for personal use.

**Charter Leader** Scott Shirey

**Email address** scott.shirey@kipdelta.org

**Phone number** 870-753-9035



**CHARTER AMENDMENT REQUEST FORM**

**Charter Name** KIPP Delta Public Schools

**LEA Number** 5440700

**Type of Amendment Requested:**

- Other:** KIPP Delta requests to begin its school day at 8:00 am. There is significant research that suggests many children do not receive an adequate amount of sleep needed to function during a school day. Given some of our students wake up as early as 5:00 am to ride a bus to school, we determined a change was in order to provide more equitable service to all. Furthermore, KIPP Delta hopes to use the change to recruit and retain more instructional talent. The extra thirty minutes of rest could provide a more sustainable work-life balance for our teachers. KIPP Delta hopes to use the coming months to evaluate the effectiveness of the later start and will make changes as necessary.

**Charter Leader** Scott Shirey

**Email address** scott.shirey@kipdelta.org

**Phone number** 870-753-9035



**CHARTER AMENDMENT REQUEST FORM**

**Charter Name** LISA Academy

**LEA Number** 6041700

**Type of Amendment Requested:**

**Other:** To merge with LISA Academy - North Little Rock  
Additional waiver requests

Please see attached correspondence.

**Charter Leader** Atnan Ekin

**Email address** ekin@lisaacademy.org

**Phone number** 501.246.5853

December 10, 2013

Ms. Mary Perry, Coordinator  
Charter and Home Schools Office  
Arkansas Department of Education  
Four Capitol Mall  
Little Rock, AR 72201

Re: Amendment Request: Merger of LISA Academy–North Little Rock with LISA Academy-  
Little Rock

Dear Ms. Perry:

Pursuant to Section 4.02.4 of the ADE Rules Governing Public Charter Schools, I have enclosed a completed Charter Amendment Form (Form) (with attachments) for the purpose of requesting the merger of LISA Academy -North Little Rock with LISA Academy-Little Rock, to create the new, merged LISA Academy. I am requesting that this amendment request be placed on the January 15, 2014 agenda of the Charter Authorizing Panel for consideration.

LISA Academy-Little Rock and LISA Academy-North Little Rock are requesting that the merged LISA Academy be granted all waivers that LISA Academy-Little Rock and LISA Academy-North Little Rock currently hold from their original applications and approved renewals. A few additional waivers are also being requested as part of the amendment request to facilitate the efficiency of operation of the single LISA charter.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Atnan Ekin", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Atnan Ekin  
Superintendent  
LISA Academy-Little Rock

## **Amendment Request**

### **LISA Academy-Little Rock and LISA Academy-North Little Rock Charters**

December 10, 2013

#### **Proposed Structure:**

LISA Academy-Little Rock and LISA Academy-North Little Rock Charters are requesting that the two charters be merged into one charter under LISA Academy with LEA number 6041700, effective on July 1, 2014, of the 2014-2015 school year.

Currently, LISA Academy-Little Rock serves students in grades 6-12. The maximum number of students approved for LISA Academy- Little Rock is 800.

LISA Academy-North Little Rock serves students in grades K-12. The maximum number of students approved for LISA Academy-North Little Rock to serve is 700.

For school year 2013-2014, LISA Academy-Little Rock is serving 800 students which is its approved enrollment cap.

LISA Academy-North Little Rock is serving 592 students with a maximum of 600 for the 2013-2014 school year. LISA Academy-North Little Rock expects to reach its enrollment cap of 700 students in the 2014-2015 school year with an addition of 108 students.

With the merging of LISA Academy-Little Rock and LISA Academy-North Little Rock, the grade levels served in the merged LISA Academy would be K-12. The maximum enrollment at the two combined campuses would remain at 1,500 students. This amendment proposal does not include a request for a change in the location of the two campuses. LISA Academy – Little Rock and LISA Academy –North Little Rock are requesting that the merged LISA Academy charter be a single, comprehensive K-12 educational program composed of the current five schools which currently exist in the two locations.

LISA Academy-Little Rock and LISA Academy-North Little Rock are requesting that the merged LISA Academy be granted all waivers that LISA Academy-Little Rock and LISA Academy-North Little Rock currently hold from their original and approved renewals. Additional waivers will be requested along with the amendment for the merger.

**Description:**

LISA Academy-Little Rock and LISA Academy-North Little Rock are both sponsored by the LISA Foundation. Both charters are governed by the same seven member school board. Both of the charters have a common 501(c)(3) and federal identification number.

The new proposed LISA Academy would continue to be sponsored by the LISA Foundation. The same seven member school board would govern the merged LISA Academy.

Currently LISA Academy-Little Rock has two schools which are:

LISA Academy Middle School – Grades 6-8 – 6041702  
LISA Academy High School – Grades 9-12 – 6041703

LISA Academy-North Little Rock has three schools which are:

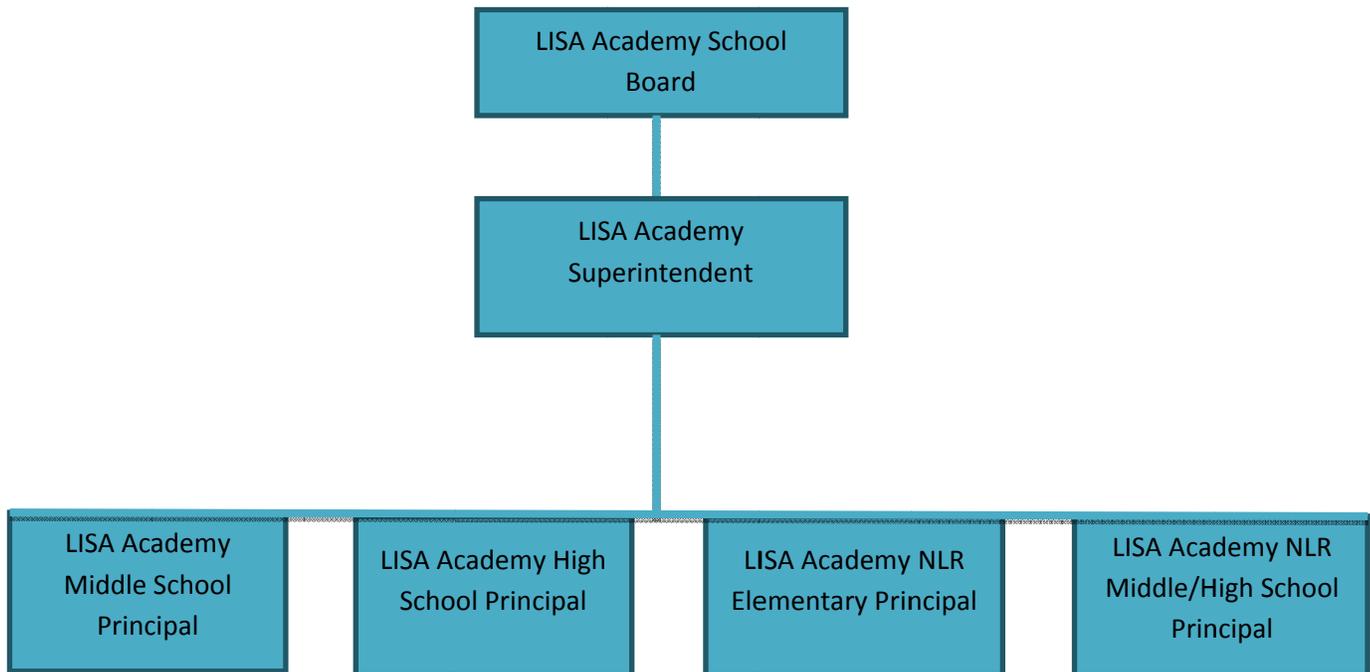
LISA Academy- North Little Rock Elementary – Grades K-5 – 6048701  
LISA Academy- North Little Rock Middle School – Grades 6-8 – 6048702  
LISA Academy- North Little Rock High School - Grades 9-12 - 6048703

With the merging of LISA Academy-North Little Rock and LISA Academy-Little Rock into LISA Academy, there will be five schools under one charter which will be:

LISA Academy Middle School  
LISA Academy High School  
LISA Academy Elementary School-NLR  
LISA Academy Middle School-NLR  
LISA Academy High School-NLR

**Administration:**

The merged LISA Academy will be directed by one superintendent. The administrative structure for LISA Academy Charter is illustrated with the following chart:



**Justification and Benefits:**

There are educational, operational, and financial reasons and benefits for this merger.

**Educational Benefits:**

The merger will allow consistent and sequential academic programs to be implemented more effectively at all locations.

The curriculum for all subjects at the various grade levels will be the same.

- Remediation Program will be consistently implemented at both schools.
- Enrichment Programs such as Robotics or Distance Learning opportunities will be systematically implemented at both charter locations.
- The College Readiness Program will also be implemented at both high school locations.

The collaboration among the schools will increase and research-based best practices will be shared.

- Curriculum Departments will collaborate to improve school programs. Departments will be strengthened by the expertise and involvement of all teachers from all schools.
- Professional Development programs will be centralized which will allow teachers from all schools to work together effectively for the benefit of all students.
- Hopefully, stronger content departments will help to recruit more highly-qualified teacher applicants.
- Newly-hired teachers will be supported and nurtured by the more collaborative structure.
- Centralized meetings with staff from all campuses will improve communication and encourage better decisions based on broader input.

Shared academic specialists, special education program directors, and intervention specialists will improve the implementation of instructional strategies and interactions and result in clearer, more effective communication among all campuses.

- Currently LISA Academy-Little Rock serves 800 students, while LISA Academy-North Little Rock serves 600 (700 for 2014-2015 school year) students. The enrollment at both campuses has increased over the last few years. These students need structured academic services and careful monitoring to ensure those services are meeting the identified needs of both students and staff. To more effectively target academic programs, intervention programs, including the Targeted Achievement Gap Group, the new LISA Academy centralized structure will help to facilitate this academic focus.

