



**DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY
& SECONDARY EDUCATION**

Act 1240 Waiver Request

District:	Foreman
LEA Number:	4102000
Superintendent:	Adam Matthews
Email:	amatthews@foremanschools.org
Contact for Waiver:	Adam Matthews
Contact Email:	amatthews@foremanschools.org
Contact Phone:	870-542-7211
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 Start Date
Standards/Statutes/Rules:	A.C.A. 6-10-106
Duration Requested:	5 years
Name of Open-Enrollment Charter Holding the Waiver	Foreman School District
Schools, Grades or Classes the Wavier Will Apply To	Oscar Hamilton Elementary K-6 & Foreman High School 7-12
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.

We, Foreman School School District, appreciate approval for the early start date giving public schools the equity afforded to other public schools in the DeQueen Mena Educational Service Cooperative in which have requested 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 our school district to set the 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 — the fall of 2029. This waiver would allow the school to open next year and years to follow on the same relative date as this year.

The advantages of this waiver include, but are not limited to:

- Currently the Foreman School District is on a traditional (178) day calendar. With this waiver, the fall and spring semesters would be closer to the same length. Without this waiver, the 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 the 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 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 before spring testing. More days of instruction will result in higher test scores,
- 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 who play football, this would include students who participate in groups such as golf, cross country, volleyball, band, cheer, dance, Student Council, and National Honor Society, as well as others.

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

The Foreman School District will create a calendar with an earlier start date which will provide us with more flexibility throughout the school year to maximize instruction. The school year will remain approximately the same length and exceed the minimally required 1068 hours of instruction. It simply allows us to continue with a school calendar structured as closely as possible to the current one and avoids the dramatic change to the calendar which must result without the waiver. Furthermore, students' learning opportunities will be enhanced due to the number of days prior to spring testing, affording students more learning opportunities at the beginning of the year as opposed to after Memorial Day.

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 date to determine the effectiveness of the early start date.

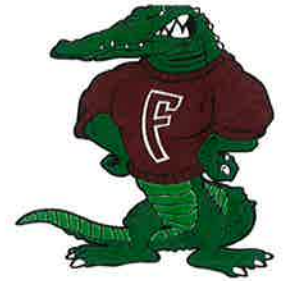
Superintendent
Phone: 870-542-7211
Fax: 870-542-7225

Foreman High School
Phone: 870-542-7212
Fax: 870-542-7227

Oscar Hamilton Elementary
Phone: 870-542-7214
Fax: 870-542-6369

Foreman Public Schools

P.O. Box 480
418 S. Bell St.
Foreman, AR 71836



Date: February 20, 2024
Resolution Number: 4201-2024-1

A Resolution of the Board of Directors of Foreman School District Authorizing the District to Request Waiver

WHEREAS, the Foreman 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 by the district;

WHEREAS, the District seeks to obtain a waiver for A.C.A 6-10-106 which requires the start of school for FY25 to be on or after August 19, 2024. The Early Start Waiver for Foreman School District is for the week beginning August 12, 2024. Reasoning for this request are as follows:

1. The number of days for instruction - the first semester would more closely align to the number of days for the second semester.
2. There would be an increase in the number of days of instruction prior to spring testing rather than days after spring testing.
3. The ending of the school term would align to community needs for the last day of school, that being before Memorial day.
4. It would allow the district to keep needed professional development days embedded within the school year for ongoing professional development throughout the school year.
5. For inclement weather purposes, it would allow fewer makeup days before June should inclement weather or other disaster prohibit instruction during the school year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of Foreman School District hereby authorizes the district administration to formally request a waiver for The Early Start Waiver from the reasoning stated above.

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 relevant authorities;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 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.

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

ADOPTED this 20th day of February 2024, by the Board of Directors of Foreman School District.

