



DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION

2020 Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Application

Submission Deadline: Monday, June 1, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.
Applications will not be accepted after this time.



Arkansas AgSTEM Academy

Name of the Proposed Charter

Any application that is substantially incomplete will not be forwarded to the authorizer for consideration. An application will be considered substantially incomplete if it does not provide enough information to enable staff at the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education to provide a meaningful review.

Division of Elementary and Secondary Education
Charter School Office
Four Capitol Mall
Little Rock, AR 72201
501.683.5313

Name of Primary Contact for the Application	Greta Greeno
Address	5950 Mallard Pond Lane
City, Zip	Fisher, Arkansas 72429
Phone	870-897-0857
Email	Greta.greeno@hotmail.com

General Information

Name of Proposed Charter School: Arkansas AgSTEM Academy

Grade Level(s) for the School: 7-12

Student Enrollment Cap: 250

	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
Grades to be Offered at the Charter	7-9	7-10	7-11	7-12	7-12
Enrollment Cap at the Charter	90	120	150	180	250

Name of Sponsoring Entity: ASSET Foundation

Other Charter Schools Sponsored by this Entity

School Name	Location	Year Established	Accreditation Status
N/A			

The applicant is an “eligible entity” under the following category (check one):

- A public institution of higher education
- A private nonsectarian institution of higher education;
- Governmental entity; or
- An organization that is nonsectarian in its programs and operations, and is, or will be, exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal

Revenue Code. (A copy of the entity's letter from the IRS reflecting tax exempt status or a copy of the entity's application for 501(c)(3) status must be included with the application. Articles of incorporation or a letter acknowledging non-profit status from the Secretary of State will not suffice.) To be eligible, an entity must hold or have applied for 501(c)(3) status at the time this charter application is filed. The entity must receive formal tax exempt status under §501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 prior to the first day of its operation with students.

Non-profit entities without the required Internal Revenue Service documentation are not eligible to be awarded charters; therefore, any applications submitted without documentation showing that 501(c)(3) status has been applied for or received will not be reviewed.

Charter Site Address	PO Box 62
City	Weiner
Zip	72479
Date of Proposed Opening	Fall of 2021
Chief Operating Officer	Greta Greeno
Title	Director of School
Phone	870-897-0857
School district where charter will be located	Harrisburg School District
Population of District	1174
List the district from which the charter school expects to draw students	Harrisburg School District; Trumann School District; Westside Consolidated School District; Jackson County School District; Cross County School District; Newport School District; Marked Tree School District; Nettleton School District; and Valley View School District

1. Describe the geographical area to be served by the charter.

Arkansas AgSTEM Academy will be in the Harrisburg School District located in Poinsett County in Northeast Arkansas in the Delta. It is expected that students from Harrisburg

School District and contiguous school districts within a 40 miles radius will make up the primary base of students from Poinsett, Jackson, Cross and Craighead Counties. However, the Academy will accept any eligible student who is able to travel to attend school.

2. Provide a comprehensive list of all individuals, including but not limited to entity board members and charter school board members, involved in the organization and design of the proposed school as well as the proposed application process. Please note that Ark. Code Ann. §6-24-105 prohibits charter school board members from contracting with or being employed by the charter school except in certain limited circumstances.

Identify any family or financial relationship which may exist between the individual and:

- (A) Any other individual specifically identified by name in Section A of the application;
- (B) Any individual or entity with whom the sponsoring entity or charter school has contracted, or intends to contract, to provide any services or products for the proposed charter school; and/or
- (C) The owner(s) of the facilities to be used.

Note: For the purpose of this prompt, an individual has a financial relationship with another individual or entity if he or she (1) receives compensation or benefits directly or indirectly from the entity or individual; (2) Is an officer, director, partner, employee, or owner of more than 5% of the shares of an entity that is a corporation, partnership, sole proprietorship, or LLC; and/or (3) has a family member (spouse, sibling, parent or child, or the spouse employee, or owner of more than 5% of the shares of an entity that is a corporation, partnership, sole proprietorship, or LLC.

Individuals Involved in the Organization or Design of the Charter and/or the Application Process

Name	Position	State of Residence	Family or Financial Relationships
Greta Greeno	President, ASSET Foundation	AR	Mother of Abby Jones
Tisha Westerman	Vice President,	AR	NONE

	ASSET Foundation		
Abby Jones	Treasurer, ASSET Foundation	AR	Daughter of Greta Greeno
Mary Norris	Secretary, ASSET Foundation	AR	NONE
Steve Shepard	Board Member, ASSET Foundation	AR	NONE
Carroll Thetford	Board Member, ASSET Foundation	AR	NONE
Brad Doyle	Board Member, ASSET Foundation	AR	NONE
Shannon Mirus	Board Member, ASSET Foundation	AR	NONE

3. For every individual identified above, identify any family or financial relationship which may exist between that individual or entity if he or she:
- a. Receives compensation or benefits directly or indirectly from the entity or individual;
 - b. Is an officer, director, partner, employee or owner of more than 5% of the shares of an entity that is a corporation, partnership, sole proprietorship or LLC; and/or
 - c. Has a family member (spouse, sibling, parent, child or the spouse employee or owner of more than 5% of the shares of an entity that is a corporation, partnership, sole proprietorship or LLC.

NONE

4. Provide the mission statement of the proposed school.

Arkansas AgSTEM Academy’s mission is to inspire and equip the next generation to change the world for good through unique and innovative learning experiences, challenge students to become self-motivated critical thinkers, and develop career and college ready leaders in the agricultural community.
Learn – Think – Care- Serve

5. Explain how the mission statement was developed.

The mission was developed through a collaborative effort of the ASSET Foundation Board of

Directors and other stakeholders, including parents of potential students, community and business leaders, and educators. It was shared with the attendees at the public meeting before being finalized.

6. Briefly describe the key programmatic features that the school will implement in order to accomplish the mission.

Arkansas AgSTEM Academy plans to immerse students in an innovative agricultural educational experience. Agriculture will be integrated across the curriculum. Core English, math, social studies and science curriculum will include assignments and projects aligned with content concurrently addressed in the agricultural sciences curriculum, along with agricultural issues reported on through the popular media. Currency of content will assist in establishing contemporary relevance to students.

AgSTEM Academy will provide each student with a personalized educational program to support their success. Career guidance and development will be based on each student's assessment of interests, gifts, and abilities and will provide the framework for creation of individualized learning plans. These will engage students in the planning of their future and facilitate success through a focus on student needs & opportunities. These learning plans keep track of student progress toward agreed-upon goals and will be accessible to students and parents electronically through the school website.

AgSTEM Academy will offer a blended learning strategy incorporating project-based learning, student-led research, team mentoring through the national PlantingScience program, internships, work/study experiences, and high quality synchronous and asynchronous courses and labs for delivery of a student-focused curriculum. AgSTEM students in grades 7-9 will conduct team projects in concert with the PlantingScience program. Students in grades 10-12 will be required to conduct an independent or team science project annually as part of their scholarship. Through the PlantingScience program, scientists will provide online mentorship to AgSTEM student teams as they design and think through their own inquiry projects. The program is a collaborative engagement in science education that crosses traditional learning settings: learning in and out of class; hands-on and technology enhanced. "Engaging in the process of science enhances science learning. The ability to collaborate, discuss, and reflect with scientists and peers opens new doors to motivate students, and builds necessary pathways for 21st century skills" (Source: <https://plantingscience.org/>).

In alignment with the Arkansas Career & Technical Education Standards, AgSTEM Academy will offer an enriched curriculum for educational opportunities in the career field/focus areas of Agricultural Sciences & Technology; Business & Marketing Technology; and STEM. The career and technical program of study will provide students with learning experiences that: 1) support exploration of career options in the Arkansas agribusiness, education, and research industry, 2) support academic and 21st century life skills, and 3) facilitate student academic achievement and employment preparation.

AgSTEM Academy will employ 1:1 technology for all students. The curriculum developed and delivered through Arkansas AgSTEM Academy will be supported through a collective learning system of educational, industry, and community partners. The proposed agricultural charter school has received commitments to support on-site project-based learning. This will enable students to learn using the most recent state-of-the-art technology that is available in the agriculture industry. Sustainable management practices, both conventional and organic, will

be explored through student research plots supported by the agricultural industry, Arkansas higher education institutions, national professional organizations, on-site educators, parents and family/ community members. This on-site project-based learning will take place on a 16-acre learning lab located in Weiner.

AgSTEM students will be presented with continuous character-building opportunities by engaging in service learning. The application of knowledge in a real-world context will bring the student full circle in the education process. Students will be supported to: **Learn, Think, Care, and Serve.**

7. Describe how the parents or guardians of the enrolled students and other members of the community will be involved with the school to positively impact the charter school's educational programs.

AgSTEM will hold Parent-Teacher conferences twice a year as well as additional virtual and in person meetings with parents as needed to update on student progress.

Parents will be provided with informational packets at the beginning of each year, which will explain the process of creating the individual student learning plans and how to access them electronically. Collaboration between parents with educators will assist students in creating their individualized learning plans. Parents will have continuous access to their student's learning plan through the school website. Conferences between parents and teachers will include a review of the student's individual learning plan to assess needs, track progress, and make adjustments.

Local agriculture businesses and Arkansas State University College of Agriculture have offered to partner with AgSTEM Academy to provide outreach services including data science, Precision Ag Technology and applied field-level research activities to support student exploration in the 16-acre learning lab. Field Days will be held twice a year for these partners to present and demonstrate new technologies and best practices to prepare students for the new digital agricultural paradigm.

Community members have offered to assist AgSTEM with their time, talents, and financial support. AgSTEM will host Volunteer Days to allow community members to interact with students to provide mutual learning opportunities. This will support social development and enable students to apply knowledge in a real-world context.

8. Describe the results of the public hearing, which was held for the purpose of assessing support for the establishment of this public charter school.

The public meeting was held on May 21, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. There were approximately 30 attendees. In addition to the 30 shown in attendance we have been contacted by several people who were unable to access the meeting but are very supportive. The Board of ASSET Foundation presented their plan for the school, then opened the meeting to questions from attendees. Several questions had been submitted prior to the meeting through an email address shared in the announcements about the public meeting. Additionally, questions were submitted through the chat feature of Zoom and other questions and comments were made by attendees vocally.

9. Describe the governing structure of the open-enrollment charter school, including board composition, selection process, and responsibilities. Also describe the role of the administrators, faculty, parents, students, and community members in the leadership and decision-making of the school. As part of your response, answer the following specific questions:

- a. Identify what individual, job position(s), or entity(s) will have final decision-making authority for the school in the areas of (1) finance and purchasing; (2) student discipline; (3) hiring and firing of staff; and (4) hiring and firing of the school director or superintendent.**
- b. Specify how the final decision-maker(s) identified in response to (A)(3) will be selected or elected, including (1) length of term, (2) method of selection or election, and (3) who will have the authority to participate in the selection or election process.**
- c. Explain how and to what extent the school's leadership will be accountable to parents.**
- d. Describe the plan for providing school board members with continuous professional development.**

ASSET Foundation board will be the governing board.

The board is currently made up of 8 members, with bylaws permitting 5 - 20 members. This board consists of business leaders, educators, agricultural representatives, parents, and community leaders. Board responsibilities include but are not limited to: completing the required hours of professional development, hiring of the Director of School, and attending monthly and/or called meetings.