### **Operational Benefits:**

- Currently LISA Academy-Little Rock and LISA Academy-North Little Rock are sponsored by the LISA Foundation and have the same seven member governing board and the same advisory board. The merged LISA Academy Charter will maintain the same governing board and advisory board. The same board members will continue to serve.
- School operations will more effectively and efficiently be run under the leadership of one superintendent.
- One centralized administration system and office will result in efficient implementation of student assessment, professional development workshops, financial reports, accounting, etc. Possibly, there would be the potential of reducing support staff in the administrative offices.

**Financial Benefits:**

- Both current LISA charters have a common 501(c)(3) and federal identification numbers. The new LISA Academy will maintain the 501(c)(3) and the federal identification number.
- The total state foundation revenue allocation will remain basically the same after the merger since based on a per-student funding structure.
- There will be some savings in administration costs by eliminating one superintendent position.
- Service contracts for purchases services have been billed to the charters. Possible negotiated savings based on one billing.
- There will be one budget and one ACSIP plan for LISA Academy charter programs and services.
- Shared services by academic specialists, special education directors, and intervention specialists to serve both locations will be more efficient and cost effective.
- Centralizing procurement procedures will result in cost savings and improved efficiency.
- Reporting student data, financial data and state required reports will be centralized.
- The analysis required for determining all aspects of the new LISA Academy will result in the identification of efficiencies in organizational structure and practice.

**Conclusions:**

When LISA originally created schools in Little Rock and North Little Rock, the founders were under the impression that separate charters was the best way to create and establish each school for legal and administrative reasons. However, since then LISA has become a well-established charter organization. Both charters already operate under a single governing board and single administration (more or less). The merger would allow the two charters to operate under a single charter issued by the state.

Many of the benefits shown above cannot be achieved under separate charters for each school without seeking numerous waivers in addition to those already in place or by simply collapsing both charters into a single charter. The few, new waivers that are being requested as part of this amendment are necessary either to clarify the scope of previously-granted waivers which are commonly held by open- enrollment charter schools, or to create the flexibility needed to implement this single charter operation, such as principal/student staffing ratios. While there are numerous factors that govern a choice of this nature and such an approach cannot be assumed for any new start-up schools for LISA in the future, the facts are, as shown herein, that a single charter creates a much greater opportunity for educational, financial, and administrative efficiency and benefit for the LISA charter schools and the patrons of the schools.

### List of Additional Waivers to be Requested

- 1.) Retain all waivers currently held by both LISA-North Little Rock and LISA Academy; all will be applicable to the new, merged LISA Academy.
- 2.) Add the following waivers to the new, merged LISA Academy:
  - **Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-2203 (concerning minimum salaries for classified personnel):**  
This waiver is being requested to compliment the waiver already held concerning Ark. Code Ann. §6-17-201(c)(2), to completely effectuate this waiver concerning minimum salaries for classified personnel.
  - **Ark. Code Ann. §6-17-2403 (concerning minimum salaries for certified personnel):**  
This waiver concerning minimum salaries for certified personnel is being requested to give the new, merged LISA Academy flexibility to implement its own teacher compensation system instead of being required to provide compensation pursuant to the statutory teacher salary schedule.
  - **Ark. Code Ann. §6-18-501 et seq. (concerning student discipline policies):**  
This waiver is being requested to allow the new, merged LISA Academy to adopt and implement its own student discipline policies. The policies so adopted and implemented will meet all due process requirements. A waiver from these provisions is commonly held by open-enrollment public charter schools.
  - **Ark. Code Ann. §6-17-427; Section 15.01 of the ADE Rules Governing Standards for Accreditation, and the ADE Rules Governing the Superintendent Mentoring Program (all concerning superintendent mentoring):**  
This waiver is being requested to allow any new superintendents employed by the new, merged LISA Academy to receive intensive, internal training concerning their new duties and responsibilities as opposed to completion of the state-required mentoring program.
  - **Ark. Code Ann. §6-18-1001 et seq.; Section 16.01 of the ADE Rules Governing Standards for Accreditation, and the ADE Rules Governing Public School Student Services (all concerning guidance counselors):**  
This waiver is being requested to give the new, merged LISA Academy flexibility in its provision of guidance counseling services, with such services potentially being delivered through purchased services and/or through LISA Academy personnel who are experienced in guidance counseling but not necessarily holding licensure in that area. A

waiver from these provisions is commonly held by open-enrollment public charter schools.

- **Ark. Code Ann. §6-17-117 (concerning non-instructional duties for teachers):**

This waiver is being requested by the applicant to provide flexibility in utilizing its teaching staff to perform additional non-instructional duties in excess of sixty (60) minutes per week, if and as necessary. A waiver from this statute is commonly held by open-enrollment public charter schools.

- **Ark. Code Ann. §6-19-101 et seq. (concerning school buses and bus drivers):**

The applicant is requesting a waiver of this section of title 6 of the Arkansas Code due to its inapplicability to LISA Academy. Section 6-19-101 et seq. concerns the requirements applicable to schools providing their own public transportation programs (such as the employment requirements and qualifications for school bus drivers and requirements for school buses).

It is important to point out, however, that LISA Academy (at its Little Rock location) currently provides and will continue to provide tokens to students free of charge, upon request, to travel on Central Arkansas Transit buses to and from school.

- **Sections 15.01 and 15.02 of the ADE Rules Governing Standards for Accreditation (concerning superintendents and principals):**

This waiver is being requested to allow the new, merged LISA Academy to be able to utilize administrative personnel for two (2) or more campuses, as necessary (as is further illustrated in the accompanying merger request materials) to promote the efficient use of human and financial resources in the new single-charter configuration.

***\*Please see the waivers that LISA Academy-Little Rock and LISA Academy-North Little Rock currently hold from their original and approved renewals in the following pages.***

**LISA ACADEMY  
AN OPEN-ENROLLMENT CHARTER SCHOOL  
WAIVERS**

<b>District LEA:</b>	60-41-700	<b>Elementary School LEA:</b>	N/A
<b>City:</b>	Little Rock	<b>Middle School LEA:</b>	60-41-702
<b>Opening Date:</b>	2004	<b>High School LEA:</b>	60-41-703
<b>Grades Approved:</b>	6-12	<b>Expiration Date:</b>	6/30/2017
<b>CAP:</b>	800	<b>Grades Served 2013-014:</b>	6-12

**Waivers from Title 6 of the Arkansas Code Annotated (Education Code)**

6-13-601 et seq.	District Boards of Directors Generally
6-14-101 et seq.	School Elections
6-15-1004	Qualified teachers in every public school classroom
6-17-201 et seq.	Requirements—Written personnel policies—Teacher salary schedule
6-17-203	Committees on personnel policies—Members
6-17-302	Principals—Responsibilities
6-17-309	Certification to teach grade or subject matter—Exceptions—Waivers
6-17-401	Teacher licensure requirement
6-17-418	Teacher licensure—Arkansas history requirement
6-17-902	Definition (definition of a teacher as licensed)
6-17-919	Warrants void without valid certification and contract (the only requirement which would be waived is the ability to pay a teacher's salary only upon filing of a teacher's certificate with the county clerk's office, if the requirement of a teacher's certificate is waived for such teacher)
6-17-1501 et seq.	Teacher Fair Dismissal Act
6-17-1701 et seq.	Public School Employee Fair Hearing Act
6-17-2301 et seq.	Classified School Employee Personnel Policy Law

**Waivers from Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and Districts**

15.03	Licensure and Renewal
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**Waivers from Other Rules:**

- ADE Rules Governing Waivers for Substitute Teachers
- ADE Rules Governing Parental Notification of an Assignment of a Non-Licensed Teacher to Teach a Class for More than Thirty (30) Consecutive Days and for Granting Waivers
- Certified staff salary schedule
- Purchasing of instructional materials
- Teacher Education and Licensure
- Technology centers
- Teacher evaluations
- African American History
- Certified staff salary
- Personnel

**Regardless of any waivers granted, every charter school must always abide by the following requirements:**

- All standardized assessments required by the state must be administered solely by licensed personnel, as required by ADE Rules Governing the Arkansas Comprehensive Testing Assessment and Accountability Program, Sections 5.02.4 and 5.03.2. Violations of ADE

assessment procedures are subject to sanctions by the State Board, including without limitation sanctions pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-15-438 and 6-23-105.

- All teachers and school personnel, whether licensed or unlicensed, must submit to the criminal background and central registry checks required by law.
- Any teacher, whether licensed or unlicensed, who teaches a core academic subject area must meet the requirements of the ADE Rules Governing Highly Qualified Teachers Pursuant to the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. Core academic subject areas are defined by federal law to include English Language Arts, Reading, Mathematics, Science, Foreign Languages, Social Studies, Music, and Art.

**LISA ACADEMY – NORTH LITTLE ROCK  
AN OPEN-ENROLLMENT CHARTER SCHOOL  
WAIVERS**

<b>District LEA:</b>	60-48-700	<b>Elementary School LEA:</b>	60-48-701
<b>City:</b>	North Little Rock	<b>Middle School LEA:</b>	60-48-702
<b>Opening Date:</b>	August 2008	<b>High School LEA:</b>	60-48-703
<b>Grades Approved:</b>	K-12	<b>Expiration Date:</b>	6/30/2018
<b>CAP:</b>	700	<b>Grades Served 2013-014:</b>	K-12

**Waivers from Title 6 of the Arkansas Code Annotated (Education Code)**

6-13-109	School superintendent
6-15-1004	Qualified teachers in every public school classroom (each teacher in a core area must have bachelor's degree and meet content knowledge requirements)
6-15-1005(b)(5)	Pertaining to alternative learning environments
6-17-201 et seq.	Requirements—Written personnel policies—Teacher salary schedule
6-17-203	Committees on personnel policies—Members
6-17-301	Employment of certified personnel
6-17-302	Public school principals—Qualifications and responsibilities
6-17-309	Certification to teach grade or subject matter—Exceptions—Waivers (each teacher in a core area must have bachelor's degree and meet content knowledge requirements)
6-17-401	Teacher's licensure requirement (each teacher in a core area must have bachelor's degree and meet content knowledge requirements)
6-17-902	Definition (definition of a teacher as licensed)
6-17-1001	Minimum base salary—Master's Degree
6-17-1501 et seq.	Teacher Fair Dismissal Act
6-17-1701 et seq.	Public School Employee Fair Hearing Act
6-17-2301 et seq.	Classified School Employee Personnel Policy Law
6-18-503(a)(1)(C)(i)	Pertaining to alternative learning environments
6-18-508	Alternative learning environments
6-48-101 et seq.	Definitions (alternative learning environments)

