

Notice of Intent to Apply for an Arkansas Public Charter School License

Type of Charter:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Open-Enrollment <input type="checkbox"/> District Conversion
Proposed Charter School Name:	Virtual Arkansas Online School
Proposed Location:	Arch Ford Educational Service Cooperative
School District Where Charter Will be Located:	N/A
Grade Levels Served:	K-12
Enrollment Cap:	2500
Name of Contact for Application:	Gregg Grant, ESC Director
Contact Cell and Office Numbers:	501-354-2269 (office) or 479-495-0074 (cell)
Contact Email:	gregg.grant@archford.org
Focus Area:	<input type="checkbox"/> Traditional <input type="checkbox"/> Alternative Learning Environment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Virtual <input type="checkbox"/> College Prep <input type="checkbox"/> Credit Recovery <input type="checkbox"/> Other:

Provide a brief description of the purpose or emphasis of the school:

Virtual Arkansas (VA) has served Arkansas students since 2014 and already has an established infrastructure in place to expand their operations to provide services to students who would like to enroll full time and directly in our courses without going through their local schools. At present, student enrollments, including those of homeschool students, must be facilitated by a student's local district. Additionally, Virtual Arkansas has designed and developed 214 courses, aligned to the Arkansas Curriculum Frameworks, that are already in use through Virtual Arkansas's existing supplemental program and by schools using the content with their own students. Virtual Arkansas employs approximately 120 Arkansas certified teachers at present, who also hold online teaching credentials, ensuring they are the best qualified online teachers in the State. Virtual Arkansas is applying for a charter so that the organization, given its existing position and resources, can expand their operations to meet the needs of students and parents who desire a virtual option.

The purpose of the Virtual Arkansas Online School is to provide students and parents with the opportunity to enroll in high quality, Arkansas designed and developed, courses. These courses are all facilitated by Arkansas certified teachers who provide daily synchronous instruction to students to ensure they stay on track and are successful in their coursework. Virtual Arkansas features a bichronous learning model that emphasizes the importance of relationships for supporting student academic, emotional, and social health. The goal of the program is to empower students to grow in the context of their specific needs and encourage their success as future residents of the State of Arkansas.

Virtual Arkansas Online School's will emphasize the following:

- Expanding opportunities to students and parents seeking a high quality Arkansas-based learning solution that includes access to not only core courses, but CTE courses and programs of study, and concurrent college credit and AP courses.
- Encouraging student relationships within their communities that lead to personal and professional opportunities that create a network of support that will extend and endure beyond the classroom.

- Engaging students in collaboration and teamwork that serves to equip students with life skills needed for future success in college or careers.
- Empowering students through innovation in a rapidly changing world, where access and experiences with up to date technology prepare students for a highly advanced technological world.
- Equipping students with the highest quality learning experiences from a program that is continually informed and improved by best practice.

Arch Ford Educational Service Cooperative provides oversight of Virtual Arkansas's present operations. The Virtual Arkansas Online School will operate as a separate charter under a 501(c)3 managed by Arch Ford ESC.

Printed Name: Gregg Grant **Title:** Director, Arch Ford ESC

Signature:  **Date:** 03/08/2023