- a) The ASSET board will have final decision-making authority in the area of (1) finance and purchasing. The Director of School will handle day-to-day purchasing decisions with large purchases (over \$5,000) being recommended to the board for approval. (2) Student discipline will be dictated by the Director of School with the exception of expulsion, which the Director will recommend to the board for a vote. (3) The Director of School will make staffing recommendations to the board for approval. (4) The employment of the Director of School will be the responsibility of the board.
- b) Anyone may nominate an individual for a position on the Board of Directors by submission in writing to the Board. The Board will investigate the nominee's qualifications and interest in the position. Upon motion by a Director, the nomination may be brought to the floor during a regular or special meeting of the Board of Directors for a vote. A simple majority approval is required for acceptance of the nomination and appointment of the nominee to a position as a Director. Director terms shall be for a period of 3 years. Directors may serve an unlimited number of terms.
- c) The board will be accountable to parents through the holding of monthly school board meetings announced in advance and the annual report to the public held in October. The Director of School will be responsible for publishing of the school's annual budget on the school website. The faculty will be responsible for the annual review of the

- students' individualized learning plans. The board, Director, and faculty will utilize social media, the school website, and other media to communicate with parents.
- d) The board will complete the required hours of professional development annually through the regional educational cooperatives per the regulations set forth by the Arkansas Division of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Arkansas School Board Association.

The board will continually strive to seek input from teachers, parents, and students for consideration in the planning and decision-making process. The Personnel Policy Committee will make recommendations to the Director who will present to the board for review.

10. Explain the educational need for the charter in the geographical area to be served by the charter. Be certain to include quantitative data related to academic achievement and the source(s) for information presented.

This proposed charter school will be located in Poinsett County in the "Delta" region of Arkansas. 2018-2019 ARDESE report cards of the local and contiguous school districts show grades of A (2), B (1), C (3), and D (3). Data shows that the majority of students in this geographical area exceed the state average of economically disadvantaged students. According to the UofA 2019 Rural Profile of Arkansas, free and reduced lunch participation rates range from Cross County at 61.6%, Craighead at 65.8%, Poinsett at 83.2%, and Jackson at 83.9%. Education is closely linked with economic outcomes. For rural counties, low educational attainment is closely related to higher poverty and child poverty rates as well as higher unemployment rates (USDA Economic Information Bulletin, April 2017). Students in the Delta are economically disadvantaged with little opportunity to improve their educational outcomes.

Arkansas Delta students lack opportunities for a STEM education. Niche.com lists 25 of the 2020 Best Schools for STEM in Arkansas. Only one school on this list is located in the Arkansas Delta. According to the ACT 2017 report on Stem Education in the US, workers in STEM fields are in high demand, with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine predicting that there will be a shortfall of 3.4 million skilled technical workers nationwide by 2022. Skilled technical workers are individuals who use science and engineering skills in their jobs, but do not have a bachelor's degree. The US Bureau of Labor Statistics, updated in April of 2020, projects an additional 850,000+ STEM occupations between 2018 and 2028, updated in April of 2020. The opportunities for stem-related jobs are increasing each year, and students, especially in the Arkansas Delta, must be prepared to take advantage of those opportunities.

Agriculture is the largest industry in Arkansas, contributing more than \$16 billion each year to the state's economy. 1 in 4 jobs in Arkansas is related to agriculture. Poinsett County is the #1 rice producing county in the #1 rice producing state in the nation. This county serves as headquarters for the 3rd largest farm implement dealer in the nation. However, the percentage of local residents employed here is around 10%. When asked about this percentage, the CFO stated that hiring local employees would further the company's desire to integrate itself into the communities it serves, but so often there are no qualified applicants

from the local community.

Agriculture is just one segment of the economy that is changing rapidly due to advances in technology. GPS systems, Precision Ag best practices, drone utilization, and electronic field management database systems are just the beginning of how technology is changing the process of feeding the world. According to a 2020 Farm Bureau report, farms must become more productive to feed the growing world population, but it is a concern that the average age of the Arkansas farmer is 57 years old. The industry's need for fresh faces with advanced technological skills is a necessity, not a luxury.

Not only is agriculture prevalent in the Arkansas Delta, but it is Arkansas' largest industry, adding around \$16 billion to the state's economy each year. With poor and underperforming schools in the Delta, a higher than average rate of poverty, and lack of a STEM education, Arkansas Delta students are greatly underserved in the midst of an environment that is ripe with opportunities for Agricultural and STEM based careers.

-See attached Support Letters from ASU College of Agriculture, Greenway Equipment, Inc., and Northeast Rice Research & Extension Center which identify the disconnect between education and employment in the 21st Century workforce.

11. Describe the innovations that will distinguish the charter from other schools in the geographical area to be served by the charter. Consider noting if the innovations described are considered research-based best practices and/or if these innovations have been successful in other educational programs. The applicant may list as few or as many innovations as they deem appropriate for their proposed charter.

AgSTEM will offer a blended learning strategy incorporating project-based learning, quality synchronous and asynchronous courses, student-led research, and work/study experiences, for delivery of student-focused curriculum.

All curriculum materials will be designed to align with the AR DESE curriculum standards. A digital education management platform will assist with monitoring of courses and alignment with the curriculum standards. A personalized dashboard will be provided for each student. All Career & Technical Education Programs of Study will be approved by the Arkansas Department of Career Education to support the development of career pathways and coordination with post-secondary education institutions and industry. Students will have opportunities to achieve industry certifications and participate in dual/concurrent credit programs.

Students will be engaged in discovery while participating in science investigation utilizing a 16-acre learning lab. They will experience various agricultural activities such as tillage, planting, calculating fertilizer application and harvesting practices.

A local soybean breeding and research facility has committed to assist students in research opportunities relating to soybean production and genetics.

A local farm implement dealer has offered to connect students with the latest technology regarding data collection and interpretation, field analysis, observation and monitoring of John Deere machine health performance operations in the field, irrigation monitoring and remote

access of irrigation wells, as well as demonstrations of the latest guidance technology available. Access to Precision Ag Technology will increase engagement of our students while ensuring they are meeting the skills needs of the agricultural industry. The availability of this technology is rare for secondary education students.

Students will be involved with team mentoring provided through the national PlantingScience program. This is an online learning community for teachers and students that provides volunteer scientists, resources and activities to support student-centered plant investigations that integrate the scientific method, practices, and big ideas in biology that meet the guidelines in the Next Generation Science Standards. Scientists will provide online mentorship to 7-9th grade student teams as they design and think through their own inquiry projects.

AgSTEM has been invited to develop a partnership with Arkansas State University College of Agriculture to work together and share in new learning opportunities. This would be accomplished by faculty and students of both campuses visiting each other to collaborate on research projects.

Northeast Rice Research and Extension Center, which is being constructed in Poinsett County, has offered to partner with AgSTEM Academy. Our students will have the opportunity to observe and experience latest developments in rice research.

The benefit of situated learning is that students can learn first-hand the value and meaning of chemistry, botany, biology, and physics which will lead to improved outcomes for students. They will apply algebra, geometry, and economics giving new meaning to “textbook” and classroom instruction. This leads to not only improved outcomes, but real learning for students.

12. In the following table, list the goals of the charter. The goals should be measurable and related to the mission statement. For each goal, include the instrument for measuring performance and the date the goals will be assessed.

GOAL	Instrument for Measuring Performance	When Attainment of the Goal Will Be Assessed
Increase student performance in literacy each year	ACT Aspire and classroom performance	Annually
Increase student performance in mathematics each year	ACT Aspire and classroom performance	Annually
Increase student performance in science each year	ACT Aspire and classroom performance	Annually
Student research of ag-related careers	Documentation of participation and presentation of research findings	Annually upon competition of grades 11 & 12
Graduating students will demonstrate preparedness for college and career readiness	Observation, interviews, and surveys, ACT scores	Annually after 1 st graduating class

Student participation in service projects and community involvement	Log of service hours	Annually
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13. 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.

Our first three academic goals will be measured annually using State Mandated and Nationally Norm-referenced assessments to demonstrate progress as compared to other students in our state and nation. An increase in student performance in the areas of literacy, mathematics, and science on the ACT Aspire and classroom performance will demonstrate growth, showing improvement in the educational outcomes of disadvantaged students in this region of the Delta. Rising scores are indicative of higher levels of knowledge and thinking, which supports our mission's endeavor to **learn** and **think** critically.

Career research will provide insight into ag industry employment opportunities available in the Arkansas Delta. Students in grades 11 & 12 will engage in approved ag-related work study/ interview/ job-shadowing/ internship opportunities to help discover available career paths. Measurement of this goal will be documentation of student participation in this project, culminating in a class presentation of their findings. Attainment of this goal meets the need of introducing students to existing opportunities in ag-related industries.

Graduating students who attend AgSTEM for a minimum of 2 years will demonstrate college or career readiness. This includes improving ACT scores, industry certification, acceptance into an institution of higher education, employment, or enrollment in additional career training. This goal will be measured by observations, interviews with graduating seniors, and a 6-month follow-up survey.

Education and character are both essential to initiate powerful and positive change. AGSTEM students will be presented with continuous character-building opportunities by engaging in service learning. Completion of service projects will provide students with an opportunity to discover what they **care** about and to **serve** their community as stated in our mission.

14. For elementary charter schools, provide a proposed daily schedule for all grade levels indicating the classes that will be provided for a one week time period. For secondary schools, provide required and elective courses for every grade level. If the school plans to phase in grade levels, include expansion grade levels by year with courses to be offered.

7 th and 8 th Grade Courses			
Course Name	Grades Offered	Year of Introduction	
English	7-8	1	
Science	7-8	1	
Math	7-8	1	

*Algebra I	8	1	*Pending Approval of ADE
Arkansas History	7-8	1	
Geography	7	1	
American History	8	1	
Music Appreciation	7-8	1	
Visual Art Appreciation	7-8	1	
Health & Physical Education	7-8	1	
Keyboarding	7-8	1	
Career Development	7-8	1	
Elective Courses			
Choir	7-8	1	
Art	7-8	1	
Intro to World Agricultural Science	7-8	1	
Automation and Robotics (PLTW)	7-8	1	

Language Arts (6 Units Required)

Course Name	Grades Offered	Year of Introduction	Credit Unit
English 9	9	1	1
English 10	10	2	1
English 11	11	3	1
English 12	12	4	1
AP English Literature & Composition	9-12	2	1
AP English Language & Composition	9-12	3	1
ACT Prep English Reading & Grammar	10-12	2	.5
Oral Communication: Personal	9-12	1	.5
Oral Communication: Professional	9-12	2	.5
Total Language Arts Units			7.5

Science (5 Units Required)

Course Name	Grades	Year of	Credit Unit
Physical Science	9-10	1	1
Biology	10-12	2	1
Chemistry	10-12	2	1
Earth Science	10-12	2	1
*Computer Science	10-12	2	1 * Flex Credit
AP Biology	11-12	3	1
Environmental Science	11-12	3	1
AP Environmental Science	11-12	3	1
Physics	11-12	3	1
Total Science Units			9.0

Fine Arts (3.5 Units Required)

Course Name	Grades	Year of	Credit Unit
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Visual Art I	9-12	1	1
Visual Art II	10-12	2	1
Vocal Music I	9-12	1	1
Vocal Music II	10-12	2	1
Vocal Music III	11-12	3	1
Total Fine Arts Units			5.0

Social Studies (4 Units Required)

Course Name	Grades	Year of	Credit Unit
Civics	9-12	1	.5
U.S. History Since 1890	9-12	1	1
World History	9-12	2	1
Economics & Personal Finance	9-12	2	.5
AP United States Government &	11-12	3	1
Total Social Studies Units			4.0

Career & Technical Education (9 Units Required)

Course Name	Grades	Year of	Credit Unit
Survey of Agricultural Systems	9-11	1	1
Agribusiness Management	10-12	2	1
Plant Science	11-12	3	1
Management	9-12	1	1
Technology Design and	9-11	1	1
Advanced Spreadsheet	10-12	2	.5
Financial Literacy	10-12	2	.5
Unmanned Aerial Systems I	9-12	1	1
Unmanned Aerial Systems II	10-12	2	1
Unmanned Aerial Systems III	11-12	3	1
Total Career & Technical Education Units			9.0

Mathematics (6 Units Required)

Course Name	Grades	Year of	Credit Unit
Algebra I	9-11	1	1
Algebra II	9-12	2	1
Geometry	9-12	2	1
*Computer Science	10-12	2	1 *Flex Credit
Pre-Calculus	10-12	2	1
Calculus	11-12	3	1
Trigonometry	11-12	3	1
Quantitative Literacy	11-12	3	1
Technical Math for College &	11-12	3	1
Total Mathematics Units			9.0

Other Courses (4.5 Units Required)

Course Name	Grades	Year of	Credit Unit
Health & Safety	9-12	1	.5
Physical Education	9-12	1	1
Jr. High Athletics	7-9	1	.5
Sr. High Athletics	10-12	2	.5
Spanish I	9-12	1	1
Spanish II	9-12	2	1
Spanish III	9-12	3	1
Total Other Units			5.5

High School Course Requirement	Units Listed
Language Arts (6 Units Required)	7.5
Science (5 Units Required)	9.0
Fine Arts (3.5 Units Required)	5.0
Social Studies (4 Units Required)	4.0
Career & Technical Education (9 Units)	9.0
Mathematics (6 Units Required)	9.0
Other (4.5 Units Required)	5.5
Total (38 Required)	49.0

15. Provide a description of curriculum, programs, and instructional methods used to support core classes. The curriculum should be aligned with the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education curriculum standards.

