



Date: 6/20/2018

Dear Commissioner,

It is with deep regret and concern that the Friendship Aspire Academy Public Charter School-Little Rock respectfully withdraws its April 2018 request to have amended our approved Open-Enrollment Charter School Charter School Application in order to open our school a year earlier in SY2018-2019.


This decision, while difficult, comes as a direct result of the Arkansas Board of Education's recent decision to reopen deliberations at this late point and potentially reverse ADE Charter Advisory Panel's recommendation approving our early school opening.

Given the burden of evidence required to review, and the time that has been lost in this process, we do not believe it to be in the best interest of the children and families of Little Rock to rush our school opening. The uncertainty, with less than seven weeks to open our doors to staff and eight weeks to open our doors to students, has created an untenable position and is unfair to our families.

As I am sure you would agree, this a decision that has not been made lightly—as it leaves our most vulnerable kindergarten and first grade children a year further behind and gives the parents in Central and Southwest Little Rock one less quality school choice. Equally disheartening is the fact that after almost a decade of being closed, a completely renovated and state-of-the-art school facility will go underutilized.

We now eagerly await our 2019-2020 school opening. Thank you for the continued support of your office.

Sincerely,

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Donald L. Hense