

Fountain Lake Charter High School

PART A - GENERAL INFORMATION

School District: Fountain Lake School District
Grade Levels: 9-12
Enrollment Cap: 800
Address of Proposed School: 4207 Park Avenue, Hot Springs, AR 71901

PRE-APPLICATION MATERIALS

The Arkansas Department of Education requires that all applicants submit a Letter of Intent, outlining a general description of the proposed charter school.

Evaluation Criteria:

- A Letter of Intent was filed with Arkansas Department of Education on time and included all the necessary information

Fully Responsive

PART B EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Arkansas Department of Education requires all applicants to include an executive summary.

Evaluation Criteria:

A mission statement (with content to be evaluated for Prompt #2 of Part C)
The key programmatic features of the proposed charter school

Fully Responsive

PART C NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED CHARTER

C1: PUBLIC HEARING RESULTS

All districts must conduct a public hearing before applying for a district conversion or limited charter school, to assess support for the school's establishment. Applicants are asked both to document the logistics of the hearing and to include a narrative of the hearing results.

Evaluation Criteria:

- A thorough description of the results of the public hearing
- Evidence of public support exhibited at the hearing
- Documentation of required notice published to garner public attention to the hearing
- Documentation of required notices about the hearing being sent to the community, certified school personnel, and parents of all students enrolled at the public school for which the school district initiated the application

Fully Responsive

C2: MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission Statement should be meaningful and indicate what the school intends to do, for whom, and to what degree.

Evaluation Criteria:

- A mission statement that is clear and succinct

Fully Responsive

Concerns and Additional Questions

C3: EDUCATIONAL NEED

The Educational Need section should explain the need for a charter school in the proposed location and the innovative educational option offered by the charter school.

Evaluation Criteria:

- Valid, reliable, and verifiable data substantiate an educational need for the charter,
- Innovations that would distinguish the charter from other schools

Fully Responsive

C4: ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT GOALS

The Academic Achievement Goals section should define the performance expectations for students and the school as whole and support the charter's mission.

Evaluation Criteria:

- Specific goals in reading and mathematics that are clear, measurable, and attainable;
- Valid and reliable assessment tools to be used to measure the goals; and
- Attainment of the goals demonstrate that the charter is meeting the identified educational need for the school and fulfilling its mission

Partially Responsive-FULLY RESPONSIVE (BASED ON RESPONSE)

Concerns and Additional Questions

Explain how the attainment of the goals will demonstrate that the charter is meeting the identified educational need for the school and fulfilling its mission.

The mission of the Fountain Lake Charter High School is to “Graduate Every Student Prepared for Success”. Every student will have a Personalized Success Plan (PSP) and be engaged in a career pathway. As a part of the PSP the student, parent and advisor will participate in a formal conference as needed to ensure that progress is being made towards their desired career goal. Within this plan data will be used to document progress towards that goal. The data used for this plan will include but not be limited to academic achievement, Explore, Plan and ACT scores, NWEA, Interest Inventories, high school and college transcripts, internship hours, industry certifications and any other pertinent information that would give direction to success for that individual student.

The goal of the district is to meet or exceed the state average on the Next Generation Assessment, increase the number of students reaching all college and career readiness benchmarks on the ACT, and increase the number of students involved in career

internships, college hours and industry certification programs. The district understands that our students will be competing globally for jobs and we will need to understand how our students compare to students across the state, nation and world. As a district we are committed to preparing all students for success and will use all available resources to make that happen.

C5: EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

The Educational Program section should describe the educational foundation of the school and the teaching and learning strategies that will be employed.

Evaluation Criteria:

- A clear description of the proposed educational program, including but not limited to the foundational educational philosophy and curricular and instructional strategies to be employed
- Specific reasons that the school would be viable
- A description of the length of school day and school year that meets minimum state requirements

Fully Responsive

Concerns and Additional Questions

Provide an example of a daily schedule that includes the pathways and describe what a typical day would look like for a charter student.