AgSTEM Academy will employ a blended teaching and learning strategy incorporating project-based learning, student-led research, team mentoring through the national PlantingScience program, internships, work/study experiences, and high quality synchronous and asynchronous courses and labs for delivery of a student-focused curriculum. All curriculum materials will be aligned with the AR DESE curriculum standards. A distinguishing characteristic of this charter will be the utilization of technology and the application of learning through an agricultural lens. Career and Technical Education curriculum will meet all AR Career Ed policies and standards.

16. Describe the process that will be used to ensure all curriculum materials used in the educational program are aligned with the Arkansas academic standards as adopted and periodically revised, by the State Board of Education.

AgSTEM Academy will ensure that the content of each course offered by the school is consistent with content and curriculum standards developed by the Arkansas State Board of Education. Planning and the annual verification of curriculum alignment will be conducted by a Curriculum Committee consisting of the Director of School and teachers that are knowledgeable in core subject areas. Agriculture business leaders will be consulted to ensure CTE programs align with current and future needs of the agriculture industry.

17. Describe the manner in which the school will make provisions for the following student services, even in each area for which a waiver is requested:

a) Guidance program

AgStem Academy will seek a waiver for the first two years regarding the requirement of a guidance program and on-campus certified counselor. The Director of School and carefully selected campus teachers will receive Professional Development in the areas of career awareness and planning with respect to individual's strengths and desires. These teachers will be available to help guide students and parents regarding course choices and career options. We will seek an outside consultant's service through a contractual basis for other needs that may arise.

b) Health services

We will contract with Access Medical Clinic in Weiner to provide health services for students of AgStem Academy. There is a licensed APN at the clinic who will come to the school daily to dispense medicine for students. Access Medical will perform the annual health and safety screenings each year. All staff will be trained in First Aid, CPR and the use of a defibrillator (AED). Parents or guardians will be required to sign a waiver giving permission for their child to be transported to the clinic for minor medical treatment, should the need arise.

c) Media center

AgStem Academy seeks a waiver in this area as technology will be a key feature of this school. The technology specialist will oversee media. All students will have 1-1 access to computers, with facilitated access to a global community and libraries for classroom learning, projects, and research. Online access will be available under guidance in accordance with classroom instruction. AgSTEM will assist students in accessing and utilizing digital resources as a component of day-to-day instruction as this approach more closely reflects current industry practices. In addition, students will have access to media through the Crowley's Ridge Regional Library branch located in Weiner.

d) Special education, including appropriate state assessments for special education students

This school will employ a full time licensed Special Education teacher to oversee the individual education plan (IEP) process and documentation as well as instruct in any areas deemed necessary by the IEP. We will comply with all state and federal special education guidelines.

e) Dyslexia Services

Students with dyslexia will be served by a certified teacher in accordance with A.C.A. §6-17-429.

f) Transportation

AgStem intends to provide transportation by buses and will designate pick-up and drop-off points for students in approximately a 25-mile radius in each direction from the school's

location. We plan to operate four buses.

g) Alternative education

Our Academy will provide an individualized approach to engage students through small class sizes, teacher-pupil ratio, using methods of instruction that are very hands-on and at appropriate levels. AgStem will promote success at varying levels using innovative and unique approaches. Should a student need services beyond our capabilities we will seek counselling and guidance to provide this student with the most supportive environment.

h) English Language Learner (ELL) instruction including appropriate state assessments for ELL students

Currently our area has an ELL population of less than 5% and we do not anticipate the need for an ELL-certified teacher. We are requesting a waiver until such time as the need arises.

i) Gifted and Talented Program

A waiver for Gifted and Talented program is being requested as we believe our entire educational concept is built on the differentiation of instruction according to subject matter and student ability. Students will be encouraged to “think outside the box” in their day-to-day classroom experience. AgSTEM students will be offered enriched curriculum to enhance their individual interests and skills. We believe all our students will be challenged in their learning and their achievements will reflect this.

18. Describe the enrollment criteria and recruitment processes that will provide an equal opportunity for all parents and students to learn about and apply for admission to the proposed public charter school. Please note any specific steps that will be taken to recruit students from educationally disadvantaged subpopulations (i.e. students who qualify for free or reduced lunch prices, students with disabilities, and English language learners).

It is the policy of AgSTEM Academy to accept all eligible students wishing to attend this charter school. We have included in our budget, funds for marketing that we can actively recruit students via our website, local newspapers, billboards, and social media or other media. We adhere to the Arkansas Department of Education Rules for Governing Charter Schools and/or all applicable federal and state laws regarding enrollment. No eligible student will be denied enrollment based on gender, national origin, race, ethnicity, religion, disability, or academic or athletic eligibility, except as follows: AgSTEM Academy may adopt admissions policies that are consistent with federal law, regulations, or guidelines applicable to charter schools. No student shall be discriminated against because of special education needs or those students identified as English Language Learners.

19. Check which of the following enrollment preferences, as permissible in Arkansas Code Annotated §6-23-306(14)(C), would be allowed at the charter school. If box 1 and/or 2 are checked, explain the policy.

X

Children of founding members of the charter

Siblings of enrolled students

No enrollment preferences

AgSTEM Academy will allow preference for the children of the founding members and children of full-time employees and teachers of the eligible entity. The number of enrollment preferences shall not exceed ten percent (10%) of the total number of enrolled students in the open-enrollment public charter school. We will allow a preference for siblings of students currently enrolled in the charter school.

20. If the use of a weighted lottery is required by federal court or administrative order, explain and furnish a copy of the order.

AgSTEM Academy does not believe the use of a weighted lottery is required by federal court or administrative order.

21. It is affirmed that a random, anonymous student selection method will be utilized in the event that more students apply for admission to the open-enrollment public charter school than can be accommodated under the terms of the charter, except as allowed for in Ark Code Annotated §6-23-306(14)(C).

Yes

No

22. Describe procedures for conducting the annual single lottery enrollment process, including the timeline for enrolling, the date of the lottery, and the way in which students will be placed on waiting lists, and the process for notifying parents about each child’s selection or order on the waiting list. Explain how the charter will ensure that the lottery process is transparent to the public.

If more students apply for admission to AgSTEM Academy than can be accommodated under the terms of the charter, a random, anonymous lottery will take place in order to ensure all eligible students have equal opportunity to enroll. We will use the lottery system developed and executed by the Office for Education Policy, University of Arkansas. Applications will be accepted from November 1st through May 1st. The official date for the lottery will be set after charter approval, but public notice for the event will be given at least one week in advance through contact information provided with the application. Students do not have to be present to be accepted.

The lottery process will be projected onto a screen or can be live-streamed. A “mock grade” will be done first showing every step of the procedure and then allow time for questions. All students applying for enrollment in a particular grade, with an additional indicator for “sibling”,

will be randomly assigned an anonymous ID number unique to the student. When the drawing is complete, students will be identified as Admitted or Waitlist. Parents will know at the conclusion of this meeting the status of their student's acceptance. Parents will also be able to determine the status of their child's acceptance by utilizing the AgSTEM website and will be notified by phone or email, as provided, within 5 business days of selection. Parents will have 10 business days to respond to that notification as to whether they will accept the spot or decline.

Every effort will be made to contact the parent, but if the parent fails to respond within the specified allotted time, the next student in line will be notified and the same procedure shall be followed. Parents of students placed on the Waitlist will also be notified within 5 business days from selection and will be informed should their student become eligible.

AgSTEM Academy will continue to accept applications after the application period ends, documenting the date the application was received. If the current Waitlist has been exhausted and the enrollment process fails to fill all the available slots, the lottery process will be repeated to fill these openings.

If an applicant on the Waitlist does not get accepted for that school year, that applicant will need to re-apply for the following year during the application period.

23. Explain how students leaving the charter during the school year will impact students on the waiting list. Please note that student enrollment must be continuous.

First, AgSTEM staff will work extremely hard to keep students enrolled at the charter school. Sometimes situations occur, like emergencies or moving, and if a student leaves the Academy during the school year, the next student on the Waitlist, according to their lottery designation, will be offered the seat. If there is not a Waitlist, we will accept applications for the seat.

24. Name any founders or board members of the proposed charter's sponsoring entity, management company staff, and/or leaders of the proposed charter who have any prior involvement in the operation of one or more other charter schools and complete a Prior Charter Involvement template for each individual listed.

N/A

25. Explain how the school will conduct its business office. Tell about business office personnel and describe the plan for managing procurement activities. Be sure to specify the types of financial decisions and/or actions to be made at the local level, the board level, and, if applicable, the charter management organization level.

The ASSET Board will be responsible for the financial oversight of the charter school. AgSTEM will use a fiscal year beginning July 1 and ending June 30. The Director of School will create an annual budget for the school and present it to the ASSET board for approval at the beginning of each fiscal year. The Director of School will provide quarterly reports throughout the year showing budget vs. actual amounts. The Director of School will be

responsible for managing the day-to-day business operations of the school, with the exception of large purchases (over \$5,000) requiring a recommendation to the board and subsequent board approval. The Bookkeeper will maintain financial records using the accounting system eFinance as prescribed by the state. The accounting records will be maintained in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. The Director of School and the Bookkeeper will incorporate separation of duties in the areas of asset management and appropriation to establish clear internal controls for the safeguarding of charter school assets. The ASSET Board will review the school's financial statements at the monthly board meetings. Annual audits of the charter school's financial statements will be conducting by the Legislative Auditor in according with state law.

Procurement Activities

Procurement needs will be addressed by the Director of School and the Bookkeeper. We will use a best-value method based on quality, performance, and price. Purchase orders will be required for all purchases. The Director will make recommendations to the board for procurement for items and services necessary for the operation of the school that exceed the threshold amount of \$5000. The board will reject or approve these expenditures as the needs arise. The bookkeeper can approve orders for purchases less than \$500. For purchases above \$500 to \$5000 the Director of School is authorized to approve. All checks will be signed by the Director of School and the Disbursement Officer elected by the board.

26. Describe the process by which the school governance will adopt an annual budget.

The Director of School shall present to the Asset Foundation Board a proposed budget before June 20. The Board shall review and approve the budget on/before June 30. The Director of School is responsible for submitting the approved budget to the Arkansas Department of Elementary and Secondary Education by September 30 of each year.

Financial statements showing the projected budget and actual finances shall be presented by the Director for review at each board meeting. The budget, in the event of an increase in an expense category, may be amended by a quorum of the Board at monthly or called meetings. Expenditures beyond \$5000 and any additional non-budgeted expenses require Board approval.

The Director of School is authorized to make purchases for purposes in accord with the approved budget and state law using the purchasing procedures defined by the Board.

27. Describe the contingency plan if fewer students than necessary for financial viability enroll before the first day of school. Provide a detailed explanation of the ways in which the charter leaders will provide the education program outlined in the application to fewer students than determined necessary for financial viability or a date by which charter leaders will notify the parents, leaders of surrounding districts and open-enrollment charters, and staff at the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education that the school will not open as anticipated.