**From Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) Rules Governing Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and Districts**

15.03	Licensure and Renewal
19.03	Pertaining to alternative learning environments

**Currently Approved Waivers from Other Rules:**

- Certified staff salary schedule
- Minimum Schoolhouse Construction (approved only as it relates to owned property versus leased property)
- Teacher Education and Licensure (each teacher in a core area must have bachelor's degree and meet content knowledge requirements)
- Purchasing of Instructional Materials
- Teacher Evaluations
- Technology Centers
- ADE Rules Governing Waivers for Substitute Teachers

- ADE Rules Governing Parental Notification of an Assignment of a Non-Licensed Teacher to Teach a Class for More than Thirty (30) Consecutive Days and for Granting Waivers
- ADE Rules Governing School District Requirements for Personnel Policies, Salary Schedules, Minimum Salaries, and Documents Posted to District Websites (pertaining to salary schedules and personnel policies)
- Section 4 of the ADE Rules Governing the Distribution of Student Special Needs Funding and the Determination of Allowable Expenditures of those Funds (Pertaining to alternative learning environments)

**Regardless of any waivers granted, every charter school must always abide by the following requirements:**

- All standardized assessments required by the state must be administered solely by licensed personnel, as required by ADE Rules Governing the Arkansas Comprehensive Testing Assessment and Accountability Program, Sections 5.02.4 and 5.03.2. Violations of ADE assessment procedures are subject to sanctions by the State Board, including without limitation sanctions pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-15-438 and 6-23-105.
- All teachers and school personnel, whether licensed or unlicensed, must submit to the criminal background and central registry checks required by law.
- Any teacher, whether licensed or unlicensed, who teaches a core academic subject area must meet the requirements of the ADE Rules Governing Highly Qualified Teachers Pursuant to the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. Core academic subject areas are defined by federal law to include English Language Arts, Reading, Mathematics, Science, Foreign Languages, Social Studies, Music, and Art.

## Proposed Budget - Newly Planned Merged LISA Academy

enrollment

1500

1500

<u>Revenues</u>	2014-2015	2015-2016
State Public Charter School Aid:		
State Foundation Funding	\$9,780,000.00	\$9,975,600.00
Professional Development	\$66,375.00	\$67,702.50
NSLA Funding	\$271,405.00	\$274,119.05
<b>Total State Charter School Aid</b>	<b>\$10,117,780.00</b>	<b>\$10,317,421.55</b>
Other Sources of Revenues:		
Private Donations or Gifts		
Federal Grants ( <b>Title-I</b> + Title-II + <b>Sp Ed</b> + Lunch Reimbursement)	\$574,330.00	\$591,559.90
Special Grants (List the amount)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other ( <b>Roll over</b> + <b>Student Lunch</b> )	\$640,000.00	\$641,800.00
<b>Total Other Sources of Revenues</b>	<b>\$1,214,330.00</b>	<b>\$1,233,359.90</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$11,332,110.00</b>	<b>\$11,550,781.45</b>
<u>Expenditures</u>	2014-2015	2015-2016
Administration:		
Salaries: ( <i>No. of Positions_13__</i> )	\$853,850.00	\$879,465.50
Fringe Benefits	\$228,447.00	\$235,300.41
Purchased Services	\$169,500.00	\$172,890.00
Supplies and Materials	\$18,000.00	\$18,360.00
Equipment	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other ( <i>Describe</i> )	\$0.00	\$0.00
	<b>\$1,269,797.00</b>	<b>\$1,306,015.91</b>
Regular Classroom Instruction:		
Salaries: ( <i>No. of Positions_92__</i> )	\$3,832,240.00	\$3,905,052.56
Fringe Benefits	\$1,012,292.80	\$1,031,526.36
Purchased Services	\$164,800.00	\$169,744.00
Supplies and Materials	\$439,000.00	\$452,170.00
Equipment	\$20,000.00	\$20,300.00
Other ( <i>Describe</i> )	\$32,000.00	\$32,480.00
	<b>\$5,500,332.80</b>	<b>\$5,611,272.92</b>
Special Education:		
Salaries: ( <i>No. of Positions_6__</i> )	\$260,100.00	\$265,302.00
Fringe Benefits	\$68,022.00	\$69,382.44
Purchased Services	\$109,500.00	\$112,785.00
Supplies and Materials	\$7,500.00	\$7,725.00
Equipment	\$7,200.00	\$7,308.00
Other ( <i>Describe</i> )	\$1,500.00	\$1,522.50
	<b>\$453,822.00</b>	<b>\$464,024.94</b>
Gifted and Talented Program:		
Salaries: ( <i>No. of Positions_2__</i> )	\$90,000.00	\$91,800.00
Fringe Benefits	\$21,600.00	\$22,032.00
Purchased Services	\$0.00	\$0.00
Supplies and Materials	\$5,950.00	\$6,128.50
Equipment	\$3,500.00	\$3,552.50
Other ( <i>Describe</i> )	\$0.00	\$0.00
	<b>\$121,050.00</b>	<b>\$123,513.00</b>
Alternative Education Program:		
Salaries: ( <i>No. of Positions__</i> )	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fringe Benefits	\$0.00	14 \$0.00

Purchased Services	\$0.00	\$0.00
Supplies and Materials	\$0.00	\$0.00
Equipment	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other (Describe)	\$0.00	\$0.00
	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
Guidance Services:		
Salaries: (No. of Positions_3__)	\$128,500.00	\$131,070.00
Fringe Benefits	\$33,670.00	\$34,343.40
Purchased Services	\$22,000.00	\$22,660.00
Supplies and Materials	\$6,000.00	\$6,180.00
Equipment	\$7,000.00	\$7,105.00
Other (Describe)	\$2,000.00	\$2,030.00
	<b>\$199,170.00</b>	<b>\$203,388.40</b>
Health Services:		
Salaries: (No. of Positions_3__)	\$75,100.00	\$76,526.90
Fringe Benefits	\$16,522.00	\$16,835.92
Purchased Services	\$0.00	\$0.00
Supplies and Materials	\$15,000.00	\$15,225.00
Equipment	\$4,000.00	\$4,060.00
Other (Describe)	\$0.00	\$0.00
	<b>\$110,622.00</b>	<b>\$112,647.82</b>
Media Services:		
Salaries: (No. of Positions_1__)	\$20,000.00	\$20,380.00
Fringe Benefits	\$6,200.00	\$6,317.80
Purchased Services	\$38,500.00	\$39,270.00
Supplies and Materials	\$8,500.00	\$8,670.00
Equipment	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other (Describe)	\$4,000.00	\$4,060.00
	<b>\$77,200.00</b>	<b>\$78,697.80</b>
Fiscal Services:		
Salaries: (No. of Positions_3__)	\$111,500.00	\$113,730.00
Fringe Benefits	\$28,130.00	\$28,692.60
Purchased Services	\$3,750.00	\$3,862.50
Supplies and Materials	\$10,000.00	\$10,300.00
Equipment	\$10,000.00	\$10,150.00
Other (Describe)	\$8,500.00	\$8,627.50
	<b>\$171,880.00</b>	<b>\$175,362.60</b>
Maintenance and Operation:		
Salaries: (No. of Positions_1__)	\$15,000.00	\$15,285.00
Fringe Benefits	\$3,300.00	\$3,362.70
Purchased Services	\$360,600.00	\$375,024.00
(include utilities)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Supplies and Materials	\$58,700.00	\$0.00
Equipment	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other (Describe)	\$20,000.00	\$20,300.00
	<b>\$457,600.00</b>	<b>\$413,971.70</b>
Pupil Transportation:		
Salaries: (No. of Positions____)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fringe Benefits	\$0.00	\$0.00
Purchased Services	\$10,000.00	\$10,140.00
Supplies and Materials	\$0.00	\$0.00
Equipment	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other (Describe)	\$0.00	\$0.00
	<b>\$10,000.00</b>	<b>\$10,140.00</b>
Food Services:		

Salaries: (No. of Positions_4__)	\$84,000.00	\$85,596.00
Fringe Benefits	\$18,480.00	\$18,831.12
Purchased Services	\$8,250.00	\$8,373.75
Supplies and Materials	\$443,500.00	\$454,587.50
Equipment	\$12,000.00	\$12,180.00
Other (Describe)	\$2,200.00	\$2,233.00
	<b>\$568,430.00</b>	<b>\$581,801.37</b>
Data Processing:		
Salaries: (No. of Positions_2__)	\$55,600.00	\$56,656.40
Fringe Benefits	\$14,032.00	\$14,298.61
Purchased Services	\$0.00	\$0.00
Supplies and Materials	\$0.00	\$0.00
Equipment	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other (Describe)	\$0.00	\$0.00
	<b>\$69,632.00</b>	<b>\$70,955.01</b>
Substitute Personnel:		
Salaries: (No. of Positions_2__)	\$44,000.00	\$44,880.00
Fringe Benefits	\$9,680.00	\$9,873.60
	<b>\$53,680.00</b>	<b>\$54,753.60</b>
Facilities:		
Lease/Purchase (contract for one total year including facility upgrades)	\$1,188,000.00	\$1,150,000.00
Please list upgrades:	\$5,000.00	\$0.00
Utilities (contract for one total year including facility upgrades)	\$204,250.00	\$208,335.00
Insurance (contract for one total year including facility upgrades):	\$0.00	\$0.00
Property Insurance	\$67,000.00	\$69,010.00
Content Insurance	\$0.00	\$0.00
	<b>\$1,464,250.00</b>	<b>\$1,427,345.00</b>
Debt Expenditures:	\$135,500.00	\$60,000.00
Other Expenditures:	\$0.00	\$0.00
(Describe)	\$9,500.00	\$0.00
	<b>\$145,000.00</b>	<b>\$60,000.00</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$10,628,389.80</b>	<b>\$10,693,890.07</b>
<b>END OF YEAR CLOSING</b>	<b>\$703,720.20</b>	<b>\$856,891.38</b>

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LITTLE SCHOLARS OF  
ARKANSAS FOUNDATION, INC.

