



Act 1240 Waiver Request

District:	Jackson County
LEA Number:	3405000
Superintendent:	Chester Shannon
Email:	cshannon@bulldogs.k12.ar.us
Contact for Waiver:	Chester Shannon
Contact Email:	cshannon@bulldogs.k12.ar.us
Contact Phone:	(870) 349-2232
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:	Teacher Licensure
Standards/Statutes/Rules:	Standard 4-D.1; Ark. Code Ann. §§6-15-1004; 6-17-309; 6-17-401 and 6-17-902, and Section 7 of the DESE Rules Governing Educator Licensure
Duration Requested:	Five (5) school years
Name of Open-Enrollment Charter Holding the Waiver	Academics Plus Charter Schools
Schools, Grades or Classes the Wavier Will Apply To	P-12
PURPOSE OF THE WAIVER (Must check at least one)	<input 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.

We are currently operating under a five (5) school year Act 1240 waiver for teacher licensure that will expire in November, 2023. We continue to have difficulties in attracting and maintaining quality certified teachers that are willing to relocate to our small, rural area. As before, we are continuing to use multiple avenues such as advertising digitally on the local and state level, and by contacting local universities to ensure that we are able to attract as many quality teaching candidates to our district as possible. Despite these issues, our district continues to provide a quality education to our students and remain highly rated in its academic achievement. The one (1) thing that is changing in this current waiver request is our desire utilize waivers of Sections 7-4.03.2 and 7-4.04 of the DESE Rules Governing Educator Licensure. Section 7-4.03.2 states that the maximum amount of additional time for educators to complete a content area assessment after the first year is four (4) consecutive semesters. We are seeking to increase that time allotment to a maximum of six (6) consecutive semesters. Similarly, Section 7-4.04 states that an Additional Licensure Plan (ALP) that requires a program of study shall be completed within six (6) consecutive semesters. We are seeking to increase that time allotment to a maximum of eight (8) consecutive semesters. The reason for these waiver requests is that we are trying to “grown our own” teachers as much as possible, and the additional time provided by these waivers will enable us to spend more time with our teachers and teacher candidates to help them successfully complete their assessments and ALPs.

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

The additional time being requested for Teacher Certification will not result in any services being waived or not provided for students.

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

The building Principals will evaluate the staff falling under this waiver for their effectiveness in the classroom.

Waiver Request #2

Topic:	Library Media Specialist
Standards/Statutes/Rules:	Standard 4-F.2
Duration Requested:	Five (5) school years
Name of Open-Enrollment Charter Holding the Waiver	Academics Plus Charter Schools
Schools, Grades or Classes the Wavier Will Apply To	K-12
PURPOSE OF THE WAIVER (Must check at least one)	<input 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 Jackson County School District (JCSD) is requesting that a waiver be granted to raise the enrollment of a school from 300 to 500 students before a full time Librarian is required to be employed. At the beginning of this school year, Tuckerman High School (THS) has 313 students, Tuckerman Elementary School (TES) has 315 students and Swifton Middle School (SMS) has 190 students. Without this waiver, TES will have to have a full time Librarian, THS will have to have a full time Librarian and SMS will have to have a half-time Librarian. In this scenario, the two (2) full time Librarians at THS and TES cannot have any additional duties such as Math or Reading Interventionist or possibly Content Coach. In a district of our size, it is imperative that are able to utilize the Librarians in more than one (1) role. If we do receive the waiver, we will make certain that the Librarians will still teach the full curriculum required by the Library Media Standards.

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

At Tuckerman Elementary School, the classroom rotation to the library is finished at 12:30. All students will have a certified Librarian available for their rotation in the library. Tuckerman High School will have a half-time Librarian, and all students will have one-to-one technology to use in all subject areas. This technology will provide access to information that may have traditionally been provided in the library. At Swifton Middle School, the students all have one-to-one technology and the Librarian there will teach Strategic Reading Classes to better prepare our students for End-of- the-Year assessments. In addition, all teachers and classrooms will have access to the library as needed. No students' library media needs will go unmet.

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

The faculty and staff of the JCSD will monitor each student's test scores in all areas, but with an emphasis on Reading to evaluate the effectiveness of this waiver.

RESOLUTION OF THE JACKSON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

WHEREAS: The Jackson County School District is a public school district located in Northeast Arkansas; and

WHEREAS: The Jackson County School District recognizes that teachers are the greatest single factor in student learning; and

WHEREAS: The Jackson County School District is facing extreme challenges employing licensed teachers for all classrooms; and

WHEREAS: Waivers of certain state laws and administrative rules would allow the Jackson County School District more flexibility in placing teachers in classrooms, and library media specialists in its school libraries; and

WHEREAS: Act 1240 of 2015, codified at Ark. Code Ann. §6-15-103, allows a public school district to petition the State Board of Education for all or some of the waivers granted to an open-enrollment public charter school; and

WHEREAS: Academics Plus Charter Schools is an open-enrollment public charter school; and