The ASSET board will be actively promoting AgSTEM Academy for recruitment of students in the surrounding area. Should fewer students apply than are necessary for financial viability,

we will reduce staff in accordance with enrollment numbers without sacrificing educational standards or requirements to comply with DESE regulations. We have developed a contingency plan for lower student enrollment and have adjusted the budget accordingly. If, by July 1, student numbers indicated the inability to open the school, the board will inform DESE, local superintendents of surrounding districts, staff, and parents by email or phone, which will be followed up by certified mail.

28. Complete the budget template showing a balanced budget with realistic expectations of revenue and expenditures. Provide the minimum number of students who must attend the charter in order for the school to be financially viable. Describe the method used to calculate this number. Who made the calculations and describe the financial expertise of the individuals who assisted in this assessment.

The budget was completed using approved revenue calculations and salary ranges comparable to this region, with anticipated expenditures based on anticipated enrollment levels. A contingency budget was prepared with a minimum enrollment number for viability set at 45 students. A retired administrator, grant administrator, CPA, and payroll specialist/bookkeeper collaborated to address the financial budget.

ASSET Foundation is applying for a CSP grant allocated through APSRC in the amount of \$1.25 million which will be awarded about a week following the decision of the Charter Authorization Panel and the State Board. Once we are approved for a charter, we can apply for other grants including grants through Career Ed for start-up funding for agricultural programs such as a Plant Science lab. Upon approval this board will initiate fund-raising activities. Community support has been indicated through individuals and businesses offering financial and in-kind support for this school.

29. Summarize the job descriptions of the school director and other key personnel by completing the information fields below for each position. Specify the salary range, qualifications, and job duties to be met by professional employees (administrators, teachers, and support staff) of the program.

ADMINISTRATORS Superintendent/Director, CEO/CFO/COO, Principal, etc.	
Reports to	DIRECTOR OF SCHOOL > Board of Directors
Salary Range	\$90,000 - \$110,000
Education Required	Master's Degree+ in Educational Administration or Equivalent
Certification Required	Arkansas Administrator's certificate preferred

Experience Required	5 - 10 years classroom experience, 1 - 3 years building leadership preferred
Job Duties List up to 5 key duties	<p>Work with school personnel and board in creating and implementing an operational budget</p> <p>Lead a school culture and environment that promotes continual assessment of effectiveness of all curricula</p> <p>Engage with all stakeholders in developing a shared vision for the school</p> <p>Develop an educational atmosphere which embodies and promotes our values of compassion, excellence, integrity, and community</p>

TEACHERS	
Classroom, Special Education, Gifted and Talented, Instructional Facilitator, Technology Specialist, etc.	
Reports to	CLASSROOM TEACHERS > Director of School
Salary Range	\$35,000 - \$45,000
Education Required	Bachelor's degree in education or appropriate field
Certification Required	Valid Arkansas teacher certificate preferred
Experience Required	<p>Has demonstrated knowledge of pedagogical best practices in subject area to be taught</p> <p>3+ years experienced preferred</p>
Job Duties List up to 5 key duties	<p>Provide individualized high-quality classroom instruction and excellent classroom management skills</p> <p>Perform assessment of all student learning styles and participate in all students' and parents' conferences as per system policy</p> <p>Provide a variety of learning materials and resources for use in educational activities</p> <p>Maintain current and accurate records according to school policy</p>

SUPPORT STAFF	
Secretary, Nurse, Bus Driver, etc.	
Reports to	GENERAL BUSINESS MANAGER > Director of School
Salary Range	\$35,000 - \$45,000
Education Required	High School Diploma

Certification Required	None	
Experience Required	3 - 5 years experience in related field	
Job Duties List up to 5 key duties	Maintain all financial records using eFinance and eSchool as required by the State of Arkansas Maintain appropriate records of all students Schedule appointments and answer phones for Director of School and staff Order and inventory supplies	
	PARAPROFESSIONAL	
	Reports to	Director of School
	Salary Range	\$15,000 - \$20,000
	Education Required	60+ hours of college credit or successful completion of the paraprofessional test for certification
	Certification Required	Paraprofessional certification
	Experience Required	1 - 3 years preferred
	Job Duties List up to 5 key duties	Assist teachers with classroom management skills Assist in supervision of students during periods of transition and travel during the school day Assist teachers in preparing curriculum materials, grading papers, and tracking attendance Work with individual students or small groups to reinforce learning
	TECHNOLOGY SPECIALIST	
	Reports to	Director of School
	Salary Range	\$40,000 - \$45,000
	Education Required	Bachelor of Science in Computer Science or Bachelor's degree in education supplemented by computer courses

	Certification Required	None
	Experience Required	3 - 5 years in computer science related field preferred
	Job Duties List up to 5 key duties	Identify, design, and effectively incorporate technology plans, tools, and programs Instruct both teaching staff and students in the use of technology Assist in troubleshooting and repairing minor problems with hardware

30. Describe the manner in which an annual audit of the financial and programmatic operations of the school will be conducted. If the school wishes to request that the authorizer allow a licensed accountant or licensed certified public accountant, rather than the Legislative Auditor, to perform the first-year audit, identify the accountant by name, firm, address, and phone number. The named accountant must meet the requirements of ADE Rules Governing Publicly Funded Educational Institution Audit Requirements, including the prohibition on auditors providing non-audit services (such as accounting or consulting services) to auditees. A school’s preference as stated in this application may not be changed without prior approval of the authorizer.

We will use the Legislative Auditor through the State of Arkansas.

31. It is affirmed that the Arkansas Public School Computer Network (APSCN) Financial Management System, provided by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, shall be the original and official accounting systems of record for the public charter school as required by state law and the rules and regulations of the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education for all financial transaction records and reporting (including, but not limited to, payroll processing and wage and tax reporting to the IRS ATRS, DFA, etc., accounts payable, fixed assets, personnel budgeting, and budgeting). APSCN shall be used to record all private, as well as, local, state, and federal revenues and expenditures.

Yes

No

32. It is affirmed that the Arkansas Public School Computer Network (APSCN) Student Management System, provided by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, shall be the original and official student management system for the public charter school as required by state law and the rules and regulations of the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education for all student management areas (including, but not limited to, systems administration, demographics, attendance, scheduling, report cards, discipline, medical, Cognos reporting, and Statewide Information System reporting).

Yes

No

33. Describe in general terms the area within the boundaries of the school district where the applicant intends to obtain a facility to be used for the open-enrollment public charter school.

ASSET Foundation has requested the use of the former Weiner High School facilities from Harrisburg School District, which is located in Weiner, AR. If negotiations for these facilities are not successful, alternative locations have been identified in Weiner, Arkansas for housing the school.

34. If the facility to be used for the school has been identified and is a facility of a school district, describe the terms established by the local school board of the district stipulating the relationship between the proposed public charter school and the district pertaining to the use of the facility. Attach a copy of the agreement, signed by the president of the local school board, the chair or president of the governing body of the proposed open-enrollment public charter school, and the chief operating officer of the proposed charter. If the facility has been identified and is not operated by a school district, attach a copy of the Facilities Utilization Agreement, signed by the entity owning or operating the facility and the chief operating officer of the proposed charter. A proposed lease may also be submitted but is not required. Please note that any lease or other debt must be approved by the Commissioner of Education.

ASSET Foundation has requested to enter into negotiations with Harrisburg School District regarding the former Weiner High School facilities, however, the interim superintendent indicates that he will not negotiate with ASSET Foundation due to the hiring of a new superintendent, scheduled to start on July 1, 2020. Therefore, ASSET Foundation will engage in further negotiations with the new superintendent in July, 2020.

35. If the facility to be used has been identified, list the owner(s) of the proposed

facility and describe their relationship, if any, with: Members of the local board of the public school district where the proposed open- enrollment public charter school will be located, employees of the public school district where the proposed open-enrollment public charter school will be located, The eligible entity sponsoring the open-enrollment public charter school, or Employees/directors/administrators of the sponsoring entity or proposed open-enrollment public charter school.

None

36. The facility to be used will be in compliance with all requirements for accessibility in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and all other state and federal laws and local zoning ordinances.

Yes

No

37. If the facility to be used has been identified and does not currently meet these requirements, provide a list of items that will need to be addressed to bring the facility into compliance. Also include a statement of permissible uses for the facility from the local zoning authority, and whether there are any alcohol sales within 1,000 feet of the facility.

The City of Weiner has not adopted zoning regulations. There are no alcohol sales within 1,000 feet of the facility.

38. Describe the manner in which the proposed charter school will make provisions for feeding the students. State whether the proposed charter school will apply to participate in the federal National School Lunch program or other federal nutrition programs. Does the school intend to offer a self-operated food service program, vended or unitized meals, or contract with a caterer or food service management company?

AgSTEM will participate in the federal National School Lunch program for provision for feeding the students. We will contract with a TBD caterer or food service management company. We will accept bids per regulations set forth by DESE.

39. If the proposed charter plans to participate in the National School Lunch, School Breakfast or Afterschool Snack program(s), describe how the school will ensure (1) families have access to the application for free and reduced price school meal benefits; (2) school meal applications (or other means of

eligibility determinations) are approved accurately and within 10 days of receipt, (3) student's meal eligibility status is maintained as confidential information each time a meal is served (4) a meal count is taken at the point of service by eligibility category without identifying a student's eligibility status (cannot be a tray count) (5) menus planned meet the meal pattern requirements for the grades applicable, are acceptable to students, and meet all food safety standards (6) menus meet the requirements and are certified to receive the performance based reimbursement (extra 6 cents) within 2 months of the beginning of school the first year of operation and other federal requirements.

Upon student enrollment, parents/guardians of students will receive a packet of information including an application containing the eligibility criteria for free and reduced-price benefits. Information on how to apply will be included in the packet also. Within 10 days of receipt of the application, the school administration will assess documents provided to determine eligibility and will inform the parents/guardians of the eligibility status. Student meal eligibility status will be kept confidential. All students will all be assigned a lunch number. Only administration staff will be able to determine the student's eligibility status. A TBD food service management company or caterer will provide meal plans and that are acceptable to and meet the nutritional needs of students according to the nutritional standards of the National School Lunch Program.

40. Explain the procedures to be followed if a conflict of interest is identified. The procedures must ensure that all actions are in the best interest of the school and the students at the school.

Conflicts of interest shall be reviewed to prevent any inappropriate relationships or the appearance of inappropriate relationships between the Academy, its employees, or its students. If a conflict (or potential conflict) arises, the Director of School shall evaluate the situation and take it to the Board if necessary. The Board will apply the Conflicts of Interest policy to determine if any action is necessary.

Employees must conduct themselves in such a way as to avoid actual or potential conflicts of interest. The following are examples of prohibited conflicts of interest in any aspect of their jobs:

Acting as a director, officer, consultant, agent or employee of a supplier, customer, competitor or any entity that engages in business with the Academy;

Owning a material interest in or being a creditor of or having other financial interest in a supplier, customer, competitor or any entity that engages in business with the Academy;

Receiving from or giving to any supplier, customer or competitor gifts, gratuities, special allowances, discounts or other advantages not generally available to employees of the Academy;

Having any significant direct or indirect personal interest in a business transaction involving the Academy;

Conducting outside activities that materially detract from or interfere with the full and timely performance of an employee's services for the Academy; or

Influencing commercial transactions involving purchases, contracts or leases in a way that would have a negative impact on the Academy.

If an employee finds that he or she has, or is considering the assumption of, a financial interest or outside employment relationship that might involve a conflict of interest, or if the employee is in doubt concerning the proper application of this policy, he or she should promptly discuss the matter with **the Director of the School or School Board** and refrain from exercising responsibility on the Academy's behalf in any manner that might reasonably be considered to be affected by any adverse interest.

Failure to disclose the fact of a conflict or potential conflict may constitute grounds for disciplinary action.