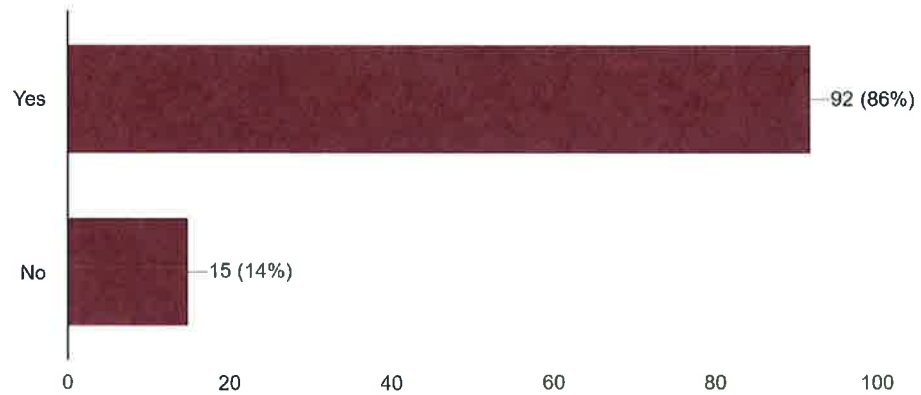

Chris Gaudin, President - Foreman School District Board of Directors


Wayne Frye, Secretary - Foreman School District Board of Directors

2024 - 2025 Stakeholder Survey for Act 1240 Waiver Request

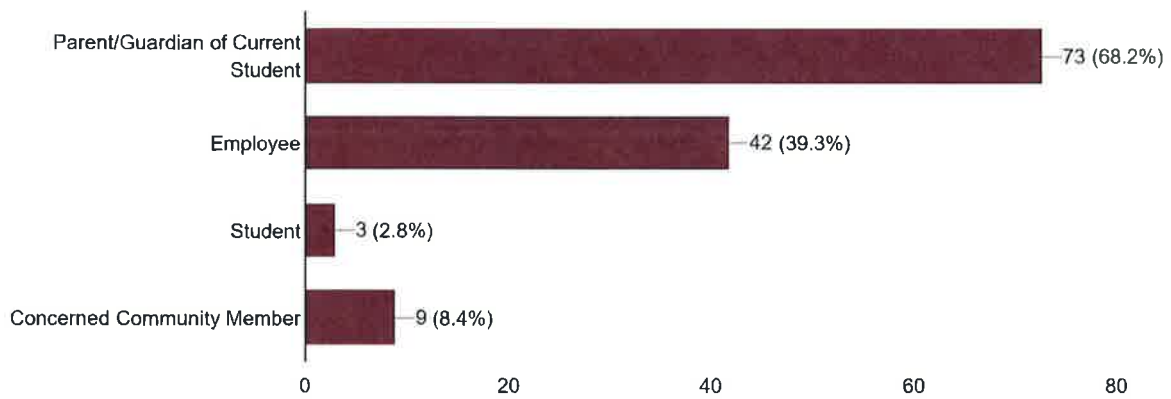
I am in support of starting earlier.

107 responses



Check all that apply to your relationship status:

107 responses



Time: Check all that apply to your relationship. I am in support of starting earlier.		
2/8/21 Concerned Community Member	No	I prefer school to start later because it is still Summer and hot. Starting later would keep the children from being in the heat especially practicing for Fall sports. It may save on air or
2/8/21 Concerned Community Member	No	Does not give the children long enough summer, maybe family have already plan vacation.
2/7/21 Employee	No	I would rather go to school more days in the month of May than extend the school day throughout the year.
2/8/21 Employee	No	I personally feel like students would be more prepared to start back learning if they felt they had a more adequate break.
2/8/21 Parent/Guardian of Current Student	No	I don't like the starting earlier in august, we have always finished school before the Memorial Day weekend and even if it did go into June by a week it's not that big a deal
2/8/21 Parent/Guardian of Current Student	No	I like having a longer summer extended into August and the county fairs before school starts
2/8/21 Parent/Guardian of Current Student	No	Just because
2/8/21 Parent/Guardian of Current Student	No	Interfere with vacation
2/8/21 Parent/Guardian of Current Student	No	It seems to me there truly isn't a difference honestly for when school ends. I'd rather school start at the beginning of a week not in the middle of it. It helps parents be more prepared
2/8/21 Parent/Guardian of Current Student	No	When I was a kid during summer break I wouldn't want the school year to start sooner. Even if I had to stay longer at the end.
2/9/21 Parent/Guardian of Current Student, E No	No	No, I am not in agreement with an early start. We use to have bad weather days on the calendar and if they were used then we attended school as normal instead of being off.
2/8/21 Student	No	It's my best friends birthday
2/8/21 Student	No	
2/8/21 Concerned Community Member	Yes	Enjoying a little more Spring time is fun. My concern is our August heat for our football teams.
2/8/21 Concerned Community Member	Yes	Having a little more Spring time off days would be delightful.
2/8/21 Concerned Community Member	Yes	Our August heat is very concerning for our football team.
2/8/21 Concerned Community Member	Yes	More balanced schedule
2/7/21 Employee	Yes	Earlier start to summer break!
2/7/21 Employee	Yes	If they are able to start a little earlier, they wouldn't have to be in school until the end of May, 1st part of June. Also, if they weren't out so much throughout the year for everything:
2/7/21 Employee	Yes	I like starting on a Wednesday and getting out earlier
2/7/21 Employee	Yes	Starting on a Wednesday will give us a few days to start with kids and set expectations, and then have a weekend break would be very beneficial.
2/8/21 Employee	Yes	I support starting earlier because starting later means less days for instruction before state testing, being in school later in May (when we know that is not when the best learning is)
2/8/21 Employee	Yes	Starting earlier will allow the students and staff to be able to get out sooner. Everyone is recharged and eager for the new school year to begin, but by the time the year is finishing
2/8/21 Employee	Yes	I like a balanced schedule that meets everyone's needs.
2/8/21 Employee	Yes	We started this school year on August 14th so it wouldn't bother me to do it again! Also I like only having 3 days for the first week because it allows me to teach procedures/expect
2/8/21 Employee	Yes	Balances out the semesters, earlier release date
2/8/21 Employee	Yes	getting out earlier
2/8/21 Employee	Yes	I like that having an early start date will balance out the days of each quarter.
2/8/21 Employee	Yes	Starting early will allow for make up days to be in May. Many in our community start vacations in June.
2/8/21 Employee	Yes	Would rather front load as much instruction prior to April testing.
2/8/21 Employee	Yes	I support more time in the summer for staff and students.
2/8/21 Employee	Yes	Better instructional time than end of year
2/8/21 Employee	Yes	Starting earlier would allow us to get a jump start on the learning loss that inevitably comes with summer break.
2/8/21 Employee	Yes	I like getting out early at the end of the year. It seems we have more breaks the first half of school and the second half is so long
2/8/21 Employee	Yes	We have always returned around the 14th.
2/9/21 Employee	Yes	
2/8/21 Parent/Guardian of Current Student	Yes	I am for the earlier start date. It gives teachers more time to deliver instruction to students before state testing. It gives a 3 day week to start the year with rules and procedures and
2/8/21 Parent/Guardian of Current Student	Yes	An earlier start day will allow for school to be let out earlier.
2/8/21 Parent/Guardian of Current Student	Yes	Would rather get out a little earlier at the end of school
2/8/21 Parent/Guardian of Current Student	Yes	I support y'all. Don't really have a reason. If it's easier on y'all. That works for me. No plans made for that week.
2/8/21 Parent/Guardian of Current Student	Yes	I like the idea of starting early and getting out earlier in May. & Starting on a Wednesday is a plus. The kids are always so tired that first week back and having it be a short week in
2/8/21 Parent/Guardian of Current Student	Yes	Earlier release date.
2/8/21 Parent/Guardian of Current Student	Yes	Starting early will cause no scheduling conflicts so I have no issue with this.
2/8/21 Parent/Guardian of Current Student	Yes	It doesn't matter to me either way. They still have to go the same amount of days.
2/8/21 Parent/Guardian of Current Student	Yes	As long as we stay on a 5 day a week schedule I am all for the teachers and students getting out of school earlier. It doesn't adversely effect the learning
2/8/21 Parent/Guardian of Current Student	Yes	Love the idea of getting out sooner. And I have children in Texas school as well and they would be more on the same schedule as far as Start/release date
2/8/21 Parent/Guardian of Current Student	Yes	No particular reason, but I do know the teachers and students don't like going until the end of May. This makes it easier for them.
2/8/21 Parent/Guardian of Current Student	Yes	Also, more time to prepare for testing- which is much needed at the moment.
2/8/21 Parent/Guardian of Current Student	Yes	Im for it