WHEREAS, the Little Scholars of Arkansas (LISA) Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors (Board) met in a regular, open, and properly-called meeting on November 20, 2013, in Little Rock, Arkansas;

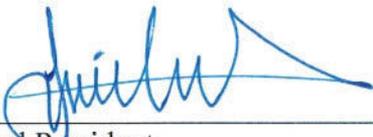
WHEREAS, (5) members were present, a quorum was declared by the chair;

WHEREAS, the Board has received and reviewed information from the administrators of LISA Academy concerning the merger of the charters of LISA Academy and LISA Academy-North Little Rock into one (1) charter, under the name of LISA Academy, for the benefit of their students and increased efficiency in the administration and operation of the two (2) schools;

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that LISA Academy and LISA Academy- North Little Rock should merge their respective charters into a single charter under the name of LISA Academy, and, as a part of the merger process, review the charters' current waivers and request any additional waivers as necessary to provide maximum flexibility necessary for the operation of the schools; and

WHEREAS, the Board, upon due consideration and deliberation, hereby approves and adopts this Resolution for the purpose of merging the charters of LISA Academy and LISA Academy- North Little Rock into one (1) charter under the name of LISA Academy, and the request for any additional waivers necessary as stated above; and

NOW THEREFORE, this Board hereby adopts this Resolution, and authorizes the Superintendent of LISA Academy to prepare and submit all necessary documentation for the signature of the Board's President and Secretary; to submit said paperwork and this Resolution to the Department of Education for consideration and action by the Department's Charter Authorizing Panel; and to take all other necessary and proper action in order to effectuate the Board's Resolution.



Board President



Board Secretary

11/20/2013

Date

11/20/2013

Date



**CHARTER AMENDMENT REQUEST FORM**

**Charter Name** LISA Academy -NLR

**LEA Number** 6048700

**Type of Amendment Requested:**

**Other:** To merge with LISA Academy

Please see attached correspondence.

**Charter Leader** Fatih Bogrek

**Email address** fbogrek@lisaacademy.org

**Phone number** 501.945.2727

December 10, 2013

Ms. Mary Perry, Coordinator  
Charter and Home Schools Office  
Arkansas Department of Education  
Four Capitol Mall  
Little Rock, AR 72201

Re: Amendment Request: Merger of LISA Academy –North Little Rock with LISA Academy-  
Little Rock

Dear Ms. Perry:

Pursuant to Section 4.02.4 of the ADE Rules Governing Public Charter Schools, I have enclosed a completed Charter Amendment Form (Form) (with attachments) for the purpose of requesting the merger of LISA Academy-North Little Rock with LISA Academy-Little Rock, to create the new, merged LISA Academy. I am requesting that this amendment request be placed on the January 15, 2014 agenda of the Charter Authorizing Panel for consideration.

LISA Academy-Little Rock and LISA Academy-North Little Rock are requesting that the merged LISA Academy be granted all waivers that LISA Academy-Little Rock and LISA Academy-North Little Rock currently hold from their original applications and approved renewals. A few additional waivers are also being requested as part of the amendment request to facilitate the efficiency of operation of the single LISA charter.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



Fatih Bogrek  
Superintendent  
LISA Academy-North Little Rock

## **Amendment Request**

### **LISA Academy-Little Rock and LISA Academy-North Little Rock Charters**

December 10, 2013

#### **Proposed Structure:**

LISA Academy-Little Rock and LISA Academy-North Little Rock Charters are requesting that the two charters be merged into one charter under LISA Academy with LEA number 6041700, effective on July 1, 2014, of the 2014-2015 school year.

Currently, LISA Academy-Little Rock serves students in grades 6-12. The maximum number of students approved for LISA Academy- Little Rock is 800.

LISA Academy-North Little Rock serves students in grades K-12. The maximum number of students approved for LISA Academy-North Little Rock to serve is 700.

For school year 2013-2014, LISA Academy-Little Rock is serving 800 students which is its approved enrollment cap.

LISA Academy-North Little Rock is serving 592 students with a maximum of 600 for the 2013-2014 school year. LISA Academy-North Little Rock expects to reach its enrollment cap of 700 students in the 2014-2015 school year with an addition of 108 students.

With the merging of LISA Academy-Little Rock and LISA Academy-North Little Rock, the grade levels served in the merged LISA Academy would be K-12. The maximum enrollment at the two combined campuses would remain at 1,500 students. This amendment proposal does not include a request for a change in the location of the two campuses. LISA Academy – Little Rock and LISA Academy –North Little Rock are requesting that the merged LISA Academy charter be a single, comprehensive K-12 educational program composed of the current five schools which currently exist in the two locations.

LISA Academy-Little Rock and LISA Academy-North Little Rock are requesting that the merged LISA Academy be granted all waivers that LISA Academy-Little Rock and LISA Academy-North Little Rock currently hold from their original and approved renewals. Additional waivers will be requested along with the amendment for the merger.

**Description:**

LISA Academy-Little Rock and LISA Academy-North Little Rock are both sponsored by the LISA Foundation. Both charters are governed by the same seven member school board. Both of the charters have a common 501(c)(3) and federal identification number.

The new proposed LISA Academy would continue to be sponsored by the LISA Foundation. The same seven member school board would govern the merged LISA Academy.

Currently LISA Academy-Little Rock has two schools which are:

LISA Academy Middle School – Grades 6-8 – 6041702

LISA Academy High School – Grades 9-12 – 6041703

LISA Academy-North Little Rock has three schools which are:

LISA Academy- North Little Rock Elementary – Grades K-5 – 6048701

LISA Academy- North Little Rock Middle School – Grades 6-8 – 6048702

LISA Academy- North Little Rock High School - Grades 9-12 - 6048703

With the merging of LISA Academy-North Little Rock and LISA Academy-Little Rock into LISA Academy, there will be five schools under one charter which will be:

LISA Academy Middle School

LISA Academy High School

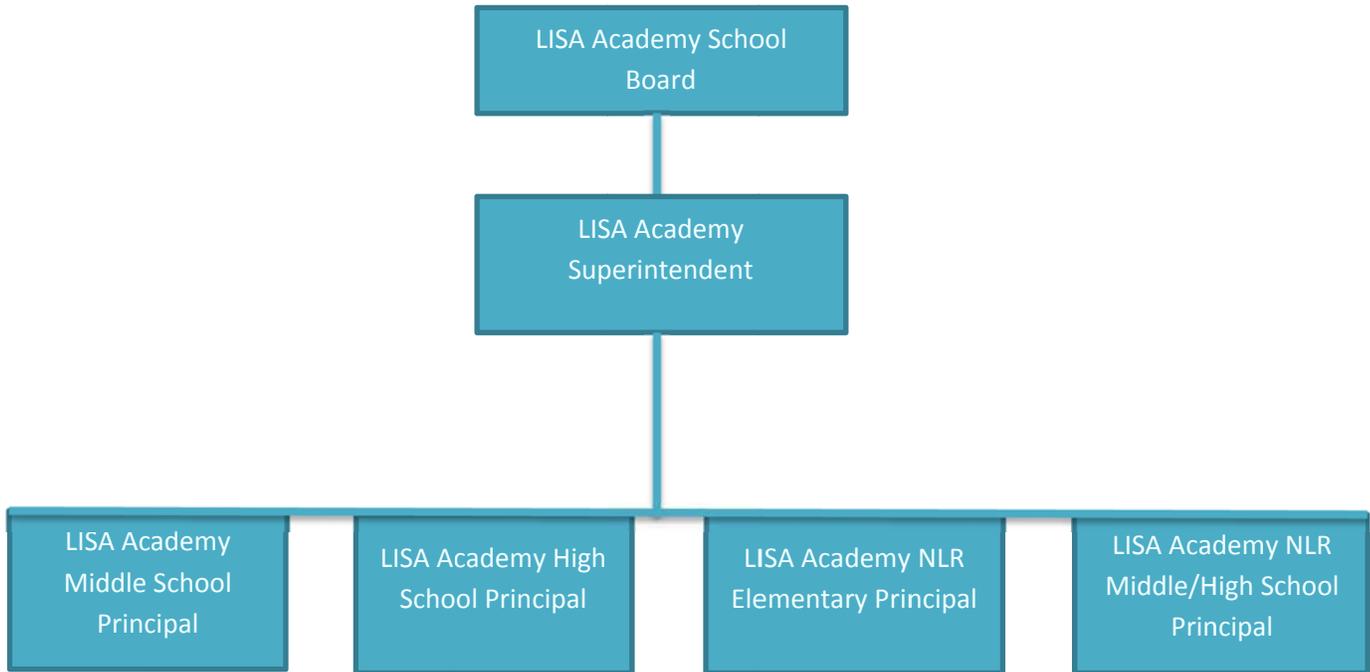
LISA Academy Elementary School-NLR

LISA Academy Middle School-NLR

LISA Academy High School-NLR

**Administration:**

The merged LISA Academy will be directed by one superintendent. The administrative structure for LISA Academy Charter is illustrated with the following chart:



**Justification and Benefits:**

There are educational, operational, and financial reasons and benefits for this merger.

**Educational Benefits:**

The merger will allow consistent and sequential academic programs to be implemented more effectively at all locations.

The curriculum for all subjects at the various grade levels will be the same.

- Remediation Program will be consistently implemented at both schools.
- Enrichment Programs such as Robotics or Distance Learning opportunities will be systematically implemented at both charter locations.
- The College Readiness Program will also be implemented at both high school locations.

The collaboration among the schools will increase and research-based best practices will be shared.

