



## Public School Waiver Request

<b>District:</b>	<b>Perryville School District</b>
<b>LEA Number:</b>	5303
<b>Superintendent:</b>	Mandi Edwards
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:mandi.edwards@perryvilleschool.org">mandi.edwards@perryvilleschool.org</a>
<b>Contact for Waiver:</b>	Mandi Edwards
<b>Contact Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:mandi.edwards@perryvilleschool.org">mandi.edwards@perryvilleschool.org</a>
<b>Contact Phone:</b>	501-889-2327
<b>Date Received by DESE:</b>	

The following documents must be submitted with the waiver request:

1. Board resolution approving the waiver request
2. Evidence of stakeholder involvement, including teachers and student families

## Waiver Request #1

<b>Topic:</b>	School Calendar
<b>Standards/Statutes/Rules:</b>	Statutes: Ark. Code Ann. § 6-10-106
<b>Duration Requested:</b>	2024-2025 School Year
<b>Name of Open-Enrollment Charter Holding the Waiver</b>	Arkansas Virtual Academy
<b>Schools, Grades or Classes the Waiver Will Apply To</b>	Perryville Elementary School K-6 Perryville High School 7-12
<b>PURPOSE OF THE WAIVER (Must check at least one)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enhance Student Learning Opportunities <input type="checkbox"/> Promote Innovation <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Equitable Access to Effective Teachers

- 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.**

With a waiver to start school early, students would be given enhanced student learning opportunities earlier in the school year. Fall attendance is always better which would allow us to address student needs early. If we have to wait until August 19th, it will limit student learning.

With school beginning on August 19, to complete the first semester before the Christmas Holiday, the first semester would have a disproportionate number of days compared to the second semester. This would provide students in the first-semester class fewer days of instruction than those receiving the instruction during the second semester. As stated earlier, the fall semester attendance is much better and we need as many days as possible earlier in the school year. A waiver allowing the district to begin earlier than August 19th would enable the district to develop a calendar with more proportionate days between each semester. A waiver of the start of school date would enhance student learning opportunities by allowing students to have more days to be taught the rigorous state academic standards before taking mandated state exams, administered during April or early May. With winter weather being a factor we must consider, we would prefer to have student face to face days in the fall semester to help provide access to instruction around the state standards as early as possible and allow them to be prepared for the state testing.

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

A waiver to amend the school calendar start date will not waive any services provided to students. Not being allowed to start before August 19 would meet the criteria of an exceptional circumstance. Allowing the district to start the school year earlier would provide a similar start date as previous years and additional instructional time before state summative assessments.

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

The district will monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the waiver through:

- Stakeholder input. Stakeholders will include faculty, staff, parent/families, and community.

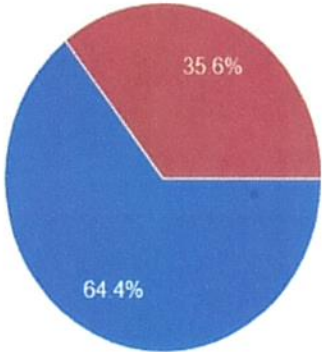
- Attendance data - Attendance as proven through our data shows that fall attendance is much better than spring time attendance.
- State assessment data - We would like to have ample amount of student days prior to testing to help us achieve our goals.

# Evidence of stakeholder involvement

For the 24-25 school year, which date do you prefer for the first day of school?

 Copy

104 responses



- August 14th (this option would allow us to finish school before Memorial Day 2025, depending on snow days to makeup)
- August 20th (this option would have us completing school right before Memorial Day 2025 or possibly after depending on which calendar you all vote on, plus any snow days to makeup)

# Perryville School District

## RESOLUTION

In support of a Waiver Request Affecting the Allowable First Day of School  
A.C.A. 6-10-106

WHEREAS Arkansas law, A.C.A. 6-10-106, provides for the school year to begin no earlier than the Monday of the week containing August 19; and

WHEREAS under this law, A.C.A. 6-10-106, the start of school varies from year to year, beginning some years as early as August 14, or as late as August 20; and

WHEREAS under this law, A.C.A. 6-10-106, the earliest school can be is August 19; and

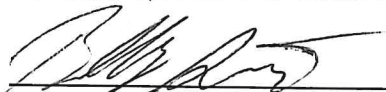
WHEREAS a late start to the school year creates unbalanced semesters, reduces the preparation time for state testing, and limits flexibility in scheduling inclement weather make-up days;

THEREFORE be it resolved that the Perryville Board of Education endorses the Superintendent's waiver request affecting the allowable first day of school on August 14, and recommends its approval by the Arkansas State Board of Education.

Adopted this 27th day of February, 2024.



Jake Farnam  
President, Board of Education



Bobby Scott  
Secretary, Board of Education