Time: Check all that apply to your relationship I am in support of starting earlier.

2/8/21 Parent/Guardian of Current Student	Yes	They get out sooner for the summer
2/8/21 Parent/Guardian of Current Student	Yes	It will match the calendar of other districts better
2/8/21 Parent/Guardian of Current Student	Yes	More days to get ready for state testing
2/8/21 Parent/Guardian of Current Student	Yes	Summer is long enough. Start them back in a routine. More time for football practices... and instructional times. Kids are finished by MAY!
2/8/21 Parent/Guardian of Current Student	Yes	I like the idea of an earlier release date for the summer.
2/8/21 Parent/Guardian of Current Student	Yes	More efficient time spent on learning and prepping for testing. After testing in April there is too much wasted time spent just "clocking mandated hours"
2/8/21 Parent/Guardian of Current Student	Yes	I like the idea of more learning time before state testing
2/8/21 Parent/Guardian of Current Student	Yes	I am for this!
2/8/21 Parent/Guardian of Current Student	Yes	Early start, early out.
2/8/21 Parent/Guardian of Current Student	Yes	To enjoy the cooler weather more instead of being in school
2/8/21 Parent/Guardian of Current Student	Yes	I'm hoping start a week earlier benefits our kids in what they have learned this year.
2/8/21 Parent/Guardian of Current Student	Yes	More time for a may vacation!
2/8/21 Parent/Guardian of Current Student	Yes	Earlier dismissal in May
2/8/21 Parent/Guardian of Current Student	Yes	I like the idea of ending the school year earlier. And the start date isn't so early that it affects summer as much.
2/8/21 Parent/Guardian of Current Student	Yes	I swear we always start around the 14th. I know because it's my kids bday. She always wonders why we start then. I don't want kids going to school after Memorial Day.
2/8/21 Parent/Guardian of Current Student	Yes	Kids are ready to go
		Back to
		School and by May everyone is done, not much is learned in May with so many activities anyway. I think it's a great idea and worth a shot!
		I think it would be fine to start a bit earlier
		More instructional time before state testing
		NA
		Starting early does not interfere with anything for us.
		Prefer to end school earlier so vacations can be taken
		Early release is preferred
		I'm in support for early start date
		Gives the children an early start to summer break and they are always ready for!
		I think it's great the school district is being proactive in order to make sure the end of the school year stays around the same time.. August is too hot to stay home all day, so getting
		Support
		More time for summer activities
		We would rather have an earlier end of school in order to enjoy summer sooner...
		I'm fine with this.
		Early summer whoop whoop
		It a great idea
		If you start earlier you get out earlier for summer break. Most people take vacations in the summer.
		Starting earlier allows us to battle the learning loss that occurs during the summer.
		Gives students and staff an extra week to get back into school routine.
		Also extra instructional time.
		In all honesty, it doesn't matter to me but what is best for my student and the others is what matters the most
		Early start, early out
		To allow more instructional time for state testing.
		I am a teacher and I would love to start earlier so we have more instructional time before testing.
		I prefer starting in the middle of the week to give students and staff an opportunity to get back into their routine. I would also prefer to get out earlier in May. After testing our discipli
		I would rather us start at an earlier date so we are able to start summer break earlier!
		Just because. lol
		I feel like it would be a good idea because it will still allow teachers and students to have their breaks that are needed throughout the year but if not bring an early summer. Love th
		I like getting out early in May.
		I would like to get out early in May.
		We got to be here anyway as well get out earlier
		Opportunity to have more time to prepare for state testing.