- Curriculum Departments will collaborate to improve school programs. Departments will be strengthened by the expertise and involvement of all teachers from all schools.
- Professional Development programs will be centralized which will allow teachers from all schools to work together effectively for the benefit of all students.
- Hopefully, stronger content departments will help to recruit more highly-qualified teacher applicants.
- Newly-hired teachers will be supported and nurtured by the more collaborative structure.
- Centralized meetings with staff from all campuses will improve communication and encourage better decisions based on broader input.

Shared academic specialists, special education program directors, and intervention specialists will improve the implementation of instructional strategies and interactions and result in clearer, more effective communication among all campuses.

- Currently LISA Academy-Little Rock serves 800 students, while LISA Academy-North Little Rock serves 600 (700 for 2014-2015 school year) students. The enrollment at both campuses has increased over the last few years. These students need structured academic services and careful monitoring to ensure those services are meeting the identified needs of both students and staff. To more effectively target academic programs, intervention programs, including the Targeted Achievement Gap Group, the new LISA Academy centralized structure will help to facilitate this academic focus.

#### **Operational Benefits:**

- Currently LISA Academy-Little Rock and LISA Academy-North Little Rock are sponsored by the LISA Foundation and have the same seven member governing board and the same advisory board. The merged LISA Academy Charter will maintain the same governing board and advisory board. The same board members will continue to serve.
- School operations will more effectively and efficiently be run under the leadership of one superintendent.
- One centralized administration system and office will result in efficient implementation of student assessment, professional development workshops, financial reports, accounting, etc. Possibly, there would be the potential of reducing support staff in the administrative offices.

**Financial Benefits:**

- Both current LISA charters have a common 501(c)(3) and federal identification numbers. The new LISA Academy will maintain the 501(c)(3) and the federal identification number.
- The total state foundation revenue allocation will remain basically the same after the merger since based on a per-student funding structure.
- There will be some savings in administration costs by eliminating one superintendent position.
- Service contracts for purchases services have been billed to the charters. Possible negotiated savings based on one billing.
- There will be one budget and one ACSIP plan for LISA Academy charter programs and services.
- Shared services by academic specialists, special education directors, and intervention specialists to serve both locations will be more efficient and cost effective.
- Centralizing procurement procedures will result in cost savings and improved efficiency.
- Reporting student data, financial data and state required reports will be centralized.
- The analysis required for determining all aspects of the new LISA Academy will result in the identification of efficiencies in organizational structure and practice.

**Conclusions:**

When LISA originally created schools in Little Rock and North Little Rock, the founders were under the impression that separate charters was the best way to create and establish each school for legal and administrative reasons. However, since then LISA has become a well-established charter organization. Both charters already operate under a single governing board and single administration (more or less). The merger would allow the two charters to operate under a single charter issued by the state.

Many of the benefits shown above cannot be achieved under separate charters for each school without seeking numerous waivers in addition to those already in place or by simply collapsing both charters into a single charter. The few, new waivers that are being requested as part of this amendment are necessary either to clarify the scope of previously-granted waivers which are commonly held by open- enrollment charter schools, or to create the flexibility needed to implement this single charter operation, such as principal/student staffing ratios. While there are numerous factors that govern a choice of this nature and such an approach cannot be assumed for any new start-up schools for LISA in the future, the facts are, as shown herein, that a single charter creates a much greater opportunity for educational, financial, and administrative efficiency and benefit for the LISA charter schools and the patrons of the schools.

### List of Additional Waivers to be Requested

- 1.) Retain all waivers currently held by both LISA-North Little Rock and LISA Academy; all will be applicable to the new, merged LISA Academy.
- 2.) Add the following waivers to the new, merged LISA Academy:
  - **Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-2203 (concerning minimum salaries for classified personnel):**  
This waiver is being requested to compliment the waiver already held concerning Ark. Code Ann. §6-17-201(c)(2), to completely effectuate this waiver concerning minimum salaries for classified personnel.
  - **Ark. Code Ann. §6-17-2403 (concerning minimum salaries for certified personnel):**  
This waiver concerning minimum salaries for certified personnel is being requested to give the new, merged LISA Academy flexibility to implement its own teacher compensation system instead of being required to provide compensation pursuant to the statutory teacher salary schedule.
  - **Ark. Code Ann. §6-18-501 et seq. (concerning student discipline policies):**  
This waiver is being requested to allow the new, merged LISA Academy to adopt and implement its own student discipline policies. The policies so adopted and implemented will meet all due process requirements. A waiver from these provisions is commonly held by open-enrollment public charter schools.
  - **Ark. Code Ann. §6-17-427; Section 15.01 of the ADE Rules Governing Standards for Accreditation, and the ADE Rules Governing the Superintendent Mentoring Program (all concerning superintendent mentoring):**  
This waiver is being requested to allow any new superintendents employed by the new, merged LISA Academy to receive intensive, internal training concerning their new duties and responsibilities as opposed to completion of the state-required mentoring program.
  - **Ark. Code Ann. §6-18-1001 et seq.; Section 16.01 of the ADE Rules Governing Standards for Accreditation, and the ADE Rules Governing Public School Student Services (all concerning guidance counselors):**  
This waiver is being requested to give the new, merged LISA Academy flexibility in its provision of guidance counseling services, with such services potentially being delivered through purchased services and/or through LISA Academy personnel who are experienced in guidance counseling but not necessarily holding licensure in that area. A

waiver from these provisions is commonly held by open-enrollment public charter schools.

- **Ark. Code Ann. §6-17-117 (concerning non-instructional duties for teachers):**

This waiver is being requested by the applicant to provide flexibility in utilizing its teaching staff to perform additional non-instructional duties in excess of sixty (60) minutes per week, if and as necessary. A waiver from this statute is commonly held by open-enrollment public charter schools.

- **Ark. Code Ann. §6-19-101 et seq. (concerning school buses and bus drivers):**

The applicant is requesting a waiver of this section of title 6 of the Arkansas Code due to its inapplicability to LISA Academy. Section 6-19-101 et seq. concerns the requirements applicable to schools providing their own public transportation programs (such as the employment requirements and qualifications for school bus drivers and requirements for school buses).

It is important to point out, however, that LISA Academy (at its Little Rock location) currently provides and will continue to provide tokens to students free of charge, upon request, to travel on Central Arkansas Transit buses to and from school.

- **Sections 15.01 and 15.02 of the ADE Rules Governing Standards for Accreditation (concerning superintendents and principals):**

This waiver is being requested to allow the new, merged LISA Academy to be able to utilize administrative personnel for two (2) or more campuses, as necessary (as is further illustrated in the accompanying merger request materials) to promote the efficient use of human and financial resources in the new single-charter configuration.

***\*Please see the waivers that LISA Academy-Little Rock and LISA Academy-North Little Rock currently hold from their original and approved renewals in the following pages.***

**LISA ACADEMY  
AN OPEN-ENROLLMENT CHARTER SCHOOL  
WAIVERS**

<b>District LEA:</b>	60-41-700	<b>Elementary School LEA:</b>	N/A
<b>City:</b>	Little Rock	<b>Middle School LEA:</b>	60-41-702
<b>Opening Date:</b>	2004	<b>High School LEA:</b>	60-41-703
<b>Grades Approved:</b>	6-12	<b>Expiration Date:</b>	6/30/2017
<b>CAP:</b>	800	<b>Grades Served 2013-014:</b>	6-12

**Waivers from Title 6 of the Arkansas Code Annotated (Education Code)**

6-13-601 et seq.	District Boards of Directors Generally
6-14-101 et seq.	School Elections
6-15-1004	Qualified teachers in every public school classroom
6-17-201 et seq.	Requirements—Written personnel policies—Teacher salary schedule
6-17-203	Committees on personnel policies—Members
6-17-302	Principals—Responsibilities
6-17-309	Certification to teach grade or subject matter—Exceptions—Waivers
6-17-401	Teacher licensure requirement
6-17-418	Teacher licensure—Arkansas history requirement
6-17-902	Definition (definition of a teacher as licensed)
6-17-919	Warrants void without valid certification and contract (the only requirement which would be waived is the ability to pay a teacher's salary only upon filing of a teacher's certificate with the county clerk's office, if the requirement of a teacher's certificate is waived for such teacher)
6-17-1501 et seq.	Teacher Fair Dismissal Act
6-17-1701 et seq.	Public School Employee Fair Hearing Act
6-17-2301 et seq.	Classified School Employee Personnel Policy Law

**Waivers from Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and Districts**

15.03	Licensure and Renewal
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**Waivers from Other Rules:**

- ADE Rules Governing Waivers for Substitute Teachers
- ADE Rules Governing Parental Notification of an Assignment of a Non-Licensed Teacher to Teach a Class for More than Thirty (30) Consecutive Days and for Granting Waivers
- Certified staff salary schedule
- Purchasing of instructional materials
- Teacher Education and Licensure
- Technology centers
- Teacher evaluations
- African American History
- Certified staff salary
- Personnel

**Regardless of any waivers granted, every charter school must always abide by the following requirements:**

- All standardized assessments required by the state must be administered solely by licensed personnel, as required by ADE Rules Governing the Arkansas Comprehensive Testing Assessment and Accountability Program, Sections 5.02.4 and 5.03.2. Violations of ADE

assessment procedures are subject to sanctions by the State Board, including without limitation sanctions pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-15-438 and 6-23-105.

- All teachers and school personnel, whether licensed or unlicensed, must submit to the criminal background and central registry checks required by law.
- Any teacher, whether licensed or unlicensed, who teaches a core academic subject area must meet the requirements of the ADE Rules Governing Highly Qualified Teachers Pursuant to the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. Core academic subject areas are defined by federal law to include English Language Arts, Reading, Mathematics, Science, Foreign Languages, Social Studies, Music, and Art.

