

Alexandra Boyd  
Arkansas Department of Education  
Division of Learning Services  
Charter Schools Unit  
Four Capitol Mall, Room 304-B  
Little Rock, AR 72201

March 6, 2017

*Delivered via email*

Dear Ms. Boyd,

Friendship Arkansas, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, intends to apply for an open-enrollment public charter school during the 2017 application cycle. The name of the school will be Friendship Aspire Academy—Pine Bluff. The primary contact for this application will be the following:

Friendship Education Foundation  
Attn: Mr. Joe Harris, Chief Operating Officer & National Executive Director  
1351 Nicholson St. NW, Washington, DC 20011  
Phone: (202) 722-2672; Email: [jharris@friendshipusa.org](mailto:jharris@friendshipusa.org)

Friendship Arkansas was founded by Friendship Education Foundation, which is responsible for the nationally-acclaimed network of high-quality charter schools known as Friendship Public Charter Schools based in Washington, DC, Baltimore, MD, and Baton Rouge, LA. In replicating the national Friendship model, the goal of Friendship Arkansas is to move all students to grade level mastery regardless of socioeconomic status, prior achievement, or educational needs.

Friendship Aspire Academy will open in the 2018-19 school year in Pine Bluff as a high-performing liberal arts and college preparatory school. Initially, the school will serve 150 students in grades K-1. At full enrollment the Friendship school will serve 650 students in grades K-5.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Harris III".

Joe Harris  
COO & National Director  
Friendship Education Foundation