An individual student's daily schedule will be determined by their PSP. For instance, the following table shows the coursework a typical senior at FLCHS might experience during their last year of high school:

12th Grade	Period	1st Semester	2nd Semester
	1st	Math (Pathway Focused) Examples of Possible Pathway Specific Math for Seniors... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer Science Pathway- Algebra III or College Algebra or AP Calculus • Advanced Academic Pathway- AP Calculus or College Algebra • Criminal Justice Pathway- Algebra III or College Algebra • Machine Tool Technology Pathway- Algebra III or TBD 	Math (Pathway Focused) Examples of Possible Pathway Specific Math for Seniors... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer Science Pathway- Algebra III or College Algebra or AP Calculus • Advanced Academic Pathway- AP Calculus or College Algebra • Criminal Justice Pathway- Algebra III or College Algebra • Machine Tool Technology Pathway- Algebra III or TBD
	2nd	English	English
	3rd	Science (Pathway Focused) Examples of Possible Pathway Specific Science for Seniors... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biomedical Science Pathway- AP Chemistry and/or AP Biology • Aeronautics Pathway- Physics • Engineering Pathway- Physics or AP Physics • Clean Energy Technology Pathway- Environmental Science 	Science (Pathway Focused) Examples of Possible Pathway Specific Science for Seniors... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biomedical Science Pathway- AP Chemistry and/or AP Biology • Aeronautics Pathway- Physics • Engineering Pathway- Physics or AP Physics • Clean Energy Technology Pathway- Environmental Science
	4th	Capstone/Senior Project	Capstone/Senior Project
	5th	Career Pathway Elective 3 (On Campus or at NPTC)	
	6th	Career Pathway Elective 4 (On Campus or at NPTC)	
	7th	Activity	

C6: CHARTER MODEL

Evaluation Criteria:

- Specific reasons why it is critical for the district to have a charter school rather than implementing the plan outlined in the application on an existing traditional campus

Fully Responsive

C7: AUTONOMY

Evaluation Criteria:

A clear description of all the ways in which the charter school will have more autonomy than traditional schools in the district, specifically pertaining to personnel, budget, day-to-day operations, and the school calendar.

Fully Responsive

C8: SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Evaluation Criteria:

- Meaningful and realistic ways to involve licensed employees and parents in developing and implementing the school improvement plan, identifying performance criteria, and evaluating the effectiveness of the improvement plan
- A plan that addresses how the charter school will improve student learning and meet the state education goals

Fully Responsive

C9: CURRICULUM ALIGNMENT

The Curriculum Alignment section should define the process by which the charter will ensure that the curriculum aligns with Arkansas Curriculum Frameworks and Common Core State Standards.

Evaluation Criteria:

- Evidence that the applicant has a process to ensure all curriculum materials, used in the educational program, align with the Arkansas Department of Education's curriculum frameworks and the Common Core State Standards

Fully Responsive

C10: STUDENT SERVICES

The Student Services section should describe how the school will address specific services for its student body.

Evaluation Criteria:

A description of the ways in which the following services will be provided to students **even in those areas for which a waiver is requested**:

- A guidance program that will serve all students;
- A health services program that will serve all students;
- A plan for a media center for use by all students;
- Sound plans for educating special education students that reflect the full range of programs and services required to provide such students with a high quality education;
- A transportation plan that will serve all **eligible** students;
- An alternative education plan for eligible students, including those determined to be at-risk and to offer access to one or more approved Alternative Learning Environments;
- A plan to serve students who are English language learners; and
- Plans for a gifted and talented program for eligible students

Fully Responsive

Concerns and Additional Questions

Confirm that the charter will comply with all state and federal special education regulations.

Fountain Lake Charter High School will comply with all state and federal special education regulations.

C11: ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORTS

The Annual Progress Reports section should define how the academic progress of individual students and the school as a whole will be measured, analyzed, and reported.

Evaluation

Criteria:

- A timeline for data compilation and completion of an annual report to parents, the community and the authorizer, **separate from the district's annual report to the public**, that outlines the school's progress;
- A plan for dissemination of the annual report to appropriate stakeholders

Fully Responsive

C12: ENROLLMENT CRITERIA AND PROCEDURES

The Enrollment Criteria and Procedures section should describe how the school will attract and enroll its student body, including any criteria for admission and enrollment. Applicants must also provide assurances for a random, anonymous lottery selection process.