**LISA ACADEMY – NORTH LITTLE ROCK  
AN OPEN-ENROLLMENT CHARTER SCHOOL  
WAIVERS**

<b>District LEA:</b>	60-48-700	<b>Elementary School LEA:</b>	60-48-701
<b>City:</b>	North Little Rock	<b>Middle School LEA:</b>	60-48-702
<b>Opening Date:</b>	August 2008	<b>High School LEA:</b>	60-48-703
<b>Grades Approved:</b>	K-12	<b>Expiration Date:</b>	6/30/2018
<b>CAP:</b>	700	<b>Grades Served 2013-014:</b>	K-12

**Waivers from Title 6 of the Arkansas Code Annotated (Education Code)**

6-13-109	School superintendent
6-15-1004	Qualified teachers in every public school classroom (each teacher in a core area must have bachelor's degree and meet content knowledge requirements)
6-15-1005(b)(5)	Pertaining to alternative learning environments
6-17-201 et seq.	Requirements—Written personnel policies—Teacher salary schedule
6-17-203	Committees on personnel policies—Members
6-17-301	Employment of certified personnel
6-17-302	Public school principals—Qualifications and responsibilities
6-17-309	Certification to teach grade or subject matter—Exceptions—Waivers (each teacher in a core area must have bachelor's degree and meet content knowledge requirements)
6-17-401	Teacher's licensure requirement (each teacher in a core area must have bachelor's degree and meet content knowledge requirements)
6-17-902	Definition (definition of a teacher as licensed)
6-17-1001	Minimum base salary—Master's Degree
6-17-1501 et seq.	Teacher Fair Dismissal Act
6-17-1701 et seq.	Public School Employee Fair Hearing Act
6-17-2301 et seq.	Classified School Employee Personnel Policy Law
6-18-503(a)(1)(C)(i)	Pertaining to alternative learning environments
6-18-508	Alternative learning environments
6-48-101 et seq.	Definitions (alternative learning environments)

**From Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) Rules Governing Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and Districts**

15.03	Licensure and Renewal
19.03	Pertaining to alternative learning environments

**Currently Approved Waivers from Other Rules:**

- Certified staff salary schedule
- Minimum Schoolhouse Construction (approved only as it relates to owned property versus leased property)
- Teacher Education and Licensure (each teacher in a core area must have bachelor's degree and meet content knowledge requirements)
- Purchasing of Instructional Materials
- Teacher Evaluations
- Technology Centers
- ADE Rules Governing Waivers for Substitute Teachers

- ADE Rules Governing Parental Notification of an Assignment of a Non-Licensed Teacher to Teach a Class for More than Thirty (30) Consecutive Days and for Granting Waivers
- ADE Rules Governing School District Requirements for Personnel Policies, Salary Schedules, Minimum Salaries, and Documents Posted to District Websites (pertaining to salary schedules and personnel policies)
- Section 4 of the ADE Rules Governing the Distribution of Student Special Needs Funding and the Determination of Allowable Expenditures of those Funds (Pertaining to alternative learning environments)

**Regardless of any waivers granted, every charter school must always abide by the following requirements:**

- All standardized assessments required by the state must be administered solely by licensed personnel, as required by ADE Rules Governing the Arkansas Comprehensive Testing Assessment and Accountability Program, Sections 5.02.4 and 5.03.2. Violations of ADE assessment procedures are subject to sanctions by the State Board, including without limitation sanctions pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-15-438 and 6-23-105.
- All teachers and school personnel, whether licensed or unlicensed, must submit to the criminal background and central registry checks required by law.
- Any teacher, whether licensed or unlicensed, who teaches a core academic subject area must meet the requirements of the ADE Rules Governing Highly Qualified Teachers Pursuant to the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. Core academic subject areas are defined by federal law to include English Language Arts, Reading, Mathematics, Science, Foreign Languages, Social Studies, Music, and Art.

## Proposed Budget - Newly Planned Merged LISA Academy

enrollment

1500

1500

<u>Revenues</u>	2014-2015	2015-2016
State Public Charter School Aid:		
State Foundation Funding	\$9,780,000.00	\$9,975,600.00
Professional Development	\$66,375.00	\$67,702.50
<u>NSLA Funding</u>	\$271,405.00	\$274,119.05
<b>Total State Charter School Aid</b>	<b>\$10,117,780.00</b>	<b>\$10,317,421.55</b>
Other Sources of Revenues:		
Private Donations or Gifts		
Federal Grants ( <b>Title-I</b> + Title-II + <b>Sp Ed</b> + Lunch Reimbursement)	\$574,330.00	\$591,559.90
Special Grants (List the amount)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other ( <b>Roll over</b> + <i>Student Lunch</i> )	\$640,000.00	\$641,800.00
<b>Total Other Sources of Revenues</b>	<b>\$1,214,330.00</b>	<b>\$1,233,359.90</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$11,332,110.00</b>	<b>\$11,550,781.45</b>
<u>Expenditures</u>	2014-2015	2015-2016
Administration:		
Salaries: ( <i>No. of Positions_13__</i> )	\$853,850.00	\$879,465.50
Fringe Benefits	\$228,447.00	\$235,300.41
Purchased Services	\$169,500.00	\$172,890.00
Supplies and Materials	\$18,000.00	\$18,360.00
Equipment	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other ( <i>Describe</i> )	\$0.00	\$0.00
	<b>\$1,269,797.00</b>	<b>\$1,306,015.91</b>
Regular Classroom Instruction:		
Salaries: ( <i>No. of Positions_92__</i> )	\$3,832,240.00	\$3,905,052.56
Fringe Benefits	\$1,012,292.80	\$1,031,526.36
Purchased Services	\$164,800.00	\$169,744.00
Supplies and Materials	\$439,000.00	\$452,170.00
Equipment	\$20,000.00	\$20,300.00
Other ( <i>Describe</i> )	\$32,000.00	\$32,480.00
	<b>\$5,500,332.80</b>	<b>\$5,611,272.92</b>
Special Education:		
Salaries: ( <i>No. of Positions_6__</i> )	\$260,100.00	\$265,302.00
Fringe Benefits	\$68,022.00	\$69,382.44
Purchased Services	\$109,500.00	\$112,785.00
Supplies and Materials	\$7,500.00	\$7,725.00
Equipment	\$7,200.00	\$7,308.00
Other ( <i>Describe</i> )	\$1,500.00	\$1,522.50
	<b>\$453,822.00</b>	<b>\$464,024.94</b>
Gifted and Talented Program:		
Salaries: ( <i>No. of Positions_2__</i> )	\$90,000.00	\$91,800.00
Fringe Benefits	\$21,600.00	\$22,032.00
Purchased Services	\$0.00	\$0.00
Supplies and Materials	\$5,950.00	\$6,128.50
Equipment	\$3,500.00	\$3,552.50
Other ( <i>Describe</i> )	\$0.00	\$0.00
	<b>\$121,050.00</b>	<b>\$123,513.00</b>
Alternative Education Program:		
Salaries: ( <i>No. of Positions__</i> )	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fringe Benefits	\$0.00	31 \$0.00

Purchased Services	\$0.00	\$0.00
Supplies and Materials	\$0.00	\$0.00
Equipment	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other ( <i>Describe</i> )	\$0.00	\$0.00
	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
Guidance Services:		
Salaries: ( <i>No. of Positions_3__</i> )	\$128,500.00	\$131,070.00
Fringe Benefits	\$33,670.00	\$34,343.40
Purchased Services	\$22,000.00	\$22,660.00
Supplies and Materials	\$6,000.00	\$6,180.00
Equipment	\$7,000.00	\$7,105.00
Other ( <i>Describe</i> )	\$2,000.00	\$2,030.00
	<b>\$199,170.00</b>	<b>\$203,388.40</b>
Health Services:		
Salaries: ( <i>No. of Positions_3__</i> )	\$75,100.00	\$76,526.90
Fringe Benefits	\$16,522.00	\$16,835.92
Purchased Services	\$0.00	\$0.00
Supplies and Materials	\$15,000.00	\$15,225.00
Equipment	\$4,000.00	\$4,060.00
Other ( <i>Describe</i> )	\$0.00	\$0.00
	<b>\$110,622.00</b>	<b>\$112,647.82</b>
Media Services:		
Salaries: ( <i>No. of Positions_1__</i> )	\$20,000.00	\$20,380.00
Fringe Benefits	\$6,200.00	\$6,317.80
Purchased Services	\$38,500.00	\$39,270.00
Supplies and Materials	\$8,500.00	\$8,670.00
Equipment	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other ( <i>Describe</i> )	\$4,000.00	\$4,060.00
	<b>\$77,200.00</b>	<b>\$78,697.80</b>
Fiscal Services:		
Salaries: ( <i>No. of Positions_3__</i> )	\$111,500.00	\$113,730.00
Fringe Benefits	\$28,130.00	\$28,692.60
Purchased Services	\$3,750.00	\$3,862.50
Supplies and Materials	\$10,000.00	\$10,300.00
Equipment	\$10,000.00	\$10,150.00
Other ( <i>Describe</i> )	\$8,500.00	\$8,627.50
	<b>\$171,880.00</b>	<b>\$175,362.60</b>
Maintenance and Operation:		
Salaries: ( <i>No. of Positions_1__</i> )	\$15,000.00	\$15,285.00
Fringe Benefits	\$3,300.00	\$3,362.70
Purchased Services	\$360,600.00	\$375,024.00
(include utilities)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Supplies and Materials	\$58,700.00	\$0.00
Equipment	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other ( <i>Describe</i> )	\$20,000.00	\$20,300.00
	<b>\$457,600.00</b>	<b>\$413,971.70</b>
Pupil Transportation:		
Salaries: ( <i>No. of Positions____</i> )	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fringe Benefits	\$0.00	\$0.00
Purchased Services	\$10,000.00	\$10,140.00
Supplies and Materials	\$0.00	\$0.00
Equipment	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other ( <i>Describe</i> )	\$0.00	\$0.00
	<b>\$10,000.00</b>	<b>\$10,140.00</b>
Food Services:		

