

Please review the **Example Form** found on the [Charter School Office website](#) prior to working on your request form. *Also, edit the footer on this form to display your school's name.*

Charter School Office Waiver Request Form For Requests Submitted during the 2025 - 2026 School Year

Section 1: Administrative Data

District/ School/ Applicant Name	Fort Smith Public Schools
Superintendent/ Point Of Contact	Martin Mahan
Email Address	mmahan@fortsmithschools.org
Phone Number	479-785-2501
District/ School LEA (if assigned)	6601
Date of Waiver Request Submission	5/1/26

Section 2: Waiver Requests - Total of Requests

Request # 1	Waiver Topic: Language Instruction		
	Arkansas Code Annotated:	6-16-128	<i>Arkansas Early Grades Foreign Language Pilot Program There is hereby created the Arkansas Early Grades Foreign Language Pilot Program. The purpose of the program is to encourage the development of new foreign language programs for students in kindergarten through grade six (K-6), with an emphasis on Spanish.</i>
	Standard for Accreditation:	1-A.1	Each public school district board of directors shall annually adopt and implement written curriculum aligned to the Arkansas Academic Standards for the operation of the school district pursuant to Arkansas law or Division of Elementary and Secondary Education rules. Reading, writing, speaking, and personal success skills shall be incorporated into all curriculum areas. (D/C)
	DESE Rules Governing:	N/A	
	Rationale:	Many military families from Singapore will be assigned to Ebbing Air Force Base in Fort Smith for an extended stay. These students will return to their home country and be assessed in their home language, which is Mandarin. All students will benefit from the exposure of multiple global languages.	

Request # 2	Waiver Topic: Licensure		
	Arkansas Code Annotated:	6-17-401	<i>Teacher's License Requirement (a) Except as permitted under § 6-17-309 and § 6-17-2601 et seq., no teacher shall be employed in any public school of the state who is not licensed to teach in the State of Arkansas by a</i>



			<p><i>license issued by the State Board of Education.</i></p> <p><i>(b) Any person who shall teach in a public school in this state shall only be entitled to receive any compensation from the school funds for such services if the person has:</i></p> <p><i>(1) A valid license issued by the state board; or</i></p> <p><i>(2) Other documentation from the Office of Professional Licensure of the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education authorizing employment as a teacher under the conditions set forth by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education in the documentation.</i></p>
	Standard for Accreditation:	4-D.1	Each public school district shall employ classroom teachers that meet the licensure requirements pursuant to Arkansas law or division of Elementary and Secondary Education rules or are teaching under a licensure exception pursuant to Arkansas law or division rules. (D/C)
	DESE Rules Governing:		
	Rationale:	To provide an authentic model of languages and STEM career skills, it will be necessary to employ professionals who may not have Arkansas licensure. The charter school students will need the use of native Mandarin language speakers and industry leaders to provide career-based instruction.	

Request # 3	Waiver Topic: Use of HQIM		
	Arkansas Code Annotated:		
	Standard for Accreditation:		
	DESE Rules Governing:		
	Rationale:		



Request # 4	Waiver Topic: Required amount of instructional time per subject		
	Arkansas Code Annotated:		
	Standard for Accreditation:		
	DESE Rules Governing:		
	Rationale:		