Evaluation Criteria:

- A student recruitment plan that will provide equal opportunity for all parents and students to learn about and apply to the school
- An enrollment and admissions process that is open, fair, and in accordance with applicable law
- A process for, and a guarantee of, a random, anonymous lottery process should there be more student applications than can be accommodated under the terms of the charter

Fully Responsive

C13: PRIOR CHARTER INVOLVEMENT

Evaluation Criteria:

- A complete Prior Charter Involvement Template for each individual connected with the propose charter;
- Accurate data in each Prior Charter Involvement Template, including active links to assessment data

Fully Responsive

C14: STAFFING PLAN

The Staffing Plan section should describe the job duties of the school administrator(s) and other key personnel. This section should also describe the professional qualifications which will be required of employees.

Evaluation Criteria:

- A job description for the school administrators and other key personnel, including but not limited to counselors, teachers, etc.
- An outline of the professional qualifications required for administrators, teachers, counselors, etc.
- A staffing plan that clearly outlines both the types and numbers of positions to be filled at the school and salary scales for such positions

Fully Responsive

Explain if the professional qualifications listed for all of the positions are minimum qualification, or desired qualifications.

The qualifications listed on each of the specific job positions are desired because in specific circumstances, the pool of applicants may be limited for specialty areas. All certified staff positions will meet the minimum requirements set forth by the ADE.

C15: ARKANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOL COMPUTER NETWORK ASSURANCES

The Arkansas Public School Computer Network (APSCN) Assurances section should provide documentation of the applicant's understanding of and participation in the required state finance and educational data reporting system.

Evaluation Criteria:

- Assurance that the charter school will participate in APSCN and will comply with all state statutory requirements regarding the APSCN finance and educational data reporting system

Fully Responsive

C16: FACILITIES

The Facilities section should identify and describe the facilities to be used by the school and any changes to be made to the facilities.

Evaluation Criteria:

- An identified facility appropriate to meet the needs of the school over the term of its charter
- A realistic plan for remodeling or adapting a facility, if necessary, to ensure that it is appropriate and adequate for the school's program, the school's targeted population, and the public
- Evidence that the school understands the costs of securing and improving a facility and has access to the necessary resources to fund the facility plan
- A sound plan for continued operation, maintenance, and repair of the facility

Fully Responsive

C17: FOOD SERVICES

This section should describe how the school will address food services for its student body.

Evaluation Criteria:

- A food service plan that will serve all eligible students
- A management plan that reflects a clear understanding of federal law and requirements if the charter school plans to participate in the National School Lunch program

Fully Responsive

C18: PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

The Parental Involvement section should describe how parents or guardians of enrolled students, the school employees, and other members of the community will make a positive impact on the school and its educational program.

Evaluation Criteria:

- A plan for involving parents and guardians in the school's education programs
- A proposal that involves the parents of students, employees and the broader community in
- carrying out the terms of the charter

Fully Responsive

C19: WAIVERS

The Waivers section should discuss all waivers requested from local or state law.

Evaluation Criteria:

- Each law, rule, and standard by title, number, and description for which a waiver is requested
- A rationale for each waiver request
- An explanation of the way that each waiver would assist in implementing the educational program of the charter and/or fulfilling the charter's mission

SEE LEGAL COMMENTS

C20: DESEGREGATION ASSURANCES

The Desegregation Assurances section should describe the applicant's understanding of applicable statutory and regulatory obligations to create and maintain a unitary system of desegregated public schools.

Evaluation Criteria:

- Assurance that the charter school will comply with all applicable federal and state statutory and regulatory requirements regarding the creation and maintenance of desegregated public schools
- An outline of the potential impact of the proposed charter school on those desegregation efforts already in place in affected public school districts

SEE LEGAL COMMENTS

C23: SUSTAINABILITY OF THE PROGRAM

The Sustainability section should describe the applicants' plan to ensure continued success of the charter school over time.

Evaluation Criteria:

- The plan to ensure the sustainability of the charter in the future.

Fully Responsive

Red=Waivers not previously requested, need additional discussion, or have remaining issues

Green=Waivers previously granted, no remaining issues

Information provided by Applicant is in italics.