Time! Check all that apply to your relationship! I am in support of starting earlier.
2/9/21 Parent/Guardian of Current Student, E Yes
2/8/21 Student Yes

I'm fine with either way but if this is what PCC recommends then I will support them.
Bc we get out earlier



FOREMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



P.O. Box 480 Foreman, AR 71836

Admin: (870) 542-7211 Fax: (870) 542-7225 HS: (870) 542-7212 Fax: (870) 542-7227

Elem: (870) 542-7214 Fax: (870) 542-5959

Certified PPC Meeting **Monday February 12, 2024 @3:15 pm** **Oscar Hamilton Conference Room** **Minutes**

The Foreman School District PPC met on Monday February 12, 2024 @ 3:15 pm. The meeting was held at the Foreman Oscar Hamilton Elementary School Conference Room.

Members Present:

Natasha Click
Allie Carr
Samantha Smith
Pam Smiley

-Foreman School District Superintendent Mr. Matthews was also present to provide necessary information for the Personal Policy Committee

Members Absent:

Jo Anna Keeney
Abby McMillan

*Meeting was called to order at approximately 3:15 by Mr. Matthews

*Mr. Mathews presented the waiver request for Act 1240, shared the data received from our community from the stakeholder survey for the waiver request for Act 1240, and presented two options for a school calendar for the 2024-2025 school year that are aligned to Act 1240.

- Natasha Click made a motion to use the calendar that has school starting on Wednesday, August 14, 2024 which was seconded by Allie Carr. All present were in favor.
 - Comment was made by Mr. Mathews that the high school bell schedule will have to be modified due to High School students having lunch too late in the day.

*Meeting was adjourned at 3:25 pm

- Samantha Smith made a motion to end the meeting at 3:25 which was seconded by Natasha Click. All present were in favor.

2024-2025 Foreman Schools Calendar

August 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31
September 2024						
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29	30					
October 2024						
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November 2024						
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December 2024						
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January 2025						
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Foreman School District
418 South Bell Street
PO Box 480
Foreman, AR 71836
PH: 870-542-7211 Fax: 870-542-7225

Aug 14	First Day of School
Sep 2	Labor Day
Sep 11	Progress Reports
Oct 11	End of 1st Quarter
Oct 17	Parent/Teacher
Oct 18-21	Fall Break
Nov 13	Progress Reports
Nov 25-29	Thanksgiving Break
Dec 18	End of 2nd Quarter
Dec 19-Jan 3	Christmas Break
Jan 6	1st Day Semester 2
Jan 20	MLK Holiday
Feb 5	Progress Reports
Feb 14-17	Winter Break
Mar 7	End of 3rd Quarter
Mar 13	Parent/Teacher
Mar 14-21	Spring Break
Apr 18	Good Friday Holiday
May 14	End of 4th Quarter Last Day
May 15-21	MakeUp Days
Quarter 1=42 days	Quarter 3=42 days
Quarter 2=41 days	Quarter 4=41 days



FHS Bell Schedule 2024-2025

- Morning Bell 7:50
- 1st Period 7:53-8:43 50 minutes
- Skills 8:46-9:22 37 minutes
- 2nd Period 9:25-10:15 50 minutes
- 3rd Period 10:18-11:08 50 minutes
- 4th Period 11:11-12:01 50 minutes
- Jr Lunch 12:04-12:40 36 minutes
- Sr 5th Period 12:04-12:54 50 minutes
- Sr Lunch 12:57-1:33 36 minutes
- Jr 5th Period 12:43-1:33 50 minutes
- 6th Period 1:36-2:26 50 minutes
- 7th Period 2:29-3:19 50 minutes

FHS 7:50am-3:20pm 387 Minutes Per Day
Teachers 7:35am-3:35pm Daily Contract Time

February 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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23	24	25	26	27	28	
March 2025						
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30	31					
April 2025						
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May 2025						
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June 2025						
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July 2025						
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