WHEREAS: The State's charter authorizer granted Arkansas Plus Charter Schools a series of waivers, including waivers from Sections 4-D.1. and 4.-F.2. of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Rules Governing Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts; Section 7. of the DESE Rules Governing Educator Licensure and, Title 6 of the Arkansas Code Annotated, including: [1] Ark. Code Ann. §6-15-1004; [2] Ark. Code Ann. §6-17-309; [3] Ark. Code Ann. §6-17-401; [4] Ark. Code Ann. §6-17-902, and [5] Ark. Code Ann. §6-17-919.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED BY THE JACKSON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS, THAT:

Section 1. Pursuant to Act 1240 of 2015, codified at Ark. Code Ann. §6-15-103, the Jackson County School District Board of Directors hereby requests the following waivers from the Arkansas State Board of Education:

A. Sections 4-D.1 and 4.-F.2. of the DESE Rules Governing Standards of Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts;

- B. Section 7. of the DESE Rules Governing Educator Licensure;
- C. Ark. Code Ann. §6-15-1004;
- D. Ark. Code Ann. §6-17-309;
- E. Ark. Code Ann. §6-17-401;
- F. Ark. Code Ann. §6-17-902;
- G. Ark. Code Ann. §6-17-919; and
- H. Any other such waivers as may legally be required and granted by the Arkansas State Board of Education to give effect to the efforts to place licensed teachers in classrooms.

Section 2. The Jackson County School District wishes to petition the Arkansas State Board of Education to grant it the waivers listed in Section 1. of this Resolution.

Section 3. The Jackson County School District Board of Directors voted to approve this Resolution on August 24, 2023, during an open, regularly scheduled meeting and further authorized its Superintendent to take such actions necessary to submit a copy of this Resolution along with supporting documentation to the Arkansas State Board of Education.

APPROVED:

By: Sandra Provence

Sandra Provence, Board President

ATTEST:

By: Lee Worthington Jr

Lee Worthington Jr, Board Secretary

Jackson County School District

Chester Shannon, *Superintendent*
(870) 349-2232 • (870) 349-2355 Fax

PRINCIPALS

Angelia Holland, *Tuckerman High School*
Kiley Roberts, *Swifton Middle School*
Brandon Gates, *Tuckerman Elementary*

DISTRICT TREASURER

Laura King

P.O. Box 1070
Tuckerman, Arkansas 72473

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sandra Provence
Nick Templeton
Ada Person
Jason Burton
Tammie Clausen
Justin Best
Danny Worthington

August 25, 2023

To Whom it May Concern:

Enclosed is the requested documentation for the Act 1240 Waiver for the Jackson County School District. Included information are formal requests, school board minutes as well as stakeholder meeting minutes.

Should additional information be warranted, please notify me at your first convenience at 870.349.2322 x 101 (Office) or cell 870.759.1845.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Chester Shannon, Superintendent
Jackson County School District
cshannon@bulldogs.k12.ar.us

Jackson County School District

Chester Shannon, *Superintendent*
(870) 349-2232 • (870) 349-2355 Fax

PRINCIPALS

Angelia Holland, *Tuckerman High School*
Kiley Roberts, *Swifton Middle School*
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DISTRICT TREASURER

Laura King

P.O. Box 1070
Tuckerman, Arkansas 72473

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sandra Provence
Nick Templeton
Ada Person
Jason Burton
Tammie Clausen
Justin Best
Danny Worthington

Act 1240 Waiver – Stakeholder Meeting

Jackson County School District Board Room

Friday, August 25, 2023 / 9:00a.m. – 10:00a.m.

Stakeholders Present

Mr. Chester Shannon, Superintendent

Ms. Peyton Worthington, Federal Programs Coordinator

Mrs. Marlene Shannon, Preschool Director (Ages: 18 months – 5 years)

Mr. Brandon Gates, Tuckerman Elementary School Principal (Grades: K-4)

Mr. Kiley Roberts, Swifton Middle School Principal (Grades: 5-7)

Mrs. Angelia Holland, Tuckerman High School Principal (Grades: 8-12)

Mrs. Kristy Sutherland, Special Services (Curriculum, District Testing Coordinator)

Mrs. Amanda Fortenberry, Classroom Teacher

Mr. Timothy Richmond, Classroom Teacher

Ms. Tera Blevins, Parent

Minutes (*Meeting Began at 9:05a.m.*)

Introduction of the process and needed areas for the Act 1240 Waiver. Provided meeting members with information regarding the process of waiver request, areas of need and requirements for waiver as well as the information provided from Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for the state of Arkansas.

Review of School Board Meeting process and acceptance of waiver and information from prior evening's school board meeting was discussed.

Waivers for Library Media Specialist and Teacher Licensure were read per the waiver documentation. Open discussion regarding all areas of waiver request was conducted. Questions and comments reflected agreement and support for requests made. No disagreements in the discussion occurred.

All committee members agreed with specific information within the waiver request and stated their support for the waiver process to proceed to benefit the needs of the district as well as the best interest of the students, parents, community members and all other stakeholders within the Jackson County School District.

Decisions

Stakeholders agreed for Mr. Shannon to present the request for the Act 1240 Waiver based on information presented and discussions made. Full support by the committee and encouragement for sustainability of the waiver was agreed upon.

Motion Made – Timothy Richmond, 2nd by Parent, Tera Blevins, all voted Aye, Motion Passed.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:26a.m.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Shannon", written in a cursive style.