41. Explain how the success of the charter school will be ensured if changes in leadership and board composition occur.

Asset Foundation Board is comprised of 8 people who have the same vision for this school. If a member chooses to resign, we will continue with the remaining board until such time as a new member is vetted and appointed by vote of the Board. That person would have to share the same dedication to this school as would the Director of School. If the Director of School were to vacate the position, the board would appoint an interim director.

42. Describe the potential impact of the proposed public charter school on the efforts of affected public school district(s) to comply with court orders and statutory obligations to create and maintain a unitary system of desegregated public schools.

No student in Arkansas AgSTEM Academy charter shall, on the grounds of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, or disability be excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity sponsored by the Academy. AgSTEM Academy will not, in any manner, affect desegregation in any public school district in NE Arkansas or other areas of the state.

43. Complete the following table showing all sections of Title 6 of the Arkansas Code Annotated (Education Code) and State Board of Education rules, including the *Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts*, from which the public charter school seeks to be exempted in order to meet the goals of the school. Identify the specific statute, rule, or standard requested to be waived by title and number if applicable. Provide a rationale for each waiver requested that explains how the waiver will assist the charter in achieving the previously stated goals (see prompt #4), and explain how those goals will be achieved if the waiver is not granted.

Waiver Topic #1	Alternate Learning Environment
Arkansas Code Annotated	§6-48-101-103
Standard for Accreditation	Standard 2-I.1
ADE Rules	Section 4 of the Rules Governing Student Special Needs Funding
Rationale for Waiver	<p>Alternative education programs are designed to serve those students whose educational progress deviates from the standard. Often their behavior interferes with their own learning or the educational process of others. AgStem Academy will promote success at varying levels for students through small class sizes, teacher-pupil ratio, and methods of instruction that are very hands-on and at appropriate levels. We believe that the level of involvement will offset many of the student's struggles with classroom behavior reducing the need for ALE</p> <p>Should a student need services beyond our capabilities we will seek counselling and guidance to provide this student with the most supportive environment.</p>

Waiver Topic #2	School Board of Directors and Election Laws
Arkansas Code Annotated	<p>§6-13-601 et seq. (with exception of §6-13-612, 618, 620, 622, 623, 625, 626, 628 and 629)</p> <p>§6-13-619 (c) and (d) School District Board of Directors</p> <p>§6-14-101 et seq General Application of Election Laws.</p>
Standard for Accreditation	
ADE Rules	
Rationale for Waiver	<p>ASSET Foundation, a 501c3 non-profit, seeks a waiver from the selection, board size, qualifications, powers, terms and vacancies of a School Board of Directors. ASSET Foundation Board of Directors will oversee the AgStem Academy. These board members are not selected by public. The ASSET Foundation Board, currently consisting of eight (8) members, with</p>

	<p>By-Laws permitting appointment of five (5) to twenty (20), will serve in that capacity. Any interested party may nominate an individual for a position on the Board of Directors by submission of a nomination in writing to the Board. Upon nomination, the Board will investigate the nominee's qualifications and interest in the position. Upon motion by a Director, the nomination may be brought to the floor during a regular or special meeting of the Board of Directors for a vote. A simple majority approval is required for acceptance of the nomination and appointment of the nominee to a position as a Director. Director terms shall be for a period of 3 years, starting January 1- December 31. The first year of any new member may be a partial year if their term does not begin on January 1. Since By-Laws state additional members are chosen at the discretion of the existing board we request a waiver for school election (§6-14-101 et seq.). ASSET's board is made up of business leaders, educators, and agricultural representatives with a common vision and goal. We ask for a waiver regarding physical attendance of board meetings due to additional responsibilities, work schedules and feasibility. Our members currently reside in Fayetteville, Jonesboro, Cash, and areas surrounding Weiner. This has necessitated the use of electronic media, such as conference calls and ZOOM, for ASSET's regular meetings. We request permission for AgStem Academy School Board meetings to be a mixture of in-person and electronic attendance (following State and Federal guidelines as closely as possible). We will require the Professional Development of our board members. ASSET Foundation shall govern the school with fiscal accountability and regulations per the law.</p>
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Waiver Topic #3	Administration
Arkansas Code Annotated	§6-13-109 School Superintendent Definition §6-17-302 Public School Principal Qualifications and Requirements §6-17-427 Superintendent License
Standard for Accreditation	Std. 4 Human Capital: 4-B.1 4-B.2

	4-C.1 4-C.2
ADE Rules	Rules Governing The School Superintendent Mentoring Program
Rationale for Waiver	To be fiscally responsible ASSET Foundation believes the positions normally identified as Superintendent and Principal will best be filled by one person named as the “Director of Schools”. The success of AgStem Academy depends upon having the right leaders and staff. The multiple roles of the school director, in addition to the regular academic and day to day management of the school, will include fund raising and public relations with businesses and advanced educational institutes. We believe this requires a special person who may or may not hold certification in these areas through Teacher Licensure of the state of Arkansas. We do ensure that the person selected will understand the job requirements and have the capabilities to carry these forward. This will be an “at will” position. All state rules regarding the duties of the school administrator will be followed.

Waiver Topic #4	Teacher Licensure
Arkansas Code Annotated	§6-15-1004 Qualified Teachers §6-17-919 Warrants void without license §6-17-309 Licensure §6-17-401 Teacher License Requirements §6-17-2502 Definition of Teacher §6-17-2301 et seq.
Standard for Accreditation	Std. 4: Human Capital – 4-D.1
ADE Rules	Arkansas Qualified Teacher Requirements 3.02 Eligibility Requirements
Rationale for Waiver	AgStem Academy is requesting the flexibility to hire the most qualified teachers who will be best suited to implement our vision through unique programs and approaches. In some areas these instructors may not carry a valid Arkansas Teaching Certificate. We will not hire anyone who has had a teaching license revoked or who cannot pass the mandatory Background Check. We do not ask for this waiver in regard to Special Education as we will hire a certified Special Ed Teacher. We ask for waiver from §6-17-919 as these teachers’ salaries would be paid through

	the same funds as the other certified instructors. Teachers will be evaluated under the TESS system. All teachers will complete Professional Development requirements according to ADESE guidelines and as deemed necessary for implementing AgStem Academy program.
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Waiver Topic #5	School Year
Arkansas Code Annotated	§6-10-106 Uniform Dates
Standard for Accreditation	
ADE Rules	
Rationale for Waiver	Agriculture has its own calendar that varies from the academic calendar. Because of our focus on agriculture we request to follow §6-10-108 Twelve Month School Year to adjust our school calendar to best meet the curriculum needs.

Waiver Topic #6	Personnel
Arkansas Code Annotated	6-17-111 Duty Free Lunch §6-17-114 Daily Planning Period §6-17-117 Non-instructional Duties §6-17-201 et seq Committee for Each School District §6-17-2301 et seq. Committee for Each School District
Standard for Accreditation	
ADE Rules	
Rationale for Waiver	Due to the small size of the school staff initially we ask for a waiver from duty-free lunch, daily planning and other non-instructional duties. The nature of this school will require all staff to work together. It is our plan that this will only be occasionally (maybe every 2-3 weeks) that a teacher will have to assist with lunch room supervision, or some other activity during lunch or planning time. We will inform all employees during interviews of our expectations that everyone pulls together and these interruptions to their day may exist. The guidelines for Personnel Policy (PP) committee are not feasible for our staff as we are too few in

	number.
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Waiver Topic #7	Student Health
Arkansas Code Annotated	§6-18-706 School Nurse
Standard for Accreditation	Std. 2: Student Support Services Std. 2-E Health and Safety Services 2-E.1 Health services program
ADE Rules	
Rationale for Waiver	We have a verbal agreement with Access Medical Clinic in Weiner to provide such services as needed. All our staff will be trained in First Aid. Our local Fire Department has an excellent First Responders service that will be a phone call away. An RN will prepare or approve of the preparation of student health plans.

Waiver Topic #8	Library Media
Arkansas Code Annotated	§ 6-25-103 Library Media Services Defined §6-25-104 Library Media Specialist
Standard for Accreditation	Standard 4-F Library Media Specialist 4-F.1 Library Media Specialist 4-F.2 Library Media Specialist
ADE Rules	
Rationale for Waiver	We are seeking to fill this service with a Technology Specialist who will be responsible for developing and maintaining reliable communications, data, hardware and software as well as provide proper technical support. We will be using multiple online libraries and programs that best support our curriculum. AgStem Academy students will have access to Library of Congress and courses provided from Arkansas' schools and prestigious not-for-profit educational providers. We will assist students in accessing and utilizing digital resources as a component of day-to-day instruction, not as special assignments. This reflects more closely current industry practices where communications, collaboration, and document development are created digitally. Our classrooms will build and maintain libraries of relevant materials for

	that subject. The West Poinsett Memorial Library, located 3 blocks from our proposed location, is part of the Crowley’s Ridge Regional Library and will work with us to obtain any materials desired.
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Waiver Topic #9	Gifted and Talented Services
Arkansas Code Annotated	§ 6-42-109 Reports by School District §6-20-2208 (c) (6) Monitoring of Expenditures
Standard for Accreditation	Standard 2: Student Support Services Standard 2-G Gifted and Talented Services 2-G.1 Gifted and Talented Services
ADE Rules	Standard 2-G Gifted and Talented Services Rules Governing Gifted and Talented Program Approval Standards
Rationale for Waiver	AgStem Academy seeks a waiver in the area of Gifted and Talented Services as we believe our entire educational concept is built on differentiation of instruction according to subject matter and student ability. Students will be challenged to “think outside the box”. Technology today provides an endless capacity for curriculum which responds to student’s needs. Their potential will be evidenced through interaction and performance. The diverse student–focus of our curriculum will meet the learning characteristics and educational needs of all students, not just our gifted and talented students.

Waiver Topic #10	Guidance Services
Arkansas Code Annotated	§6-18-2003 (a)(2)(A).)
Standard for Accreditation	Standard 4 – Human Capital: Standard 4-E Guidance Counselors Standard 4 – Human Capital; Standard 4-E Guidance Counselors 4-E.1, 4-E.2
ADE Rules	
Rationale for Waiver	AgStem Academy will seek a waiver for the first two years regarding the requirement of a guidance program and on-campus certified counselor for students in Grades 7-10. The Director of School and carefully selected campus teachers will receive

	Professional Development in the areas of career awareness exploration opportunities and planning with respect to individual's strengths and desires. These teachers will be available to help guide students and parents regarding course choices and career options. We will seek an outside consultant's service through a contractual basis for other needs that may arise.
Waiver Topic #11	
Arkansas Code Annotated	
Standard for Accreditation	
ADE Rules	
Rationale for Waiver	

Waiver Topic #12	
Arkansas Code Annotated	
Standard for Accreditation	
ADE Rules	
Rationale for Waiver	

Waiver Topic #13	
Arkansas Code Annotated	
Standard for Accreditation	
ADE Rules	
Rationale for Waiver	

Waiver Topic #14	
Arkansas Code Annotated	

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS

1. IRS letter reflecting tax exempt status or a copy of the entity's application for 501(c)(3) status.
2. Attach documentation to demonstrate that each of the following requirements of Arkansas Code Annotated §6-23-302 was met:
 - a. The notice of the public hearing was published on a weekly basis for at least three (3) consecutive weeks prior to the date of the hearing in a newspaper having general circulation in the school district in which the school will likely be located.
 - b. The notice of the public hearing was not published in the classified or legal notice section of the newspaper.
 - c. The last publication date of the notice was no less than seven days prior to the public meeting.
 - d. Within seven calendar days following the first publication of the notice of the public hearing, emails announcing the public hearing were sent to the superintendent of each of the school districts from which the open- enrollment public charter school is likely to draw students for the purpose of enrollment and the superintendent of any district that is contiguous to the district in which the open-enrollment public charter school will be located.
3. Budget template
4. Statement of Assurance

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
P. O. BOX 2508
CINCINNATI, OH 45201

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Date: **AUG 18 2017**

ASSET FOUNDATION
C/O ABBY K JONES
6366 MALLARD POND LN
FISHER, AR 72429

Employer Identification Number:
82-1141022
DLN:
17053115343007
Contact Person:
RACHEL M LEIFHEIT ID# 31617
Contact Telephone Number:
(877) 829-5500
Accounting Period Ending:
December 31
Public Charity Status:
170(b)(1)(A)(vi)
Form 990/990-EZ/990-N Required:
Yes
Effective Date of Exemption:
March 1, 2017
Contribution Deductibility:
Yes
Addendum Applies:
No

Dear Applicant:

We're pleased to tell you we determined you're exempt from federal income tax under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(c)(3). Donors can deduct contributions they make to you under IRC Section 170. You're also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under Section 2055, 2106, or 2522. This letter could help resolve questions on your exempt status. Please keep it for your records.

