

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS

COMMISSION FOR ARKANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOL ACADEMIC FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION RULES GOVERNING THE FACILITIES MASTER PLAN

These rules were amended to incorporate the provision of Act 126 of 2021 that eliminated the requirements for school districts to consult with and submit preliminary master plans to the Division of Public School Academic Facilities and Transportation, which constitute an inefficient use of time and resources by both the school district and Division. Most school districts are familiar with how to draft master plans and have many opportunities to discuss the plans or proposed projects with the Division. Although the Division would be happy to meet with any district that wants or needs assistance, this amendment would free up valuable time and resources to enable the Division to focus on the districts that need the most support.

The amended rules also provide that the Division will provide enrollment projections to be used in the suitability analysis. Because the Division obtains its projections from a demography consultant that uses statistical analysis to calculate projections for every school district in the state, the projections will be more accurate and realistic. Historically, projections offered by school districts often have proven to be based on unrealistic assumptions, resulting in an inaccurately high suitability need, which resulted in an imprudent use of tax dollars. Other amendments to the rules are technical and stylistic.

Post-Public Comment

There were no public comments submitted.