Salaries: (No. of Positions_4__)	\$84,000.00	\$85,596.00
Fringe Benefits	\$18,480.00	\$18,831.12
Purchased Services	\$8,250.00	\$8,373.75
Supplies and Materials	\$443,500.00	\$454,587.50
Equipment	\$12,000.00	\$12,180.00
Other (Describe)	\$2,200.00	\$2,233.00
	<b>\$568,430.00</b>	<b>\$581,801.37</b>
Data Processing:		
Salaries: (No. of Positions_2__)	\$55,600.00	\$56,656.40
Fringe Benefits	\$14,032.00	\$14,298.61
Purchased Services	\$0.00	\$0.00
Supplies and Materials	\$0.00	\$0.00
Equipment	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other (Describe)	\$0.00	\$0.00
	<b>\$69,632.00</b>	<b>\$70,955.01</b>
Substitute Personnel:		
Salaries: (No. of Positions_2__)	\$44,000.00	\$44,880.00
Fringe Benefits	\$9,680.00	\$9,873.60
	<b>\$53,680.00</b>	<b>\$54,753.60</b>
Facilities:		
Lease/Purchase (contract for one total year including facility upgrades)	\$1,188,000.00	\$1,150,000.00
Please list upgrades:	\$5,000.00	\$0.00
Utilities (contract for one total year including facility upgrades)	\$204,250.00	\$208,335.00
Insurance (contract for one total year including facility upgrades):	\$0.00	\$0.00
Property Insurance	\$67,000.00	\$69,010.00
Content Insurance	\$0.00	\$0.00
	<b>\$1,464,250.00</b>	<b>\$1,427,345.00</b>
Debt Expenditures:	\$135,500.00	\$60,000.00
Other Expenditures:	\$0.00	\$0.00
(Describe)	\$9,500.00	\$0.00
	<b>\$145,000.00</b>	<b>\$60,000.00</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$10,628,389.80</b>	<b>\$10,693,890.07</b>
<b>END OF YEAR CLOSING</b>	<b>\$703,720.20</b>	<b>\$856,891.38</b>

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LITTLE SCHOLARS OF  
ARKANSAS FOUNDATION, INC.

WHEREAS, the Little Scholars of Arkansas (LISA) Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors (Board) met in a regular, open, and properly-called meeting on November 20, 2013, in Little Rock, Arkansas;

WHEREAS, (5) members were present, a quorum was declared by the chair;

WHEREAS, the Board has received and reviewed information from the administrators of LISA Academy- North Little Rock concerning the merger of the charters of LISA Academy- North Little Rock and LISA Academy into one (1) charter, under the name of LISA Academy, for the benefit of their students and increased efficiency in the administration and operation of the two (2) schools;

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that LISA Academy- North Little Rock and LISA Academy should merge their respective charters into a single charter under the name of LISA Academy, and, as a part of the merger process, review the charters' current waivers and request any additional waivers as necessary to provide maximum flexibility necessary for the operation of the schools; and

WHEREAS, the Board, upon due consideration and deliberation, hereby approves and adopts this Resolution for the purpose of merging the charters of LISA Academy- North Little Rock and LISA Academy into one (1) charter under the name of LISA Academy, and the request for any additional waivers necessary as stated above; and

NOW THEREFORE, this Board hereby adopts this Resolution, and authorizes the Superintendent of LISA Academy- North Little Rock to prepare and submit all necessary documentation for the signature of the Board's President and Secretary; to submit said paperwork and this Resolution to the Department of Education for consideration and action by the Department's Charter Authorizing Panel; and to take all other necessary and proper action in order to effectuate the Board's Resolution.

Board President

Board Secretary

11/20/2013

Date

11/20/2013

Date

**LISA Academy  
Amendment Request  
January 2014**

**Notes from Legal Staff –**

The Charter Authorizing Panel should examine each waiver requested by the charter. Particular attention should be paid to the following waiver requests which traditionally have either not been granted or have warranted additional discussion by the authorizer:

- **Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-2203 and 6-17-2403 (Minimum Salaries for Licensed and Classified Personnel)**
  - Based on this request and other waivers already granted to the Charter, a waiver of Sections 1-8 of the **ADE Rules Governing School District Requirements for Personnel Policies, Salary Schedules, Minimum Salaries, and Documents Posted to District Websites** is also necessary.
- **Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-501 et seq. (Student Discipline Policies)**
  - In order to effectuate this waiver, a waiver of the **ADE Guidelines for the Development, Review and Revision of School District Student Discipline and School Safety Policies** is also necessary.



ARKANSAS  
DEPARTMENT  
OF EDUCATION

**CHARTER AMENDMENT REQUEST FORM**

**Charter Name** Cross County Elementary Technology Academy

**LEA Number** 1901701

**Type of Amendment Requested:**

**Other:** Amend Standard 5 in the charter that addresses changes to charter goals and language.

**Charter Leader** Stephen Prince

**Email address** stephen.prince@crosscountyschools.com

**Phone number** \_\_\_\_\_

# Cross County School District

*M. Carolyn Wilson, Superintendent*

BOARD MEMBERS:

*Joan Ball  
President*

*Ricky Harrison  
Vice President*

*Craig T. Walker  
Secretary*

*Dennis Stevenson*

*James Matlock*

*Richard Imboden*

*Shane Bell*

December 2, 2013

Re: Charter Amendment

Mrs. Perry,

Cross County Elementary Technology Academy is requesting an amendment to Standard 5 of the charter to be addressed at the January board meeting. Item three indicates the school will use NWEA/MAP testing to monitor progress of student achievement. The District is no longer using this testing as an indicator for progress and/or growth.

To align with the state's accountability measures, the language in item two will be changing to reflect AMO (Annual Measurable Objectives) instead of AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress). Item four indicates "all classes will have 80% mastery on each SLE as measured by TLI assessments". The school is proposing that be changed to "all classes will demonstrate growth and progress toward the school's AMO expectations/projections as indicated by TLI assessments and ACTAAP testing.

If there are any questions or for clarification, feel free to contact me at 870-588-3337 extension 2235.

Regards,



Stephen Prince

Cross County Administrative Offices  
M. Carolyn Wilson, Superintendent  
21 CR 215  
P.O. Box 180  
Cherry Valley, AR 72324  
870-588-3338 ext 3000  
870-588-3565 fax

Cross County Elementary Technology  
Academy  
Stephen Prince, Principal  
2622 Hwy 42  
P.O. Box 300  
Cherry Valley, AR 72324  
870-588-3327 ext 3050  
870-588-4454 fax

Cross County High School  
A New Tech School  
Jennifer McFarland, Principal  
21 CR 215  
P.O. Box 180  
Cherry Valley, AR 72324  
870-588-3337 ext 3020  
870-588-4606 fax

LEA	DISTRICT_NA	SCHOOL_NAM	LEA_TYPE	ACADEMIC_IN	ACHIEVEMENT	2011	BASELIN	2012	AMO	2013	AMO
1901006	CROSS COUNT	CROSS COUNT	School	Literacy Growth	African American	42.86	47.62	52.38			
1901006	CROSS COUNT	CROSS COUNT	School	Literacy Growth	All Students	53.91	57.75	61.59			
1901006	CROSS COUNT	CROSS COUNT	School	Literacy Growth	Caucasian	56.12	59.78	63.43			
1901006	CROSS COUNT	CROSS COUNT	School	Literacy Growth	Economically Disadvantaged	53.91	57.75	61.59			
1901006	CROSS COUNT	CROSS COUNT	School	Literacy Growth	English Learners						
1901006	CROSS COUNT	CROSS COUNT	School	Literacy Growth	Hispanic	100	100	100			
1901006	CROSS COUNT	CROSS COUNT	School	Literacy Growth	Students with Disabilities	20	26.67	33.33			
1901006	CROSS COUNT	CROSS COUNT	School	Literacy Growth	Targeted Achievement	53.91	57.75	61.59			
1901006	CROSS COUNT	CROSS COUNT	School	Literacy Perform	African American	52.94	56.86	60.78			
1901006	CROSS COUNT	CROSS COUNT	School	Literacy Perform	All Students	57.49	61.03	64.58			
1901006	CROSS COUNT	CROSS COUNT	School	Literacy Perform	Caucasian	58.9	62.33	65.75			
1901006	CROSS COUNT	CROSS COUNT	School	Literacy Perform	Economically Disadvantaged	57.49	61.03	64.58			
1901006	CROSS COUNT	CROSS COUNT	School	Literacy Perform	English Learners						
1901006	CROSS COUNT	CROSS COUNT	School	Literacy Perform	Hispanic	100	100	100			
1901006	CROSS COUNT	CROSS COUNT	School	Literacy Perform	Students with Disabilities	30.77	36.54	42.31			
1901006	CROSS COUNT	CROSS COUNT	School	Literacy Perform	Targeted Achievement	57.49	61.03	64.58			
1901006	CROSS COUNT	CROSS COUNT	School	Math Growth	African American	50	54.17	58.33			
1901006	CROSS COUNT	CROSS COUNT	School	Math Growth	All Students	47.83	52.18	56.53			
1901006	CROSS COUNT	CROSS COUNT	School	Math Growth	Caucasian	47.96	52.3	56.63			
1901006	CROSS COUNT	CROSS COUNT	School	Math Growth	Economically Disadvantaged	47.83	52.18	56.53			
1901006	CROSS COUNT	CROSS COUNT	School	Math Growth	English Learners						
1901006	CROSS COUNT	CROSS COUNT	School	Math Growth	Hispanic	100	100	100			
1901006	CROSS COUNT	CROSS COUNT	School	Math Growth	Students with Disabilities	33.33	38.89	44.44			
1901006	CROSS COUNT	CROSS COUNT	School	Math Growth	Targeted Achievement	47.83	52.18	56.53			
1901006	CROSS COUNT	CROSS COUNT	School	Math Perform	African American	82.35	83.82	85.29			
1901006	CROSS COUNT	CROSS COUNT	School	Math Perform	All Students	73.65	75.85	78.04			
1901006	CROSS COUNT	CROSS COUNT	School	Math Perform	Caucasian	73.29	75.52	77.74			
1901006	CROSS COUNT	CROSS COUNT	School	Math Perform	Economically Disadvantaged	73.65	75.85	78.04			
1901006	CROSS COUNT	CROSS COUNT	School	Math Perform	English Learners						
1901006	CROSS COUNT	CROSS COUNT	School	Math Perform	Hispanic	100	100	100			
1901006	CROSS COUNT	CROSS COUNT	School	Math Perform	Students with Disabilities	61.54	64.75	67.95			
1901006	CROSS COUNT	CROSS COUNT	School	Math Perform	Targeted Achievement	73.65	75.85	78.04			