Organizations exempt under IRC Section 501(c)(3) are further classified as either public charities or private foundations. We determined you're a public charity under the IRC Section listed at the top of this letter.

If we indicated at the top of this letter that you're required to file Form 990/990-EZ/990-N, our records show you're required to file an annual information return (Form 990 or Form 990-EZ) or electronic notice (Form 990-N, the e-Postcard). If you don't file a required return or notice for three consecutive years, your exempt status will be automatically revoked.

If we indicated at the top of this letter that an addendum applies, the enclosed addendum is an integral part of this letter.

For important information about your responsibilities as a tax-exempt organization, go to www.irs.gov/charities. Enter "4221-PC" in the search bar to view Publication 4221-PC, Compliance Guide for 501(c)(3) Public Charities, which describes your recordkeeping, reporting, and disclosure requirements.

Letter 947

ASSET FOUNDATION

Sincerely,

Stephen a. martin

Director, Exempt Organizations
Rulings and Agreements

The Jonesboro Sun

DAILY AND SUNDAY

Proof of Publication

STATE OF ARKANSAS
COUNTY OF CRAIGHEAD

I, Lisa A. Lynn solemnly swear that I am classified director of the JONESBORO SUN daily newspaper of general circulation printed in the Western District of Craighead County and I was such classified advertising manager at the date of publication hereinafter stated, and that said newspaper had a bonafide circulation in such county at said dates, and had been regularly published in said county for the period of one month next before the date of the first publication of the advertisement hereto affixed, and that said advertisement was published in said

newspaper 1 times once a week for 3

weeks consecutively, the first insertion therein having been made on the

28 day of April, 2020

2nd insertion 5 day of May, 2020

3rd insertion 12 day of May, 2020

4th insertion _____ day of _____

5th insertion _____ day of _____

6th insertion _____ day of _____

7th insertion _____ day of _____

Lisa A. Lynn

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 12 day of May, 2020

My commission expires 9-6-22

Fee for print, \$ _____

Cost of Proof \$ 96.00

Rec'd Payment \$ _____

Total --- \$ 96.00



Greta Greeno
Asset Foundation
P.O. Box 62
Weiner, AR 72479
(870)897-0857

ROP Ad #90863679 Summary:

Description: PUBLIC MEETING
Size: 2.00 x 2.00

Net Cost \$96.00
Prepaid Amount \$0.00
Amount Due \$96.00

If paid by credit card, your statement will show the charge as "Newspaper Services - Paxton Media"

Order Detail:

Publication	Start	Stop	Insertions
20JN Jonesboro Sun	4/28/20	5/12/20	3

PUBLIC MEETING

A public meeting will be held to discuss a proposed charter school to be located in the Weiner, Arkansas area. The meeting will be held online via Zoom on Thursday, May 21st, at 6:30 p.m. For information on how to join the online meeting, visit www.ArkansasAgSTEM.com.

2020 Open-Enrollment Charter School Application Statement of Assurances

The signature of the President of the Board of Directors of the proposed public charter school's sponsoring entity certifies that the following statements are and will be addressed through policies adopted by the sponsoring entity and policies to be adopted by the public charter school; and, if the application is approved, that the sponsoring entity, governing body, administration, and staff of the open-enrollment charter shall abide by them.

1. The information submitted in this application is true to the best of my knowledge and belief, and this application has been sent to the superintendent of all the districts from which we expect to draw students.
2. The open-enrollment public charter school shall be open to all students, on a space- available basis, and shall not discriminate in its admission policy on the basis of gender, national origin, race, ethnicity, religion, disability, or academic or athletic eligibility, except as follows: the open-enrollment public charter school may adopt admissions policies that are consistent with federal law, regulations, or guidelines applicable to charter schools. The charter may provide for the exclusion of a student who has been expelled from another public school district.
3. The open-enrollment charter school shall hold an annual random and anonymous public lottery, followed with notifying parents of enrollment status for all applicants. The waiting list generated by the lottery will be maintained for one year.
4. In accordance with federal and state laws, the open-enrollment public charter school hiring and retention policies of administrators, teachers, and other employees shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, creed, sex, ethnicity, sexual orientation, mental or physical disability, age, ancestry, or special need.
5. The open-enrollment public charter school shall operate in accordance with federal laws and rules governing public schools, applicable provisions of the Arkansas Constitution, and state laws and regulations governing public schools not waived by the approved charter.
6. The open-enrollment public charter school shall not use the moneys that it receives from the state for any sectarian program or activity, or as collateral for debt.
7. However, open-enrollment public charter schools may enter into lease-purchase agreements for school buildings built by private entities with facilities bonds exempt from federal taxes under 26 USCS 142(a) as allowed by Ark. Code Ann.

§ 6-20-402. No indebtedness of an open-enrollment public charter school shall ever become a debt of the State of Arkansas.

8. The open-enrollment public charter school shall not impose taxes or charge students tuition or fees that would not be allowable charges in the public school districts.
9. The open-enrollment public charter school shall not be religious in its operations or programmatic offerings.
10. The open-enrollment public charter school shall ensure that any of its employees who qualify for membership in the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System or the Arkansas State and Public School Employee Insurance Program shall be covered under those systems to the same extent a qualified employee of a traditional school district is covered.
11. The employees and volunteers of the open-enrollment public charter school are held immune from liability to the same extent as other public school district employees and volunteers under applicable state laws.
12. The open-enrollment public charter school shall be reviewed for its potential impact on the efforts of a public school district or public school districts to comply with court orders and statutory obligations to create and maintain a unitary system of desegregated public schools.
13. The open-enrollment public charter school shall comply with all health and safety laws, rules and regulations of the federal, state, county, region, or community that may apply to the facilities and school property.
14. The applicant confirms the understanding that certain provisions of state law shall not be waived. The open-enrollment public charter school is subject to any prohibition, restriction, or requirement imposed by Title 6 of the Arkansas Code and any rule and regulation approved by the State Board of Education under this title relating to:
 - (a) Monitoring compliance with Ark. Code Ann. § 6-23-101 *et seq.*, as determined by the Commissioner of the Department of Education;
 - (b) Conducting criminal background checks for employees;
 - (c) High school graduation requirements as established by the State Board of Education;
 - (d) Special education programs as provided by this title;
 - (e) Public school accountability under this title;

(f) Ethical guidelines and prohibitions as established by Ark. Code Ann. § 6-24-101 *et seq.*, and any other controlling state or federal law regarding ethics or conflicts of interest; and

(g) Health and safety codes as established by the State Board of Education and state and local governmental entities.

15. The facilities of the public charter school shall comply with all requirements for accessibility for individuals with disabilities in accordance with the ADA and IDEA and all other state and federal laws.

16. Should the open-enrollment public charter school voluntarily or involuntarily close, the applicant confirms the understanding that any fees associated with the closing of the school including, but not limited to, removal of furniture, equipment, general expenses, etc., are the sole responsibility of the sponsoring entity. No indebtedness of any kind incurred or created by the open-enrollment public charter school shall constitute an indebtedness of the state or its political subdivisions, and no indebtedness of the open-enrollment public charter school shall involve or be secured by the faith, credit, or taxing power of the state or its political subdivisions. Upon dissolution of the open-enrollment public charter school or upon nonrenewal or revocation of the charter, all net assets of the open-enrollment public charter school, including any interest in real property, purchased with public funds shall be deemed the property of the state, unless otherwise specified in the charter of the open-enrollment public charter school. If the open-enrollment public charter school used state or federal funds to purchase or finance personal property, real property or fixtures for use by the open-enrollment public charter school, the authorizer may require that the property be sold. The state has a perfected priority security interest in the net proceeds from the sale or liquidation of the property to the extent of the public funds used in the purchase.

Greta Greeno

President of Board of Directors Signature

5/26/20

Date

GRETA GREENO

Printed Name

Open-Enrollment Charter School Application Salary Estimates for Year 1

Position	# Positions	Salary	Subtotal	Fringe	Total Expense
Director of School	1	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$26,000	\$126,000
Certified Teachers	6	\$40,000	\$240,000	\$62,400	\$302,400
Aide	1	\$17,082	\$17,082	\$4,441	\$21,523
SPED Teacher	1	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$10,400	\$50,400
Technology Specialist	1	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$10,400	\$50,400
Bookkeeper/Admin. Assist.	1	\$38,000	\$38,000	\$9,880	\$47,880
Maint./Grounds/Custodial	1	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$6,500	\$31,500
Bus Drivers	4	\$8,495	\$33,980	\$8,835	\$42,815
Substitute/Certified	60	\$75	\$4,500	\$1,170	\$5,670
Substitute/Classified	15	\$65	\$975	\$254	\$1,229
			\$0	\$0	\$0
			\$0	\$0	\$0
			\$0	\$0	\$0
			\$0	\$0	\$0
			\$0	\$0	\$0
			\$0	\$0	\$0
			\$0	\$0	\$0
			\$0	\$0	\$0
			\$0	\$0	\$0
			\$0	\$0	\$0

Total Salaries and Benefits for Year 1 \$679,817

Open-Enrollment Charter School Application Salary Estimates for Year 2

Position	# Positions	Salary	Subtotal	Fringe	Total Expense
Director of School	1	\$102,000	\$102,000	\$26,520	\$128,520
Certified Teachers	8	\$41,000	\$328,000	\$85,280	\$413,280
Aide	1	\$17,936	\$17,936	\$4,663	\$22,599
SPED Teacher	1	\$41,000	\$41,000	\$10,660	\$51,660
Technology Specialist	1	\$41,000	\$41,000	\$10,660	\$51,660
Bookkeeper/Admin. Assist.	1	\$39,000	\$39,000	\$10,140	\$49,140
Maint./Grounds/Custodial	1	\$26,000	\$26,000	\$6,760	\$32,760
Bus Drivers	4	\$8,920	\$35,679	\$9,277	\$44,956
Substitute/Certified	75	\$75	\$5,625	\$1,463	\$7,088
Substitute/Classified	30	\$65	\$1,950	\$507	\$2,457
			\$0	\$0	\$0
			\$0	\$0	\$0
			\$0	\$0	\$0
			\$0	\$0	\$0
			\$0	\$0	\$0
			\$0	\$0	\$0
			\$0	\$0	\$0
			\$0	\$0	\$0
			\$0	\$0	\$0
			\$0	\$0	\$0

Total Salaries and Benefits for Year 2 \$804,120

Open-Enrollment Charter School Application Estimated Revenues

State Funding	Year 1			Year 2		
	# of Students	Amount Per Student	Total Yr 1	# of Students	Amount Per Student	Total Yr 2
Foundation Funding	60	\$7,018.00	\$421,080.00	80	\$7,018.00	\$561,440.00
Professional Development	60	\$27.40	\$1,644.00	80	\$27.40	\$2,192.00
ESA Funding	60	\$1,051.00	\$63,060.00	80	\$1,051.00	\$84,080.00
ESL Funding	0	\$352.00	\$0.00	0	\$352.00	\$0.00
ALE Funding	0	\$4,700.00	\$0.00	0	\$4,700.00	\$0.00
			\$0.00			\$0.00

