



**DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY
& SECONDARY EDUCATION**

Public School Waiver Request

District:	Clinton School District
LEA Number:	7102000
Superintendent:	Jay Chalk
Email:	chalkj@clintonsd.org
Contact for Waiver:	Lynn Ludwig
Contact Email:	ludwigl@clintonsd.org
Contact Phone:	501-745-6010
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**

Waiver Request #1

Topic:	School District Calendar
Standards/Statutes/Rules:	Statues: Ark. Code Ann. § 6-10-106
Duration Requested:	Beginning 2024-2025 School Year for 5 years
Name of Open-Enrollment Charter Holding the Waiver	Lisa Academy, Estem Public Charter, Academics Plus Public Charter
Schools, Grades or Classes the Wavier Will Apply To	Clinton Elementary K-5 Clinton Junior High, 6-8 Clinton High School 9-12
PURPOSE OF THE WAIVER (Must check at least one)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enhance Student Learning Opportunities <input type="checkbox"/> Promote Innovation <input checked="" 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 school start date for the 2024-2025 school year is currently Monday, August 19. The Clinton School District asks for consideration and approval for the start date to be changed to an earlier date which would afford the district the same equity afforded the charter schools listed above.

The waiver being requested would allow our district to set our school district's first day of classes to begin no earlier than Monday, August 12.

The current law has resulted in a major variation in the allowable opening date of the school year. The earliest being August 14 for the 2023-2024 school year. The last possible opening date of the school year is August 20 for the 2029-2030 school year. If granted, the waiver will enable Clinton School District to open the 2024-2025 school year and the years to follow on the same relative date to this year.

Advantages of the waiver requested:

- With an earlier start to the school year, students and teachers will gain more instructional time and minutes to enable them the opportunity to learn the state academic standards and cover other curricula. The increased instructional time will enable students to increase student achievement on state exams such as ATLAS, ELPA, AP, etc.
- With the school year beginning the week of August 12, the school district will be able to complete the first semester before the December holiday break. This fact enables students to take semester ending exams before the break rather than taking the exams after a two week period of no instruction.
- With beginning the school year earlier, the result will be more teacher-student interaction and instructional days before state mandated assessments are given. The increased number of days of instruction equates to an increase in student growth to be reflected in all informal and formal assessments.

- With the earlier start date, the district calendar could assure the school year ending in the month of May rather than being extended into the summer month of June. The result will enable our teachers to provide increased high quality instruction to Clinton School District students resulting in the learning of skills and strategies needed before assessments. Clinton School District teachers will have the needed time to effectively teach students resulting in less job related stress because of decreased instructional time.

The Clinton School District would like for our students to be given the same opportunities for learning as students in other districts. Receiving the waiver would permit the Clinton School District to maximize student achievement by overcoming the earlier mentioned barriers of starting school on August 19, 2024.

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

All Clinton School District services would continue without interruption if the waiver is granted. With a beginning school date of August 12, the Clinton School district will be enabled to provide all services in an earlier part of the calendar year. The waiver will allow the school district the opportunity to meet our student and teachers needs in an earlier fashion.

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

The Clinton School District will monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the waiver by:

- Performing surveys with all stakeholders (staff, parents, and the community)
- Attendance data
- Assessment data (ATLAS, ELPA, AP, interim assessments, etc.)
- CWT data

Clinton 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 begin 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 Clinton Board of Education endorses the Superintendent's waiver request affecting the allowable first day of school on August 12, and recommends its approval by the Arkansas State Board of Education.

Adopted this 31st day of January, 2024



D.L. Webb
President, Board of Education



Lacey Standridge
Secretary, Board of Education

2024-25 Start Date - Staff Input

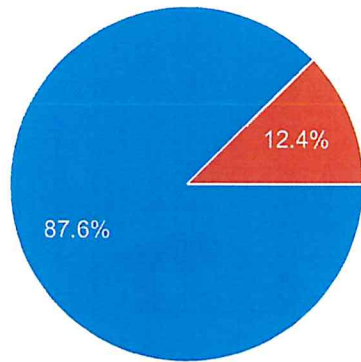
97 responses

[Publish analytics](#)

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

 Copy

97 responses



- August 12th - earlier start date allows for the school year to finish BEFORE Memorial Day 2025 depending on snow make up days.
- August 19th - later start date will not complete until AFTER Memorial Day 2025 plus any potential snow days.