Fountain Lake Charter High School Waivers Requested in Original Application 2014 District Conversion Application

1. Keyboarding and Career Orientation (withdrawn)

Section 9.03.3.9 (“Career and Technical Education”) of the ADE Rules Governing the Standards for Accreditation

The Fountain Lake Middle School is required to teach the Career and Technical Education curriculum requirements as separate classes (such as Keyboarding and Career Orientation) to its 7th and 8th grade students

To prepare students for the Charter High School experience, the applicant is asking for a waiver of that requirement in order that curriculum meeting the requirements of the ADE Standards Rules, Arkansas Frameworks and all applicable rubrics may be embedded within other courses to be provided by the conversion charter school, and/or teach certain courses in the manner listed below. The applicant ensures that students will receive instruction concerning the required material in the Career and Technical Education classes meeting or exceeding all state curriculum requirements through embedding the curriculum within the students' required coursework. Specifically, the Applicant requests to embed the course content of the Career Orientation class into other portions of the Middle School curriculum; introduce the Family Consumer Science course at the eighth (8th) grade level; and introduce the Survey of Ag Science course at the eighth (8th) grade level. This waiver is needed to help students in the seventh and eighth grades be better prepared to participate in, and derive the most educational benefit from, the Fountain Lake Charter High School. Although the seventh and eighth grades are not part of this application, the applicant strongly believes that the ability to present the Career and Technical Education curriculum to those students in the manner set forth in the waiver request will help provide a valuable link from the Charter Middle School to the Charter High School.

Legal Comments: The standard imposes a requirement for grades 5-8. The applicant seeks a charter for grades 9-12. The authorizer cannot grant a waiver for grades the charter will not serve.

Response: *The Fountain Lake School District wishes to withdraw this waiver request.*

Remaining Issues: None

2. Oral Communications

Section 9.03.4.1 (“Language Arts”) of the ADE Rules Governing the Standards for Accreditation

The Fountain Lake School District is required to teach Oral Communication as a separate class.

The Applicant is asking for a waiver of that requirement in order that the curriculum meets requirements of the ADE Standards Rules, Arkansas Frameworks and all applicable rubrics may be embedded within other courses to be provided by the conversion charter school.

The Applicant ensures that students will receive instruction concerning the required material in the Oral Communication class meeting or exceeding all state curriculum requirements through embedding

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the curriculum within the students' required coursework.

Legal Comments: None

Remaining Issues: None

3. Health

Section 9.03.4.9 (“Health and Safety Education”) of the ADE Rules Governing the Standards for Accreditation

The Fountain Lake Charter High School is required to provide a one-half unit Health and Safety Education course to meet the requirements of this Standard. The applicant is asking for a waiver of that requirement in order that curriculum meeting the requirements of the ADE Standards Rules, Arkansas Frameworks and all applicable rubrics may be embedded within other courses to be provided by the conversion charter school. The applicant ensures that students will receive instruction concerning the required material in the Health and Safety Education class meeting or exceeding all state curriculum requirements through embedding the curriculum within the students' required coursework. Specifically, the Applicant desires to embed the course content from the Health and Safety class within its Biology course.

Legal Comments: None

Remaining Issues: None

4. Instructional Day

Section 10.01.4 (“Planned Instructional Day”) of the ADE Rules Governing the Standards for Accreditation

Due to the unique nature of the Fountain Lake Charter High School's educational offerings as outlined in this application, the applicant is requesting a waiver of the Planned Instructional Day requirements. The curricular offerings of the high school, while meeting all curriculum requirements, may be capable of being provided in less than thirty (30) hours per week.

Legal Comments: Rationale should be provided as to why this waiver is necessary to achieve the Applicant's goals. In order to effectuate this waiver, waiver of Ark. Code Ann. § 6-16-102 is also necessary.

Response: *In order for the Fountain Lake Charter High School to focus on the each student's PSP (Personalized Success Plan) the applicant is requesting this waiver to allow students to participate in job shadowing, internships, digital/online courses, and other instructional strategies that would contribute to student success on their PSP. To effectuate this waiver, the applicant also requests a waiver of Ark. Code Ann. § 6-16-102.*

Remaining Issues: None

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Green—Waivers previously granted, no remaining issues

Information provided by Applicant is in italics.