*ESA Funding Amt: Less than 70% FRL = \$526; Between 70-90% FRL = \$1051; 90% and Above FRL = \$1576

Federal Funds	Estimated Allocation Yr 1	Estimated Allocation Yr 2
Title I		
Title II		
Title III		
Title IV		
Title V		
Special Education	\$22,369.00	\$22,701.25
Child Nutrition	\$44,446.60	\$59,220.60
Charter Facility Funding	\$30,657.00	\$40,876.00

Other Sources	Amount Year 1	Amount Year 2

TOTAL REVENUES	YEAR 1 \$583,256.60	YEAR 2 \$770,509.85
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Open-Enrollment Charter School Application Estimated Expenditures

Category	Yr 1 Expenditures	Yr 2 Expenditures
Administration:		
Purchased Services		
Supplies and Materials	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Equipment	\$15,000.00	\$5,000.00
Classroom Instruction:		
Purchased Services	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Supplies and Materials	\$40,000.00	\$10,000.00
Equipment	\$25,000.00	\$10,000.00
Science Lab	\$30,000.00	\$20,000.00
Ag Lab	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00
Special Education:		
Purchased Services		
Supplies and Materials	\$4,000.00	\$500.00
Equipment	\$3,000.00	\$1,000.00
Gifted & Talented Program		
Purchased Services		
Supplies and Materials		
Equipment		
ALE Program:		
Purchased Services		
Supplies and Materials		
Equipment		
ELL Program:		
Purchased Services		
Supplies and Materials		
Equipment		

ELL Program:		
Purchased Services		
Supplies and Materials		
Equipment		
Guidance Services:		
Purchased Services	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Supplies and Materials	\$2,000.00	\$500.00
Equipment	\$500.00	\$500.00
Health Services:		
Purchased Services	\$3,560.00	\$3,560.00
Supplies and Materials	\$1,000.00	\$500.00
Equipment	\$1,000.00	\$500.00
Library Media Services:		
Purchased Services	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Supplies and Materials	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Equipment	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Fiscal Services:		
Purchased Services		
Supplies and Materials	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Equipment	\$9,000.00	\$1,000.00
Pupil Transportation:		
Purchased Services	\$6,500.00	\$6,500.00
Supplies and Materials	\$31,000.00	\$31,000.00
Equipment	\$42,000.00	\$42,000.00

Maintenance & Operations:		
Purchased Services		
Supplies and Materials	\$15,000.00	\$8,900.00
Equipment		
Phone	\$1,680.00	\$1,680.00
Gas	\$4,800.00	\$4,800.00
Electric	\$18,000.00	\$18,000.00
Water	\$4,200.00	\$4,200.00
Sewer		
Sanitation Disposal	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Food Services:		
Purchased Services	\$70,000.00	\$95,000.00
Supplies and Materials		
Equipment	\$8,000.00	\$4,000.00
Data Processing:		
Purchased Services		
Supplies and Materials		
Equipment		
Substitute Personnel:		
Supplies and Materials		
CMO Fee (if applicable):		
Office Support		
Advertising/Marketing	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Legal Services	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00

Facilities:		
Lease/Purchase Contract Per Yr	\$22,000.00	\$22,000.00
Facility Upgrades	\$30,000.00	\$10,000.00
Property Insurance Per Yr	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Content Insurance Per Yr	\$6,500.00	\$6,500.00
Debt Expenditures:		
Other Expenditures:		
Professional Development	\$20,000.00	\$15,000.00
Salary Totals from Worksheet:	\$679,816.62	\$804,119.53

	Year 1	Year 2
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$1,190,056.62	\$1,223,259.53

NET REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURES	-\$606,800.02	-\$452,749.68
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COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
P.O. Box 1080 | State University, AR 72467 | O: 870-972-2085 | F: 870-972-3885

Friday, May 29, 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

As an administrator and long-time faculty member of the College of Agriculture at Arkansas State University, I am extremely excited about the proposed charter school, Arkansas AgSTEM Academy. As you may know, Arkansas State University was founded in 1909 as a regional agricultural training school. Now, 110 years later, another school is being proposed for the same reason. However, the science and practice of agriculture today is very different from agriculture then. Today's agriculture is highly intensive and relies heavily on technology and the acquisition, analysis and application of data. I believe the innovative approach to learning as proposed will help meet the demand for a highly-skilled agricultural workforce for the Delta and beyond.

The proposed school location is ideal because it will be situated in the one of the most productive agricultural regions in the world. In this region, AgSTEM students will not only be exposed to large-scale row crop agriculture, large poultry companies, and other agricultural industries, but just minutes away, they will have numerous opportunities to partner, work, and learn alongside agricultural scientists, educators, and students at A-State. Faculty and students in the College of Agriculture and the Arkansas Biosciences Institute are conducting research and providing outreach in the areas of data science, precision farming, unmanned aerial systems (drone) applications, water and environmental issues, advanced plant biotechnology and other areas. Advances made through A-State research are helping to develop a resilient food and fiber production system that will help sustain the world's growing population. Furthermore, A-State is currently exploring an opportunity to start a College of Veterinary Medicine, which will provide even more learning opportunities for Ag-STEM students. While I see many ways AgSTEM students can work and learn on our campus, I also imagine opportunities where our students and faculty could learn from AgSTEM faculty and students on their campus. I would be very supportive of developing a partnership between A-State and AgSTEM.

Again, I am very excited about this opportunity and commend the Board for their vision and dedication to start the Arkansas AgSTEM Academy here in Delta. I believe the school is needed now more than ever; therefore, I wholeheartedly support the proposal to start the Arkansas AgSTEM Academy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Donald W. Kennedy".

Donald W. Kennedy, Ph.D.
Interim Dean

May 19, 2020

Dear Commissioner Key,

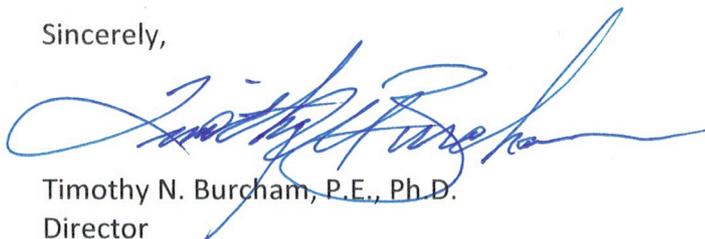
Never has there been more need for a STEM enriched agriculture curriculum, than today. Modern agricultural production systems depend on a vast array of technological and scientific principles. Self-driving tractors and drone imagery for crop health diagnosis are not future science fiction, but a present reality in Arkansas agriculture. Today, every aspect of agricultural production is dependent on digital information systems. The merging of science-based crop production principles and digital information systems, such as artificial intelligence, will be key to increasing agricultural productivity for a growing world population.

A properly trained workforce for this new digital agriculture paradigm is essential for Arkansas's continued leadership in food production. A science-based education, rich in applied field-level research activities, provides an optimum platform for students to thrive in this new paradigm. The Arkansas AgSTEM Academy proposes to meet this challenge with a STEM enriched curriculum that is devoted to agricultural science and technology. Graduates from this type of program (grades 7 – 12) will be uniquely prepared to meet the challenges of the digital agriculture landscape.

As the state's number one industry, agriculture is the most critical component of the Arkansas economy. As our state and nation prepare to embrace the new digital agriculture paradigm, the Arkansas AgSTEM Academy is poised to provide graduates with the science and technological knowledgebase for success.

I am pleased to support the Arkansas AgSTEM Academy and look forward to working with its students at the Northeast Rice Research and Extension Center being constructed in Poinsett County, just south of Jonesboro AR.

Sincerely,



Timothy N. Burcham, P.E., Ph.D.
Director
Northeast Rice Research and Extension Center
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture



May 26, 2020

To: Greta Greeno
Arkansas AgSTEM Academy Board

From: Steve Shepard
Senior Vice-President, Greenway Equipment, Inc.

Re: Support for Arkansas AgSTEM Academy

Greta, on behalf of Greenway Equipment, Inc. I am writing this letter to communicate our organization's current and ongoing commitment to support the Arkansas AgSTEM Academy. Primarily as a local business located in Weiner but also because of our footprint across the entire delta region we have a direct interest in the education and future development of potential employees within the region. Our company, Greenway Equipment, Inc. is headquartered in Weiner, Arkansas. We are a John Deere dealership specializing in providing state of the art John Deere equipment for our customers and most importantly, product support and technological support that allows our customers to lower their risks and enhance their returns on their significant investments.

Although all the needs of the school may not be fully known at this point in time , I wanted to offer support in a few key areas that we believe may be helpful in connecting the classroom education to the real world agricultural application. Below are a few opportunities that we believe could be beneficial in this effort:

- **Tech Farm Field Trips** – We have a Company Technology Farm outside of Newport. We would be able to offer field trips to the Tech Farm at specific times of the year. These field trips would showcase various agricultural activities and discussion such as tillage, planting, fertility application and harvesting practices.
- **My John Deere Operations Center** – this desktop application would allow teachers and students to create accounts and then establish a partnership with the Greenway Tech Farm. This partnership would help the student in the understanding of data collection and interpretation.
- **Ops Center Field Analyzer** – this application would allow for further data interpretation as well as give the student access to the **Display and the Command Center simulator**. Training and instruction would be provided through the precision ag support center at Greenway.
- **JD Link access** – this application allows access to observe and monitor the machine health of machines performing operations in the field. JD Link is similar to systems in the automotive industry in that it sends out updates and alerts on machines health issues prior to the actual event, i.e. Predictive Failures. These Predictive Failures are referred to as Expert Alerts within the organization, we would be able to provide demonstration and explanation of these alerts.
- **Service Advisor Remote** capabilities would be demonstrated to students. SAR allows for remote access to the display and settings of the equipment to review settings, trouble codes and adjust as needed to enhance operations as well as begin repair process on the equipment.

- **Smart Farm** is an irrigation monitoring and control device that allows remote access and monitoring of irrigation wells. A Smart Farm Demo unit would be available for demonstrating the important aspects of water management to the region.
- **Autotrac Demonstration** Unit – a complete system would be available annually. This system would be updated with the latest guidance technology. This demonstration would be accompanied by a full presentation of the history of the technology evolution and journey in agriculture.

A solid introduction and understanding of the technologies that are available to the producer today, can be extremely helpful to the students when they are helping solve the food and fiber production challenges of the future.

Greta, we hope that this offer of support will not only be beneficial to you in the initial planning process for the AgSTEM Academy but ultimately pay dividends down the road through the education of our future agricultural industry leaders.

Steve Shepard
Senior Vice-President, Greenway Equipment, Inc.

Greta Greeno, President
Foundation for Agricultural Studies in Science, Engineering and Technology (ASSET)
6366 Mallard Pond Lane
Fisher, AR 72429

Dear Ms. Greeno:

I am writing in support of the proposed Arkansas AgSTEM Academy at Weiner, AR, as well as to outline how plantingscience.org (an online plant science mentoring community) can help support student learning through student-centered inquiry-based investigations supported by scientist mentors.

Plant scientists are in high demand in government and industry, yet positions remain unfilled as the botanical capacity in the US lags¹. Capacity for filling vacant horticulture jobs is equally lagging, with only 61% of positions filled.² Plant blindness³ plays a role, as humans are predisposed to pay more attention to animals than to plants. Plants are often underrepresented in high school biology curricula⁴, and 40% of US high school biology teachers surveyed had never taken a plant biology course.⁵

Schools like the proposed Arkansas AgSTEM Academy can have a positive effect on increasing botanical capacity of high school graduates and preparing them for a fulfilling and in-demand career in agriculture, horticulture or botany.

PlantingScience.org is a resource that can help bring scientists into the classroom virtually to work with small teams of students. The Spore Award-winning program⁶ has reached over 40,000 students over 15 years, and is supported by 18 scientific societies. Over 1000 scientist mentors have volunteered with the program. The American Society of Agronomists has recently partnered with PlantingScience to produce a new Investigation theme "Agronomy Feeds the World,"⁷ where student teams ask a research question developed from a real-world problem and develop and complete an investigation to answer their question. The theme includes two short guided inquiries followed by a round of open-ended inquiry. Each student team of 3-5 students is supported by their own scientist mentor selected by the teacher from our mentor pool of scientists.

