



DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY  
& SECONDARY EDUCATION

## Public School Waiver Request

<b>District:</b>	<b>South Conway County School District</b>
<b>LEA Number:</b>	1507000
<b>Superintendent:</b>	Shawn Halbrook
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:Shawn.halbrook@sccsd.org">Shawn.halbrook@sccsd.org</a>
<b>Contact for Waiver:</b>	Shawn Halbrook
<b>Contact Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:Shawn.halbrook@sccsd.org">Shawn.halbrook@sccsd.org</a>
<b>Contact Phone:</b>	501.354.9400 ext. 1000
<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**

## 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 Year
<b>Name of Open-Enrollment Charter Holding the Waiver</b>	Arkansas Virtual Academy
<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.**

This specific waiver is being requested to allow the South Conway County School District to set the first day of school no earlier than the Wednesday of the week prior to the week that contains the August 19<sup>th</sup> start date established by A.C.A. 6-10-106.

This waiver will allow our district to add additional instruction early in our school year to front load as much instructional time for our students prior to inclement weather and the high stakes assessment in the month of April.

Additional advantages of the waiver:

1. The waiver will ensure that our district can meet the minimum days required for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter to be completed prior to the Christmas Break.
2. This waiver will help ensure that we can complete the school year in May rather than extending in June. This can help our State's tourism industry for Memorial Day and the month of June.
3. This waiver will increase the number of in-person, onsite instructional days prior to the high stakes assessment in April-May.

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

The South Conway County School District will utilize an academic calendar that will exceed the 1,068 hours of required instruction and allow flexibility throughout the school year to ensure that instruction time is front loaded prior to the high stakes assessment in April-May to benefit our students' learning.

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

The South Conway County School District will monitor attendance data and student learning data to measure the effectiveness of the earlier start date.

# South Conway County 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

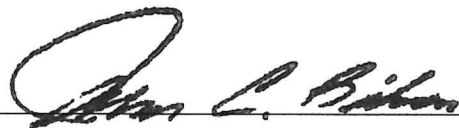
**WHEREAS** under this law, A.C.A 6-10-106, the start of school varies from year to year, beginning some years as early as August 14, or as late as August 20; and

**WHEREAS** under this law, A.C.A 6-10-106, the earliest school can begin in 2024 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 *South Conway County School District* Board of Education endorses the Superintendent's waiver request affecting the allowable first day of school, and recommends its approval by the Arkansas State Board of Education.

Adopted this February 12, 2024



\_\_\_\_\_  
President, Board of Education



\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary, Board of Education

# Start Date of School Prior to August 19th

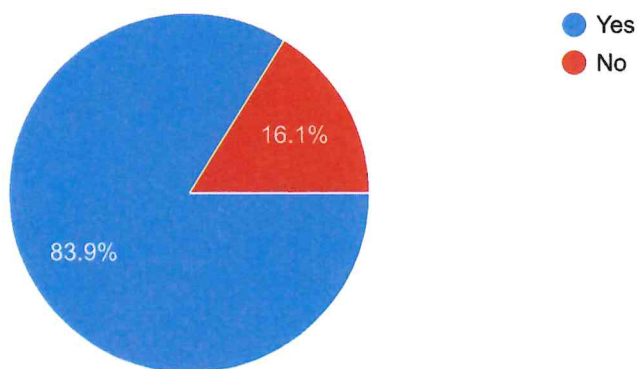
217 responses

[Publish analytics](#)

Would you support starting school earlier than August 19th (Start the Wednesday prior to Monday, Aug. 19) in order to build in 5 AMI Days to be able to complete the school year prior to Memorial Day?



217 responses



This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google. [Report Abuse](#) - [Terms of Service](#) - [Privacy Policy](#)

Google Forms



# Start Date of School Prior to August 19th

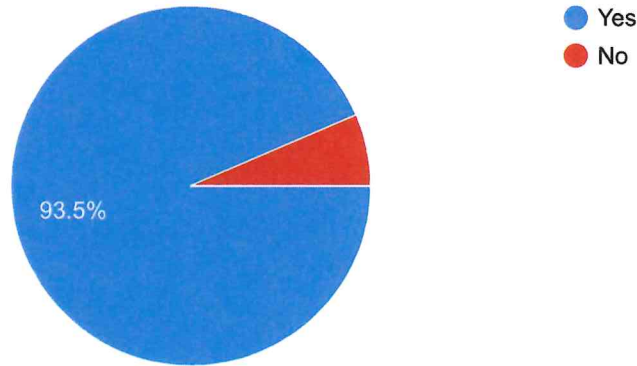
124 responses

[Publish analytics](#)

Would you support starting school earlier than August 19th (Start the Wednesday prior to Monday, Aug. 19) in order to build in 5 AMI Days to be able to complete the school year prior to Memorial Day?

 Copy

124 responses



This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google. [Report Abuse](#) - [Terms of Service](#) - [Privacy Policy](#)

Google Forms