2014_AMO	2015_AMO	2016_AMO	2017_AMO	COUNTY_COD	COOP_LEA	COOP_NAME
57.15	61.91	66.67	71.43	19	5620000	Crowley's Ridge Education Coop
65.43	69.27	73.11	76.96	19	5620000	Crowley's Ridge Education Coop
67.09	70.75	74.4	78.06	19	5620000	Crowley's Ridge Education Coop
65.43	69.27	73.11	76.96	19	5620000	Crowley's Ridge Education Coop
100	100	100	100	19	5620000	Crowley's Ridge Education Coop
40	46.67	53.33	60	19	5620000	Crowley's Ridge Education Coop
65.43	69.27	73.11	76.96	19	5620000	Crowley's Ridge Education Coop
64.71	68.63	72.55	76.47	19	5620000	Crowley's Ridge Education Coop
68.12	71.66	75.2	78.75	19	5620000	Crowley's Ridge Education Coop
69.18	72.6	76.03	79.45	19	5620000	Crowley's Ridge Education Coop
68.12	71.66	75.2	78.75	19	5620000	Crowley's Ridge Education Coop
100	100	100	100	19	5620000	Crowley's Ridge Education Coop
48.08	53.85	59.62	65.39	19	5620000	Crowley's Ridge Education Coop
68.12	71.66	75.2	78.75	19	5620000	Crowley's Ridge Education Coop
62.5	66.67	70.83	75	19	5620000	Crowley's Ridge Education Coop
60.87	65.22	69.57	73.92	19	5620000	Crowley's Ridge Education Coop
60.97	65.31	69.64	73.98	19	5620000	Crowley's Ridge Education Coop
60.87	65.22	69.57	73.92	19	5620000	Crowley's Ridge Education Coop
100	100	100	100	19	5620000	Crowley's Ridge Education Coop
50	55.55	61.11	66.67	19	5620000	Crowley's Ridge Education Coop
60.87	65.22	69.57	73.92	19	5620000	Crowley's Ridge Education Coop
86.76	88.23	89.7	91.18	19	5620000	Crowley's Ridge Education Coop
80.24	82.43	84.63	86.83	19	5620000	Crowley's Ridge Education Coop
79.97	82.19	84.42	86.65	19	5620000	Crowley's Ridge Education Coop
80.24	82.43	84.63	86.83	19	5620000	Crowley's Ridge Education Coop
100	100	100	100	19	5620000	Crowley's Ridge Education Coop
71.16	74.36	77.57	80.77	19	5620000	Crowley's Ridge Education Coop
80.24	82.43	84.63	86.83	19	5620000	Crowley's Ridge Education Coop

## Cross County Elementary

*STANDARD 5: List the specific measurable goals in reading, reading comprehension, mathematics, and mathematic reasoning based on the state mandated assessments, and any other assessment tools if used, for improving student academic achievement for each year of the public charter school's initial five (5) year period*

The school uses multiple assessment tools to measure academic achievement. These tools guide district decisions in goal-setting. The tools are addressed and outlined as follows:

- I. The number of students labeled as basic and below basic will decrease every year for the next five years.

Tool(s):

ITBS (K-2)

ACTAAP (3-6)

- II. Cross County Elementary School Reading, Reading Comprehension, Mathematics and Mathematic Reasoning will increase to meet AYP Annual Measureable Objectives (AMOs) and individual student growth goals each year for the first five years.

Tool(s):

ACTAAP (Arkansas Comprehensive Testing, Assessment and Accountability Program)

~~NWEA/MAP (Measures of Academic Progress): Grades K-2~~

TLI (The Learning Institute)

- ~~III. There will be 1.5 years of growth on MAP testing (grades K-2) for each individual student each year, regardless of proficiency (Reading, Language Usage, and Math).~~

~~Tool(s):~~

~~MAP (Measures of Academic Progress)~~

- IV. All classes will ~~have 80% mastery by the end of the school year on each SLE as measured by the TLI assessments~~ demonstrate growth and progress toward the school's AMO expectations/projections as indicated by TLI assessments and ACTAAP testing.

Tool(s):

TLI (The Learning Institute)



ARKANSAS  
DEPARTMENT  
OF EDUCATION

**CHARTER AMENDMENT REQUEST FORM**

**Charter Name** Cross County High School, A New Tech School

**LEA Number** 1901-703

**Type of Amendment Requested:**

**Other:** Cross County High School, A New Tech School is requesting an amendment to Standard 5 of our current charter.

**Charter Leader** Jennifer McFarland

**Email address** jennifer.mcfarland@nt.crosscountyschools.com

**Phone number** 870-588-3337

# Cross County School District

*M. Carolyn Wilson, Superintendent*

BOARD MEMBERS:

Joan Ball  
President

Ricky Harrison  
Vice President

Craig T. Walker  
Secretary

Dennis Stevenson

James Matlock

Richard Imboden

Shane Bell

December 9, 2013

Re: Charter Amendment

Mrs. Perry,

Cross County High School, *A New Tech School* is requesting an amendment to Standard 5 of the charter to be addressed at the January board meeting. Item two indicates the school will use NWEA/MAP testing to monitor progress of student achievement. The District is no longer using this testing as an indicator for progress and/or growth.

To align with the state's accountability measures, the language in item one will be changing to reflect AMO (Annual Measurable Objectives) instead of AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress). Item three indicates "all students will have 80% mastery on each SLE as measured by TLI assessments". The school is proposing that be changed to "all classes will demonstrate growth and progress toward the school's AMO expectations/projections as indicated by TLI assessments and ACTAAP testing."

If there are any questions or for clarification, feel free to contact me at 870-588-3337 extension 2210.

Regards,



Jennifer McFarland

Cross County Administrative Offices  
M. Carolyn Wilson, Superintendent  
21 CR 215  
P.O. Box 180  
Cherry Valley, AR 72324  
870-588-3338 ext 3000  
870-588-3565 fax

Cross County Elementary Technology  
Academy  
Stephen Prince, Principal  
2622 Hwy 42  
P.O. Box 300  
Cherry Valley, AR 72324  
870-588-3327 ext 3050  
870-588-4454 fax

Cross County High School  
A New Tech School  
Jennifer McFarland, Principal  
21 CR 215  
P.O. Box 180  
Cherry Valley, AR 72324  
870-588-3337 ext 3020  
870-588-4606 fax

## **Cross County High School**

*STANDARD 5: List the specific measurable goals in reading, reading comprehension, mathematics, and mathematic reasoning based on the state mandated assessments, and any other assessment tools if used, for improving student academic achievement for each year of the public charter school's initial five (5) year period*

- I. Cross County High School Reading, Reading Comprehension, Mathematics and Mathematic Reasoning will increase to meet AYP Annual Measureable Objectives (AMOs) and individual student growth goals each year for the first five years.

Tool(s):

ACTAAP (Arkansas Comprehensive Testing, Assessment and Accountability Program)

~~MAP (Measures of Academic Progress)~~

TLI (The Learning Institute)

- ~~II. There will be 1.5 years of growth on MAP testing for each individual student each year, regardless of proficiency (Reading, Language Usage, and Math).~~

~~Tool(s):~~

~~MAP (Measures of Academic Progress)~~

- III. All students will ~~have 80% mastery by the end of the school year on each SLE as measured by the TLI assessments~~ demonstrate growth and progress toward the school's AMO expectations/projections as indicated by TLI assessments and ACTAAP testing.

Tool(s):

TLI (The Learning Institute)

- IV. Attendance will increase by 1 % each year for the first two years and .5% each subsequent three years.

Tool(s):

Attendance records

Attendance software

- V. In the second year, the graduation rate will increase by 2%, and will continue to increase by the same increment each subsequent year.

Tool(s):

Guidance course

Graduation records

**ADE Comments and District Response**  
**Standard 5 of Application: Academic Achievement Goals**

**Concerns and additional questions**

*Please provide the percentage of students that will participate in state-mandated assessments.*

**Response:** Our goal is 100% participation in each assessment. Our participation has exceeded 95% on all assessments for the last three years.

*Clarification is needed regarding the Usage of TLI (The Learning Institute) as a valid an reliable assessment tool.*

**Response:** We have utilized TLI for the last four years and found it to be a good predictive model of student success on state-mandated testing. As a formative assessment it has allowed us to identify areas where instruction needed to be improved or re-taught.



ARKANSAS  
DEPARTMENT  
OF EDUCATION

CHARTER AMENDMENT REQUEST FORM

Charter Name Eastside New Vision Charter School

LEA Number 0602701

Type of Amendment Requested:

Other: We are requesting an amendment to our current G/T process and please see the attached

Charter Leader Marilyn Johnson

Email address marilyn.johnson@warrensd.org

Phone number 870-226-8500

## ATTACHMENT

**Mary, currently Eastside Charter's Gifted and Talented Program description is as follows:**

*Currently, all students in the Warren School District K-3 are served through weekly enrichment lessons using the Talents Unlimited Curriculum. The Talents Unlimited Lessons are provided by the gifted coordinator/teacher, Rhonda Williams Code 305/306 once a month through a pull-out lab for those students on the gifted watch-list and by the classroom teachers the other weeks of the month for all students K-3. Although we plan to continue the monthly lessons provided by the GT coordinator, we are asking a waiver from the requirement for regular classroom teachers to provide the Talents lessons. Our rationale is based upon the type of instruction provided on a daily basis with performance based, differentiated instruction for all students.*

**We are making some changes and would like to replace the information above with the information below.**

*All students in grades K-3 are served through a balanced instructional model which includes Seminars, Complex Reasoning, and grouping and regrouping rotations in the regular classroom as part of a standards based approach. Documentation of student progress is kept on file in individual student data binders and Educate. In addition to Seminars, Complex Reasoning, and grouping and regrouping, students working beyond their expected learning level are placed on a GT Watchlist, and are provided enrichment lessons at a level four and beyond. This service is provided by the Gifted and Talented Coordinator once a month through a pullout lab. Documentation of student responses are kept on file by the Gifted Coordinator.*

Please advise on how to get approval for this.