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2024-25 Start Date - Parent/Community Input

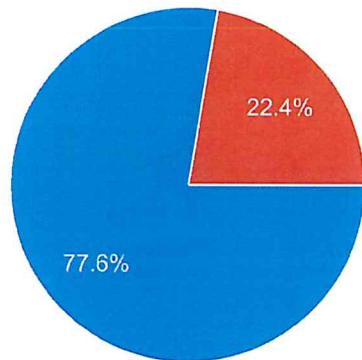
196 responses

[Publish analytics](#)

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

 Copy

196 responses



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BLACK OPTION edited 1/30/24

CLINTON SCHOOL DISTRICT 2024-2025 CALENDAR

July 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

August 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

September 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

October 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

November 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

January 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

February 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

March 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

April 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

May 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

IMPORTANT DATES

- Prof Development..... August 5-9
- Open House..... August
- Student First Day..... August 12
- Labor Day Holiday..... Aug 30-Sept 2
- P/T Conference..... September 17
- Prof Development..... September 18
- Thanksgiving Holiday.... Nov 25-29
- Semester Tests..... Dec 18-19
- Christmas Holiday..... Dec 23-Jan 3
- Prof Development..... January 6
- Students Return..... January 7
- President's Day..... February 17
- P/T Conference..... March 20
- Spring Break..... March 24-28
- Good Friday..... April 18
- Prom.....
- Graduation.....
- Kndgtn Graduation.....
- Semester Tests..... May 20-21
- Student Last Day..... May 22
- Memorial Day..... May 26

178 STUDENT DAYS

- 1st 9 weeks Aug 11-Oct 11 (42 days)
- 2nd 9 weeks Oct 14-Dec 20 (45 days)
- 3rd 9 weeks Jan 7-Mar 12 (46 days)
- 4th 9 weeks Mar 13-May 22 (45 days)

FAST FRIDAYS

- Release 1 Hour Early for PLC Training

190 TEACHER DAYS

- P/T Conferences (2 days)
- Prof Development Aug 5-9 (5 days)
- Prof Development Sept 18 (1 day)
- Prof Development Jan 6 (1 day)
- Summer Prof Development (3 days)

5 INCLEMENT WEATHER DAYS

- May 23, 27, 28, 29, 30

CALENDAR COLOR CHART

	First Day for Students
	Professional Development
	Holidays
	End of 9 weeks
	P/T Conferences
	Semester Tests

The Superintendent and School Board shall have the authority to amend the calendar in the event of excessive days missed when 1,068 hours of instruction have been accounted for.

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CLINTON SCHOOL DISTRICT 2024-2025 CALENDAR

August 5-9	Monday-Friday	Professional Development
August		Open House
August 12	Monday	Student First Day
August 30-September 2	Friday and Monday	Labor Day Holiday (No School)
September 17	Tuesday	P/T Conference
September 18	Wednesday	Professional Development (No Students)
October 11	Friday	End of 1 st 9 weeks (42 days)
November 25-29	Monday-Friday	Thanksgiving Holiday
December 18-19	Wednesday and Thursday	Semester Tests
December 20	Friday	End of 2 nd 9 weeks (45 days)
December 23-January 3		Christmas Holiday
January 6	Monday	Professional Development (No Students)
January 7	Tuesday	Students Return
February 17	Monday	President's Day
March 12	Wednesday	End of 3 rd 9 weeks (46 days)
March 20	Thursday	P/T Conference
March 24-28	Monday-Friday	Spring Break
April 18	Friday	Good Friday
TBA		Prom
TBA		Graduation
TBA		Kindergarten Graduation
May 20-21	Tuesday and Wednesday	Semester Tests
May 22	Thursday	End of 4 th 9 weeks (45 days)
May 22	Thursday	Student Last Day
May 23	Friday	Inclement Weather Day #1
May 26	Monday	Memorial Day
May 27	Tuesday	Inclement Weather Day #2
May 28	Wednesday	Inclement Weather Day #3
May 29	Thursday	Inclement Weather Day #4
May 30	Friday	Inclement Weather Day #5

Teacher Contract Days

178 Student Days

7 Professional Development Days (School Term)

3 Professional Development Days (Summer Term)

2 Parent/Teacher Conferences

190 Total Teacher Contract Days

The Superintendent and School Board shall have the authority to amend the calendar in the event of excessive days missed when 1,068 hours of instruction have been accounted for.