



**DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY
& SECONDARY EDUCATION**

Act 1240 Waiver Request

District:	Cave City School District
LEA Number:	6802000
Superintendent:	Steven Green
Email:	sgreen@cavecity.ncsc.k12.ar.us
Contact for Waiver:	Steven Green, Superintendent
Contact Email:	sgreen@cavecity.ncsc.k12.ar.us
Contact Phone:	870-283-5391
Date Received by DESE:	

The following documents must be submitted with the waiver request:

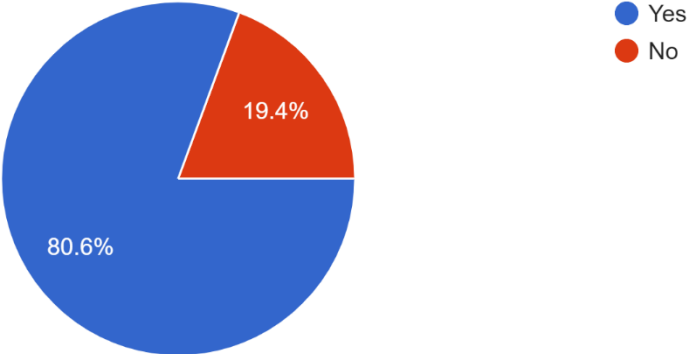
- 1. Board resolution approving the waiver request**
- 2. Evidence of stakeholder involvement, including teachers and student families**

As part of the stakeholder process, an opportunity for public comment was offered at the February 12th Board of Education Meeting. The district also surveyed community and staff via our Thrillshare Text Alert System and Facebook page.

Faculty and Staff Survey Results

Would you support the school's efforts in seeking a waiver to start school as soon as August 12, 2024 in place of August 19, 2024?

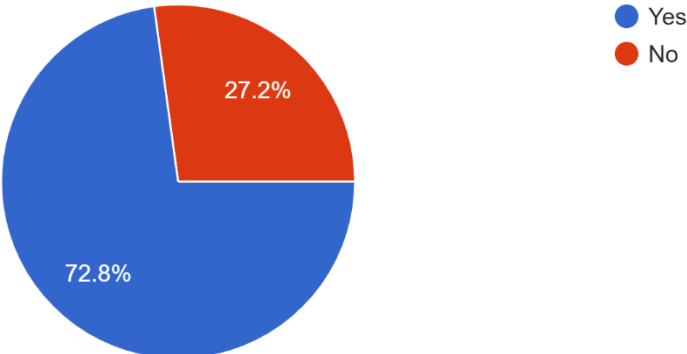
98 responses



Community Stakeholder Survey Results

Would you support the school's efforts in seeking a waiver to start school as soon as August 12, 2024 in place of August 19, 2024?

471 responses



Waiver Request #1

Topic:	School Start Date
Standards/Statutes/Rules:	A.C.A. 6-10-106
Duration Requested:	5 years
Name of Open-Enrollment Charter Holding the Waiver	Arkansas Virtual Academy Arkansas Connections Academy
Schools, Grades or Classes the Wavier Will Apply To	K-12
PURPOSE OF THE WAIVER (Must check at least one)	<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.

The member school districts of the North Central Service Cooperative are collectively and separately requesting a waiver from A.C.A. 6-10-106, which establishes the first allowable day of class as the Monday of the week that contains August 19. For the 2023-2024 school year that date will be Monday, August 19.

The specific waiver being requested is to allow the applying school districts to set their individual district's first day of class to be "no earlier than Monday, August 12."

The law as presently constructed results in a start date for the 2024-25 School year of August 19. Our start date in the 23-24 school year was August 14. This waiver would next year allow school to open on the same relative date as this year (as early as August 12).

The advantages of this waiver are several:

- This waiver will give greater assurance of school ending in mid-May, which will allow the district to begin summer school sooner for students who need additional instruction.
- Beginning school earlier automatically results in more days of instruction prior to spring testing. More days of instruction will result in higher test scores,

The granting of this waiver does not affect any other law, rule or procedure. The school year will remain the same length. It simply allows a district to continue with a school calendar that is structured as closely as possible to the current one, and avoids the dramatic change to the calendar which must result without the waiver.

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

There will not be a loss of services for students under this waiver.

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

The district will monitor student assessment results and student attendance data related to the earlier start of the school year by no more than five days. The movement of the start date should have a positive effect on state assessment scores and student attendance.

The advantage is having more student instruction days prior to the state assessment.

RESOLUTION

The following resolution was adopted by the Cave City School District of Arkansas on February 12, 2024

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CAVE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT AUTHORIZING THE DISTRICT TO REQUEST A WAIVER TO START SCHOOL EARLY

WHEREAS, the Cave City School District is committed to providing a high-quality education to all students within the district; and

WHEREAS, certain circumstances or regulations may require the Cave City School District to seek waivers to better address the unique needs or challenges faced by the district; and

WHEREAS, 1-A.5 Each public school district shall adopt a school calendar and provide planned instruction per day in accordance with the laws of the State of Arkansas, the Cave City School District requests the ability to start school as early as August 12, instead of “the Monday of the week of August 19” to allow for the opportunity of more student interaction days prior to state required testing; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Cave City School District hereby authorizes the district administration to formally request a waiver for the first day of school to be as early as August 12th, to allow for more student interaction days prior to state required testing, while still meeting the state requirement related to total days (178) or the equivalent in educational hours (1,068); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Superintendent or designee is authorized to take all necessary steps and actions to submit the waiver request, including providing any additional information or documentation required by the relevant authorities;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Directors expresses support for the waiver request and acknowledges the importance of flexibility in addressing the unique needs and circumstances of the district.

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption

ADOPTED this February 12th, 2024 by the Board of Directors of the Cave City School District


Ashley Beller, Board President


Eddie Walling, Board Secretary

Sign in Sheet

Stakeholder Engagement

February 12, 2024

Board meeting: School Start Date Waiver

SA Green

Cheryl Bue

Steve Smart

Anna W. O.

Edwin Wolff

Pat O'Neil

Dean Kelly

Jim Hayes

Ashley (Boush)

Bob K. Long

Steve Smith