Waiver Request Details

Request ID: WR-2027-012
Date Received: 09/22/2026

DISTRICT INFORMATION
District: HOT SPRINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT
District LEA: 2603000
School: HOT SPRINGS WORLD CLASS HIGH SCHOOL
School LEA: 2603703
Superintendent: Miguel Hernandez
Superintendent Email: hernandezm@hssd.net

WAIVER CONTACT
Name: Becky Rosburg
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Waiver Topic: Class Size
School year(s) requested: 2026-2027
Grade(s) to which the waiver will apply: 11-12

Brief overview of waiver request:

Hot Springs School District requests a class-size waiver for four sections of Quantitative Reasoning at Hot Springs World Class High School for the 2026–2027 school year. The district requests a maximum class size of 35 students for these sections. Current enrollment is 32, 32, 31, and 31 students, respectively. The district does not intend to increase enrollment in these sections beyond current levels unless necessary to accommodate students who enroll during the remainder of the school year.

During spring 2026 course registration, 112 students requested Quantitative Reasoning. Based on those requests, projected enrollment, and anticipated overall enrollment, four sections provided sufficient capacity to meet student demand while remaining within class-size requirements.

Following development of the master schedule, two mathematics teachers resigned due to career changes. Based on enrollment projections and preregistration numbers at that time, the anticipated student enrollment did not support replacing both positions. These staffing changes subsequently reduced the number of other fourth-level mathematics course options available to students.

Additional circumstances arose after the master schedule was finalized. Student interest in Quantitative Reasoning, which is a new mathematics offering at Hot Springs World Class High School, exceeded initial projections. The school also enrolled additional students after the enrollment period for Virtual Arkansas had closed, eliminating virtual mathematics coursework as an alternative scheduling option for those students.

Quantitative Reasoning serves an important role in the school's mathematics course sequence. Students who are not pursuing an accelerated mathematics pathway and who do not meet the requirements for concurrent-credit mathematics must have access to an appropriate fourth-level mathematics course. For these students, Quantitative Reasoning provides that pathway. Consequently, simply removing students from the course would not necessarily provide them with another appropriate mathematics option.

The school has considered adding an additional section of Quantitative Reasoning. At this point in the school year, however, doing so would require significant changes to an established master schedule. Creating another

section would require relocating approximately 15 students from an existing class to create an available instructional period, moving at least six additional students from the four existing Quantitative Reasoning sections to establish a viable and balanced fifth section, and changing the schedules of both the primary mathematics teacher and the student support teacher. Those changes would affect multiple courses and students after instruction for the school year is already underway.
The requested waiver provides a less disruptive means of maintaining students' access to an appropriate fourth-level mathematics course while preserving instructional continuity across the master schedule.

RATIONALE

Provide a detailed rationale explaining how the waiver will enhance student learning opportunities, promote innovation, or increase access to effective teachers:

Approval of this limited waiver will allow the district to maintain continuity of instruction, avoid widespread schedule changes after the school year has begun, and ensure that current and newly enrolling students continue to have access to an appropriate fourth-level mathematics course aligned with their academic and postsecondary pathways.

Provide a detailed explanation of how the intent of the requirement being waived will be upheld:

The district is requesting a maximum enrollment of 35 students per section only to provide limited flexibility for additional students who may enroll during the 2026–2027 school year. The school does not intend to add students to the current sections simply because additional capacity is authorized. Students will be added only when necessary to provide an appropriate mathematics placement for newly enrolled students or when other circumstances make placement in Quantitative Reasoning educationally appropriate.

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

Students will earn the credits they need to graduate. The school will use course completion data and graduation data to evaluate the results.