

FRIENDS OF WEINER
PO Box 111
Weiner, Arkansas 72479

RECEIVED
Arkansas Department of Education
Charter and Home School Office
Jun 30, 2013

June 25, 2013

Arkansas Department of Education
Charter School Office
Four Capitol Mall, Room 105-C
Little Rock, AR 72201

To Whom It May Concern:

It is the intention of Friends of Weiner to submit an application for an open enrollment public charter school for the 2014-2015 school year. Friends of Weiner is in the process of applying for status as a Non-Profit Organization under Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Name of Charter School: Northeast Arkansas School of Agriculture

Location: Weiner, Arkansas, located in the Harrisburg School District

Contact for NEA School of Agriculture:

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The proposed campus anticipates serving grades 7-12 with a maximum enrollment of 250 students.

The purpose of this school is to meet the needs Arkansas agribusinesses face with an aging workforce and a lack of qualified candidates in a rapidly changing and increasingly sophisticated agriculture economy. Currently 27 out of every 100 jobs in Arkansas are agriculture related. We will equip Arkansas students with the skills and knowledge necessary to compete for these highly advanced, technical jobs that will afford them a career that can help sustain the nation's food and energy supply and boost Arkansas' rural economy.

The NEA School of Agriculture will provide deliberate instruction that meshes Common Core college and career readiness expectations with the "skills gap" needs confronted by agricultural businesses, thereby developing well-rounded, future employees and doing so in a manner that prepares all students for entrance to two or four year colleges of their choice, regardless of individual interest areas. Students will experience hands-on application of those needed skills cited by agri business leaders via supervised agricultural experiences, including shadowing and semester internships at area agriculture companies, as well as immersion in an affective curriculum designed to nurture intrapersonal and interpersonal skills. This school will develop effective and efficient critical thinkers and problem solvers within the context of real situations requiring technology. Students will learn how to acquire and evaluate data, organize, communicate, and understand social, organizational, and technological systems.

Arkansas State University has expressed an interest in working with this charter school by providing leadership and using their extensive agricultural staff to implement college concurrent classes. Donations of land, technology and farm equipment are already available for this enterprise in the Weiner community.

Sincerely,
Michelle Cadle

Greta Greeno

