



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

DISTRICT WAIVER REQUEST FORM

District Name: Kirby School District

Superintendent: Pike Palmer

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District LEA: 5503 **Submission Date:** 03/28/2019

Phone Number: (870)398-4212 ext.3

Name of Charter School(s) Attended by District Students

Arkansas Virtual Academy

Waiver Topic: Teacher Licensure

Statute/Standard/Rule to be Waived

ADE Rules

- Section 7 of the ADE Rules Governing Educator Licensure

Rationale for Waiver

We applied for and received waiver in October 2016. The waiver ends June 2019.

We have used this waiver for all three years that the waiver was granted for (2016-2019).

We are asking for a five year waiver.

Allowing a trained para-professional to teach physical education and with the understanding that the district will comply with the Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing the Arkansas Qualified Teacher Requirements has been great for Kirby School District.

Currently, our high school boys basketball/teacher coach serves as 7-12 boys basketball, drivers education teacher, health teacher, and K-12 physical education teacher. There is currently a trained elementary para-professional working under his guidance and alongside him to fulfill the state mandated physical education requirements of 40 minutes per week for all elementary students. The para-professional has taken courses through Arkansas IDEAS related to disciplinary literacy in physical education, school health services-aligning teacher instruction and student assessment, student engagement, and we are very comfortable and satisfied that the para-professional is completing the job and tasks as a Elementary Physical Education instructor. The paraprofessional will become familiar with new physical education standards K-8 and implement them into daily schedule.

This has allowed us to offer various classes for credit at the high school by freeing up elementary physical education teaching load for the high school coach. Also by being a small school district with limited financial resources, this has allowed us to allocate money that would be spent on additional staff to fulfill standards of accreditation towards student needs.

The teacher licensure waiver has allowed us to offer more sections of high school credit in the area of physical education, health, and driver's education.

This waiver was a smooth transition for us because we had the personnel(paraprofessional) already in place and helping in the Elementary School. The student numbers impacted by paraprofessional teaching physical education class within elementary school is roughly 190.

When the form is complete, email it with the waiver lists for the charter school(s) that serve district students to Kelly McLaughlin at kelly.mclaughlin@arkansas.gov. Waiver lists can be accessed from the Arkansas Department of Education: My School Info webpage at <https://myschoolinfo.arkansas.gov/>. Instructions for accessing waiver reports can be found at www.arkansased.gov/public/userfiles/Learning_Services/Charter_Schools/Accessing_Waivers_on_My_School_Info.pdf.

Questions should be directed to Kelly McLaughlin by email at kelly.mclaughlin@arkansas.gov or by phone at (501) 682-2130.