

Topic:	Teacher Licensure
Standards/Statutes/Rules:	A.C.A. 6-15-1004 - Qualified teachers in every classroom A.C.A. 6-17-309(b)(3) - Letter to parents A.C.A.6-17-401 - Licensure requirements DESE Rules Governing Educator Licensure- Section 7
Duration Requested:	5 years
Name of Open-Enrollment Charter Holding the Waiver	AR Virtual Academy
Schools, Grades or Classes the Waiver Will Apply To	Freshman Seminar Courses Embedded with Oral Com

1. Provide a detailed rationale explaining how the waiver will enhance student learning opportunities, promote innovation or increase equitable access to effective teachers. Include information about the problem or obstacle, if any, the waiver will help the district overcome.

Freshman Seminar with Professional Communication is a ninth-grade year-long course focused on personal and career exploration, professional communication and successful transition into high school academies. In the Freshman Seminar class, students are actively developing a career portfolio and participating in “real-world” lessons including topics such as:

- Learning to Manage Conflict
- Making the Most of Your Time
- Dos and Don'ts of Job Interviews
- Making Your Resume Stand Out
- Knowing Your Learning Style, Personal Strengths, and Aptitudes
- Exploring Careers That Fit YOU
- Interacting with and Observing Professionals on the Job
- Communication
- Interpersonal Effectiveness & Ethics
- Personal Presentation

This course will help lay the foundation for students transitioning from middle school to high school by gaining academic and communication skills to help them be successful in high school and beyond. Because this class is critical for student success, the waiver would allow us to

select the most effective licensed teachers, regardless of licensure area, who are committed to supporting students as they grow and develop. In the 21st Century, the standards contained with the Professional Communications course outline skills and knowledge that are necessary to effectively communicate across content areas and sectors. Therefore, any licensed educator should be able to demonstrate these skills at a high level and prepare students to demonstrate them across any content area.

2. Provide a detailed explanation of how the services being waived will be provided for students.

We are not requesting a waiver of any services to be offered to students. Students will receive both a career focus and oral communications credit upon successful completion of the course.

3. Provide a detailed explanation of how the district will monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the waiver.

Teachers will be evaluated annually according to the TESS model and the aggregate data will be reviewed annually. Freshman Seminar teachers across the district will work in collaboration to create common assessment and scoring rubrics to be used to measure student achievement of the Personal Communications standards. Data from these assessments will be used to monitor the degree to which the students are learning the standards.