PlantingScience.org can be a key resource for the proposed school – connecting students with scientists who can model scientific thinking, encourage students, and share what a career in plant science is like. Students engage with big societal issues, local agricultural challenges, and gain research and science communication skills. They will also learn to work together in teams, communicate professionally online, and gain skills in working with, interpreting, and communicating data. They learn to notice and appreciate the vital role plants play in our world.

I sincerely hope that the proposed charter school becomes a reality. If so, we would be very pleased to have teachers and students from the school as a part of our PlantingScience community.

Sincerely,



Catrina Adams, Ph.D.
Education Director, Botanical Society of America

Farmers Supply Association

General Office
16240 Highway 14E
Harrisburg, AR 72432
578-2468



Cherry Valley 588-3379
Hamlin 238-7895
Harrisburg 578-2468
Hickory Ridge 697-2288
Tuckerman 349-1317
Waldenburg 579-2203
Wynne 238-8501

May 31, 2020

Agriculture is a very diverse and extremely fast growing industry today. As the CEO at Farmers Supply Association, I see firsthand the advancements that are made to the industry every year. I also see the areas that need more improvement.

One key factor in the success of the ag industry is the growth of technology. It will be imperative for the future generation of farmers and the myriad of related ag industry businesses to imagine, design and operate applications and equipment, not just for today's need but for future needs as farmers strive to feed the world.

Our business is reliant upon various departments that work together to provide necessary elements for the farmers we serve. Besides technology, other areas of agricultural assistance is needed is soil analysis, weed resistance management, chemical applications for best practices, improvements in equipment, direction in best practices and sustainability.

Identifying and treating diseased crops is a group effort. Farmers need advice from knowledgeable people like the local co-op, the Farm Service Agency, agronomists, other educated farmers and representatives from chemical and fertilizer companies.

It is part of our organization's commitment to support the communities we serve. We will be happy to provide the Arkansas AgSTEM Academy with fertilizer and crop applications necessary to support agronomic research on the 16 acre lab. Also, we would offer to bring in knowledgeable staff to offer instruction and assist in best practices for agronomic study.

The farmers of the future need to have the knowledge, tools, and technology to be successful in the industry year after year so they can continue to grow good crops and grow the industry.

Even though we do not know what the future holds, agriculture is an industry that will always be in demand. Someday future generations will need to be self-sufficient. We may not be able to depend on imports from other countries for our survival.

The main components for the industry to continue to prosper are education and experience. A school in this area of the Delta, focused on agricultural studies would not only benefit the students but also the industry necessary to feed the world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brent A. Bowie". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping 'B' and 'B'.

Brent A. Bowie, CEO



Eagle Seed Company

May 30, 2020

PO Box 308

8496 Swan Pond Road

Weiner, AR 72479

To whom it may concern,

Eagle Seed Company is an established full service seed cleaning and processing facility, plant breeding company, contract agricultural research firm, and fully operational row crop farm. It is fourth generation family owned and operated based in Weiner, AR. Eagle Seed supports Asset Foundation in the development of AgSTEM Academy charter school being applied for. Support may include research planning, experimental design, planting plots, soil fertility management, agronomic field notes, crop scouting, pesticide applications, and harvest. Seed cleaning, drying, and storage techniques could also be shared with the Asset Foundation. Eagle Seed is under the direction of a second generation Ph.D. plant breeder and M.S.A. Agronomist with over 25 years each in crop research, crop consulting, and plant breeding. It would certainly benefit our business as well as other ag businesses to have a school like this in our area. Thanks for your consideration.

Brad Doyle, M.S.A.

Manager



CART WELL COMPANY, INC.

WATER WELL CONTRACTORS
118 E. THIRD ST
PHONE (870) 684-2261 • FAX: (870) 684-2265
WEINER, ARKANSAS 72479

June 1, 2020

To Whom it May Concern:

We here at Cart Well Company, Inc., would like to convey our support to establish a Charter School of Agriculture in Weiner, Arkansas. Being able to find qualified employees has been a concern for the agriculture industry for many years. We currently employ 23 individuals in the Weiner area and have difficulty filling positions with skilled workers. We need foremen who are able to take a job from start to finish, have developed critical thinking skills in order to handle any circumstance, as well as having the people skills required to communicate, manage and work with customers and their crew. We also have a need for big machinery operators, which requires a completely different skill set.

Exposing students to agriculture at an early age insures that not only will these children learn where their food comes from, but they will also grasp the importance of agri-business and hopefully consider this a career opportunity they may want to pursue.

We would like to work with the school in order to educate students in irrigation technology. To do this, we could bring our equipment to the school and provide instruction in and outside of the classroom. We could also provide internship opportunities for interested students. We have committed to providing irrigation needs at the acreage provided to the school for crop production. As there is already a well on the property, we would commit to taking care of any issues with the well in the future.

We are committed to this community, this school and the future of agriculture. Please do what you can to keep agriculture in the forefront of Arkansas education as it generates the largest percentage of our state's economy.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this regard.

Sincerely,

Mike McDermott

MPM/tw



Jones Ag Spraying

6366 Mallard Pond Lane
Fisher, AR 72429
(870)897-4045

March 3, 2020

ASSET Foundation Board:

I am an independent owner/operator of a commercial agriculture application business. I am pleased to support the efforts of ASSET Foundation in applying to begin a charter school of agriculture. Agriculture is a major driving force of our local economy, and I am glad to see young people being given the opportunity to invest themselves in it and explore new options that could help rural Arkansas. I commit to provide any and all application services as well as hands-on training for the farm projects of this charter school, Arkansas AgSTEM Academy.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Jones", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Paul Jones, Owner

June 1, 2020

Dear AG Stem Board,

My name is L. J. Bryant II, and I wholeheartedly support the AgStem Academy school for agriculture in North East Arkansas. Promoting and supporting agricultural education for students is a great opportunity to learn more about our state's largest leading industry and primarily to give back to our community.

As the state's number one industry, agricultural is crucial to Arkansas's economy, it accounts for about one-fourth of all jobs and adds approximately sixteen billion dollars to the economy of Arkansas each year. Continued strength of agriculture is of most importance to the social and economic fabric of North East Arkansas communities and the infrastructure and services that translate into quality of life for residents.

There are 49,346 farms statewide and 97 percent of Arkansas' farms are family-owned, including the farm still owned by myself as a 3rd generation landowner.

Sincerely,

L. J. Bryant II

Vice President CB Winter Haven Inc.

Sales Agent Coldwell Banker Village

Communities of Jonesboro

Member Jonesboro City Council Ward 5 Position 1

Kip Hesse

10493 Riviana Ln, Weiner, AR 72479 – 870-761-9248

May 28, 2020

Dear Ag Stem Board,

My name is Kip Hesse. I am a Farm Bureau agent in Poinsett county. I was raised in the farming community of Weiner and graduated from Arkansas State University in 1997. I was fortunate enough to follow in my dad's footsteps as he just retired as a Farm Bureau agent in this same county in 2019.

Agriculture holds a special place in my heart. You see, I was raised on a farm and from childhood on I have witnessed firsthand the importance of Arkansas Agriculture here in the Delta. I processed catfish as a teenager at a local processor, drove a tractor during harvest in the afternoons while in college, and eventually went to work full-time at a local coop selling fertilizer and chemical. Later, I sold John Deere equipment at Greenway Equipment and eventually managed a Case IH equipment dealership in Weiner. As you can quickly see, my livelihood as revolved around farming and Agriculture all the days of my life. But I am just one of many that have grew up here in Northeast Arkansas with dreams of building a better life for our families through careers all evolving around agriculture.

In my opinion, an Ag school in this area would be the single greatest educational asset to our children that has ever been created. It's been said that 1 in 4 jobs in Arkansas are agriculture related with 80% of our state being rural. With that being said, we need to give our children an opportunity to learn and expand their education in vocations that are being offered right here in our communities. Why not educate them on the jobs and careers that sit on their front door steps? Instead of moving out of rural Arkansas we should be creating quality educational situations and offering them opportunities to learn about the careers that await them right here at home.

My wife and I have a 9 year old son. Our dream is for him to follow in both his father's and his grandfather's footsteps if he desires. How beneficial would an Ag school be to prepare him for the careers and opportunities that await him? How many children in this area just like our son would benefit from it as well? We all want what's best for our children. The best thing we can do for the children in the Delta is prepare them for the jobs and the careers that await them at home. Let's finally give them the Ag Education that has been so sorely needed for years and allow them the opportunity to receive the education that so many employers in the state are looking to employ.

Finally, I am just one of many that is willing to support this school with my time, talents, and treasures. I am 100% convinced this is what we need to prepare our children for the world that awaits them in Arkansas Agriculture.

Kip Hesse

05/30/2020

From: Cheri Bryant

President: CB Winter Haven Inc. 361 Southwest Dr. Jonesboro, AR 72401

Dear Ag Stem Board,

My name is Cheri Bryant. I am in full support of the Ag STEM charter in the Delta area of Weiner. As a widow and the mother of an eleven-year old boy at the time, I can tell you how important the community was to his future. He learned how to care, share, think, and serve others in his community. They say it takes a village and that proverb has been proven over and over, however, this village needs access to a multitude of resources. The mission statement of the AG Stem Academy represents that same premise for the children of the Delta area.

I have been a business owner since 1998. I owned forty-three Jackson Hewitt Tax Service offices until December of 2019, at which time I was given the opportunity to move away from one Agri related business to another in the form of food service. The common layman may not correlate the first business with learning criteria of AgStem. As a member of the Weiner farming community for over thirty years, I can attest to the benefits knowledge of Agriculture relates to financial aspects on a broad spectrum. In this age of technology, finances must be understood at the basic core. However, without the understanding of the multiple aspects of farming and the related industries, it is ultimately impossible to prepare a budget, apply for a grant, or even file a proper tax return for the federal or state government.

I personally feel the students that are given this opportunity will be a great asset to the community and the future of our great country.

Sincerely,

Cheri Bryant

06/01/2020

Dear AgStem Board,

My name is Shalei Miller and I am a lifelong resident of Waldenburg, AR. I'm writing today in regards to the school system in our area. I feel like children in my area, including my own children, would benefit from a charter school focused on agriculture. It is very important that we have quality education to offer the students in our area to keep them and their families in the community. I know that I myself am not satisfied with the options I currently have for my children, as I think is the case for many others in this area. I feel as though our children and community would benefit greatly from this school. Having grown up on a farm and now working in the agricultural industry, I know how beneficial and rewarding agricultural related jobs are to my own family's livelihood, and how important they are to our community. I would also be very willing to volunteer my own time helping make the charter school for my community become a reality. The students of Northeast Arkansas deserve a choice, and I personally think this will be a great one!

Sincerely,



Shalei Miller

5/27/20

Hello Greta,

I wanted to reach out to you to state that I missed the Zoom Meeting the other night, as I had the wrong date on my calendar. I am so sorry, as I know that each person showing up just shows how much support is behind this great purpose. I wanted to express my interest in knowing what is going on and where everything is at on the timeline.

Our two boys are four and six years old. We recently purchased a house lot on Kings Highway in Weiner to be closer to the elementary school. I cannot explain the feeling that I have when I think about this wonderful Academy coming into our lives. Its like we are meant to lead the next generation.

I know that we will definitely enroll our boys and financially support this school in every way we can as Chase and I have local businesses in the area. Chase works for Horizon Ag in sales of seed rice, and I am an agricultural insurance agent.

Please let me know what we can do, to help.

Thank you for your time,

Brooke H. Kagen

Arkansas License: 17932601

Missouri License: 8431052

Cell: (870) 578-7170

Office: (870) 237-1366

