



DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY
& SECONDARY EDUCATION

Public School Waiver Request

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| District: | Palestine-Wheatley |
| LEA Number: | 6205000 |
| Superintendent: | Ryan Halbert |
| Email: | rhalbert@pwsd.k12.ar.us |
| Contact for Waiver: | Ryan Halbert |
| Contact Email: | rhalbert@pwsd.k12.ar.us |
| Contact Phone: | (870) 581-2646 |
| 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: | § 6-10-117 |
| Duration Requested: | 2024-2025 School Year |
| Name of Open-Enrollment Charter Holding the Waiver | Kipp Delta |
| Schools, Grades or Classes the Wavier Will Apply To | PK-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.**

This waiver will enhance student learning by shortening the summer break window, reducing the “summer slide” we see primarily in reading levels. This would also provide more opportunities to have students on campus earlier to identify learning deficits and be able to compile targeted intervention groups at an earlier date.

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

The services being waived will allow us to start one week earlier. Students will still be on campus for the required number of days and hours for the year as set forth by the education department.

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

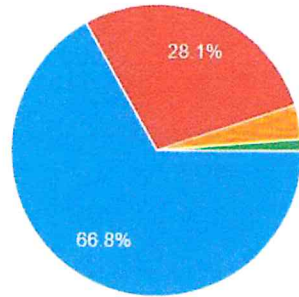
The district will monitor learning data, specifically reading levels and math achievement. This monitoring effort will be conducted through IXL, ATLAS interim test, and in-district standards proficiency checks.

Evidence of Stakeholder Involvement

Please choose your role:

 Copy

235 responses

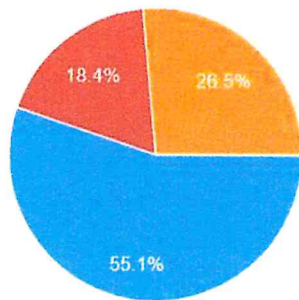


- Parent/Guardian of Student @ PWSD
- District Employee
- Student @ PWSD
- Parent/Gaurdian

How do you feel about starting school a week earlier? (Aug. 13, 2024)

 Copy

234 responses



- Great ideal
- No opinion
- I do not want to start a week earlier

Resolution of the Palestine-Wheatley Board of Directors

Title: Request for Waiver on School Start Date

Whereas, An earlier start date is deemed essential for optimizing the educational experience for students and addressing specific logistical considerations;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Palestine-Wheatley Board of Education hereby authorizes and empowers the Superintendent to submit an official request to the Arkansas Department of Education for a waiver allowing Palestine-Wheatley to commence the school year before the mandated August 19th start date,

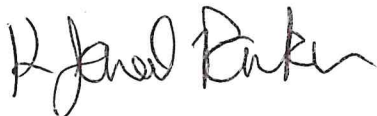
Be it further resolved, that the Superintendent is directed to provide a comprehensive justification for the waiver request, outlining the educational benefits and logistical justifications for an earlier start date;

Be it further resolved, that the Superintendent is authorized to collaborate with relevant educational stakeholders, including parents, teachers, and administrators, to gather input and support for the waiver application;

Be it further resolved, that the Superintendent shall keep the Board of Education informed of the progress and outcome of the waiver application process;

Be it further resolved, that the Palestine-Wheatley Board of Education expresses its commitment to providing the best possible educational environment for its students and believes that flexibility in determining the school start date is integral to achieving this objective.

Adopted this 12-day of 2024,



Jared Parker
Board President
Palestine-Wheatley School District