5. Class Size

Section 10.02 (“Class Size and Teaching Load”) of the ADE Rules Governing the Standards for Accreditation and specifically subsection 10.02.5

In order to obtain the flexibility to fully implement the Fountain Lake Charter High School experience, the applicant wishes to request a waiver of the Class Size and Teaching Load requirements. The applicant believes that the unique curriculum delivery system that will be utilized in the Charter High School is truly an example of an “exceptional case” worthy of a waiver under Section 10.02.5 of the Standards Rules. A waiver is being specifically requested for our teachers to be able to instruct no more than 180 students, with a maximum of no more than 30 students per class.

Legal Comments: None

Remaining Issues: None

6. Clock Hours

Section 14.03 of the ADE Rules Governing the Standards for Accreditation (concerning required clock hours for units of credit)

The applicant is not, by this waiver request, asking for a waiver of graduation requirements. The applicant is requesting only a waiver of the 120 clock hour requirement. In accordance with prior ADE comments on this type of waiver request, the applicant hereby affirms that it will adhere to full curriculum alignment with Arkansas Frameworks, and will be glad to submit to the ADE and/or the Charter Authorizing Panel any additional information that may be desired.

Legal Comments: Rationale should be provided as to how this waiver will help the applicant meet its goals. Explanation should be provided as to how this waiver would be implemented, what classes it would apply to, and how the applicant will ensure all frameworks will be taught.

Response: *The waiver is essential to the Charter to assure that with the Charter’s pathways there would be the necessary flexibility to allow for individualized instruction based on the student’s PSP. With the ability of students to take online/digital courses, there will be the need for a flexible time to allow for PSP activities that are student PSP directed. Without this waiver, as career pathways are implemented, the lack of flexibility could impact students’ ability to engage in the PSP activities that are essential to their success.*

Remaining Issues: It is unclear how this waiver would be implemented, what classes it would apply to, and how the applicant will ensure all frameworks are taught.

7. Licensure

**Ark. Code Ann. §§6-15-1004, 6-17-302, 6-17-309, 6-17-401, 6-17-902, and 6-17-919;
Sections 15.02 and 15.03 of the ADE Rules Governing Standards for Accreditation
ADE Rules Governing Education Licenses**

Red—Waivers not previously requested, need additional discussion, or have remaining issues

Green—Waivers previously granted, no remaining issues

Information provided by Applicant is in italics.

The applicant is requesting a waiver from the above-listed statutes and rules, to the extent that it may be necessary to hire professionals in the community who possess outstanding credentials and work history in the various areas of coursework provided in the Charter High School, even if they do not possess a teaching license. Any individuals hired as a result of this waiver will meet all other requirements, such as Highly Qualified Teacher status if applicable, and the successful completion of criminal background and Child Maltreatment Registry checks. We see this as a part of the collaboration process between the school district and the community which will further the linkage process created by the school and the district with the community.

As a specific example of the use of this waiver, the applicant would wish to serve its Charter High School Gifted and Talented (GT) students with a teacher who is not certified in GT.

Legal Comments: Applicant should confirm that it understands AP courses must meet licensure and training requirements unless additional waivers are sought.

Response: *The applicant understands that AP courses must meet licensure and training requirements of the ADE.*

Remaining Issues: None

8. Gifted and Talented

Ark. Code Ann. §§6-20-2208(c)(6) and 6-42-109; Section 18.0 of the ADE Rules Governing the Standards for Accreditation, and the ADE Rules Governing Gifted and Talented Program Approval Standards (concerning Gifted and Talented Students)

The applicant requests a waiver of the above listed statutes and rules, to the extent necessary to permit it to assign students who meet the requirements for placement in the Gifted and Talented (GT) programs to students in grades (9-12) into appropriate pre-advanced placement and advanced placement courses. All roles and responsibilities of this position will be addressed by the Advanced Placement (AP) Coordinator to ensure the needs of all GT students are covered through AP courses and their Personalized Success Plan.

Legal Comments: Applicant should explain how this waiver will help the charter meet its goals and how this placement will differ from a GT program in a traditional school.

Response: *The applicant desires to go beyond using AP/Pre-AP courses to address GT students' needs. The GT student's PSP will enable the district to focus on project based learning, curriculum and instructional opportunities that will support the GT student in their plan for success.*

Remaining Issues: Based on the information provided, it does not appear this waiver is necessary. Additional discussion with the Applicant may be necessary to determine how its program will differ from a secondary GT program in a traditional school.

DESEGREGATION ANALYSIS: Fully responsive