



**DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY  
& SECONDARY EDUCATION**

## **Act 1240 Waiver Request**

<b>District:</b>	<b>Mountain View School District</b>
<b>LEA Number:</b>	6901000
<b>Superintendent:</b>	Brent Howard
<b>Email:</b>	brenth@mvschools.net
<b>Contact for Waiver:</b>	Brent Howard, Superintendent
<b>Contact Email:</b>	brenth@mvschools.net
<b>Contact Phone:</b>	870 269-3443
<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**

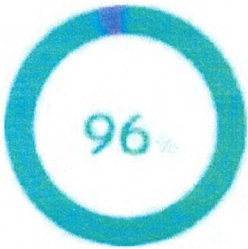
## Stakeholder Conclusion

Discussions regarding the school calendar started some time ago during our district level professional learning community meetings. The one topic of the state requiring a start of on or after August 19<sup>th</sup> date always came up as an issue without a solution. As the conversations continued to the building level team meetings, this again became a topic of concern. Just recently while attending a rescheduled basketball game, many parents and community members expressed concern for all of the time missed due to winter weather and city water problems that are still not completely resolved. Since then, many have voiced their opinion about the need to start school earlier. Stakeholders agree that this is the preference of the community. Currently, Mountain View School District has missed four days due to winter weather, two days for the lack of any water in the entire county, and two days for the death of two students. All of the above reasons are not from the lack of adequately preparation because we did include the required five (5) days in our calendar; however, those are situations beyond our control. One way to combat this problem is to request an earlier start date to the school year.

## Stakeholder Sample Survey:

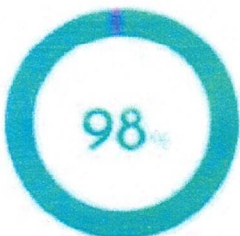
### Families and Community Partners:

96% Agreement; 4% Against or Undecided



### Teacher and Staff:

98% Agreement; 2% Against or Undecided



## Waiver Request #1

<b>Topic:</b>	School Start Date
<b>Standards/Statutes/Rules:</b>	A.C.A. 6-10-106
<b>Duration Requested:</b>	5 years
<b>Name of Open-Enrollment Charter Holding the Waiver</b>	Virtual Arkansas
<b>Schools, Grades or Classes the Wavier Will Apply To</b>	K-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.**

The member school districts of the Northcentral Education 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 2024-2025 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 wide swing in the allowable opening date of school. At the earliest, it can be August 14, which was the case this year— fall of 2023. The latest possible first day is August 20 which, under the law will be — fall of 2029. This waiver would allow school to open on the same relative date as this year.

The advantages of this waiver are several:

- The fall and spring semesters would be closer to the same length. Without this waiver, fall semester will be 84 days while the spring semester will be 94 days, a difference of 10 days. With the waiver the fall semester will be 91 days and the spring semester 87 days, a difference of only 4 days. The more unbalanced the semesters are, the greater the issue for classes that are one semester in length.
- The alternative solution for unbalanced semesters is to not end fall semester until after Christmas break. This results in final exams shortly after two weeks out of school, and the possibility of exams being repeatedly postponed due to winter weather.
- This waiver will give greater assurance of school ending in late May rather than extending into June. Some research indicates a decrease in learning past the Memorial Day Holiday.
- Beginning school earlier automatically results in more days of instruction prior to spring testing. More days of instruction will result in higher test scores. This is a great need for schools who must miss several days of instruction during the winter months due to winter weather and extremely dangerous travel for buses and staff.

- Activities such as football will begin next fall on the same relative date as they did this fall, with or without the waiver, therefore a large number of students will already be on campus to practice and prepare for their activities, regardless of the opening date of school. In addition to students that play football, this would include students that are participants in groups such as band, cheer, dance, and Beta Club as well as others.

**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.

# MOUNTAIN VIEW SCHOOL DISTRICT

210 High School Drive  
Mountain View, Arkansas 72560



Phone (870) 269-3443  
Fax (870) 269-3446

Mountain View School District  
210 High School Drive  
Mountain View, AR 72560

February 12, 2024

## A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MOUNTAIN VIEW SCHOOL DISTRICT AUTHORIZING THE DISTRICT TO REQUEST A WAIVER.

WHEREAS, the Mountain View School District Board of Directors is committed to providing a high-quality education to all students within the district;

WHEREAS, certain circumstances or regulations may require the district to seek waivers to better address the unique needs or challenges faced within the district;

WHEREAS, ACT 1240 requires schools to begin on or after August 19 and no later than August 26. The Mountain View School District requests to start on August 12 for a variety of reasons. The geographical region area of the Mountain View School District covers all of Stone County. This is a rural area of Northcentral Arkansas with many hills and gravel roads that make it difficult to travel in the best of weather conditions. Just the slightest winter precipitation can make them virtually impassable. Buses are not equipped to travel on the gravel roads with winter precipitation. More than 85% of students in the Mountain View School District depend on the school bus for transportation to and from school. Teacher-to-student contact is the best form of education possible. By starting earlier in the month of August, our students are not having to overcome the academic disadvantage of not having the opportunity to have the highest quality face-to-face teacher contact. The Mountain View School District is considered a Provision II school in that 70% or more of our students qualify for free-reduced lunches. Few of the students in the district participated in enrichment learning and/or travel during the summer months, which increased the amount of summer slide learning loss.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Mountain View School District hereby authorizes the district administration to formally request a waiver for ACT 1240. The Mountain View School District request the ability to start school on August 12, 2024.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Brent Howard, Superintendent, 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;

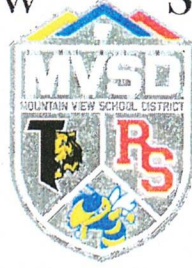
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mountain View School District Board of Directors expresses its support for the waiver request and acknowledges the importance of flexibility in addressing the unique needs and circumstances of the district.

### BOARD OF EDUCATION

President—Matt Dearien • Vice-President—Roxanne Davis • Secretary—Lori Dobbins  
Matt Butler • Sue Fletcher • Micheal Stewart • Rachelle Stewart

—◆—  
**A PROMISE OF OPPORTUNITY AND EXCELLENCE**

210 High School Drive  
Mountain View, Arkansas 72560



Phone (870) 269-3443

Fax (870) 269-3446

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Adopted the February 13, 2024, by the Board of Directors of Mountain View School District.

Matt Dearien, President  
Mountain View School District Board of Directors

ATTEST:

Lori Dobbins, Secretary  
Mountain View School District Board of Directors

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