The North Little Rock school district is applying for four (4) ACT 1240 waivers for our virtual program for the 23-24 school year.

Included in this packet:

- Waiver 1240 requests
- School board agenda
- Stakeholder support

Registration for the 23-24 school year is 72 students. We will open registration again the first week of August to provide families another opportunity to register for our program.



Act 1240 Waiver Request

District:	North Little Rock School District
LEA Number:	6002000
Superintendent:	Dr. Gregory Pilewski
Email:	pilewskig@nlrsd.org
Contact for Waiver:	Dr. Brouke Reynolds
Contact Email:	reynoldsb@nlrsd.org
Contact Phone:	501.906.3839
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:	Attendance		
Standards/Statutes/Rules:	6-18-213(a)(2)		
Duration Requested:	23-24 school year		
Name of Open-Enrollment Charter Holding the Waiver	North Little Rock Virtual Academy		
Schools, Grades or Classes the Wavier Will Apply To	Grades 1, 4, 5, 6-12 A North Little Rock School district teacher will meet with grades 2-3 daily for attendance. The NLRSD will request this waiver for grades 1, 4, 5, 6-12, students will receive instruction through a DESE approved provider, Pearson Virtual Schools.		
PURPOSE OF THE WAIVER (Must check at least one)	 X Enhance Student Learning Opportunities Promote Innovation 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.

A NLRSD teacher will provide synchronous and asynchronous instruction to grades 2 and 3 in core subject areas as well as PE, Art, and music. Students are required to participate daily in synchronous instruction and the NLRSD teacher will record attendance in eSchool.

Students grades 1, 4, 5, 6-12 will receive synchronous and asynchronous instruction thorough Pearson Virtual Schools. Students are expected to login and work daily in the leaning platform. Students will have a specific due date for each assignment, but the time the students work on the assignment is flexible. Students grades 6-12 will have a combination of NLRSD teachers and Arkansas certifedPearson teachers for instruction. Students grades 1, 4 & 5 will only have Pearson teachers.

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

A NLRSD teacher or and Arkansas certified Pearson teacher will provided synchronous and asynchronous instruction. NLRSD guidance counselors will be available for any instances that may require counseling services. Students with IEP, 504, LPAC, or gifted and talented or dyslexia services will continue to receive those services through synchronous instruction. Any student requiring physical or occupational services would continue to receive those services though their home building location.

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

The NLRSD has a Coordinator of Innovative Virtual Programing to monitor progress of all virtual students though a weekly report. Parents will have access to the virtual platform, but will also be notified by the coordinator if a student is not logging in and completing work by all specified due dates.

Waiver Request #2

Topic:	Six Hour Instructional Day (Waiver applies to virtual students only)
Standards/Statutes/Rules:	6-16-102; Standard for Accreditation 1-A.4.2
Duration Requested:	23-24 school year
Name of Open-Enrollment Charter Holding the Waiver	North Little Rock Virtual Academy
Schools, Grades or Classes the Wavier Will Apply To	Amboy, Boone Park, Meadow Park The district will be requesting this waiver because of the nature of synchronous and asynchronous instruction. All other schools in our district have this waiver.
PURPOSE OF THE WAIVER (Must check at least one)	X Enhance Student Learning Opportunities□ Promote Innovation□ 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 NLRSD will offer virtual instruction to students grades 1-5 who were already enrolled and successful in our virtual program. The NLRSD will provide a teacher for grades 2 and 3 with synchronous instruction in math and literacy daily. Synchronous instruction for science, social studies, art, PE and music will be conducted weekly with asynchronous components. Pearson teachers will provided synchronous and asynchronous instruction for students grades 1, 4, &, 5. The NLRSD is not currently accepting new virtual students for grades K-5 unless an extenuating circumstance arises.

Our virtual program offers the families of NLRSD a quality alternative education to attending classes onsite. Families have made this choice for their student for a variety of reason, with flexibility of learning being the priority. All State standard requirements are met.

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

There are times during the day when synchronous instruction in required. There are other times during the day when students work independently in the Pearson platform or in small groups with their NLRSD teacher or during office hours with their Arkansas certified Pearson teacher. Students may choose to complete their work outside of normal school hours.

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

The Coordinator of Innovative Virtual Programs for the NLRSD will monitor weekly progress of all virtual students for both engagement and progress through the virtual platform. The coordinator will also monitor the NWEA assessment growth (given three times a year) of all students in the virtual program.

Waiver Request #3

Topic:	Clock Hours
Standards/Statutes/Rules:	Standards for Accreditation 1-A.2
Duration Requested:	23-24 school year
Name of Open-Enrollment Charter Holding the Waiver	North Little Rock Virtual Academy
Schools, Grades or Classes the Wavier Will Apply To	Students grades 8-12 The district will need this waiver for grades 8th-12th since some virtual students may not need 120 clock hours to master the course. Some eighth graders take a high school credit course during their eight grade year.
PURPOSE OF THE WAIVER (Must check at least one)	 X Enhance Student Learning Opportunities Promote Innovation 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.

Students grades 8-12 will receive synchronous and asynchronous instruction using a combination of NLRSD and Arkansas certified Pearson teachers. All lessons will include State essential standards in core subject areas. The Coordinator of Innovative Virtual Programs will work closely with high school counselors to ensure students are on track for graduation.

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

Pearson Virtual Schools, an approved DESE service provider will be the learning platform for students grades 8-12. Synchronous and asynchronous instruction will be provided by a combination of NLRSD and Pearson Arkansas certified teachers. Students will be provided classes in all core areas required for graduation as well as a variety of CTE and AP classes and other electives. Students wishing to participate in athletics, Band, or concurrent college courses will have the opportunity to attend those classes on campus.

Students with IEP, 504, LPAC, or gifted and talented or dyslexia services will continue to receive those services through synchronous instruction. Any student requiring physical or occupational services would continue to receive those services though their home building location.

Each student will have the same high school guidance counselor for any questions they may have about their classes and graduation status.

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

The Coordinator of Innovative Virtual Programs for the NLRSD along with the head high school guidance counselor will monitor progress of all student toward their graduation. They will review transcripts and monitor the enrollment of classes as well as success in classes required for graduation.

Waiver Request #4

Topic:	Recess (Waiver applies to virtual students only)
Standards/Statutes/Rules:	6-16-102(a)(5) Nutrition and Physical Activity Rules Section 7.00 Standards of Accreditation 1-A.4.3
Duration Requested:	23-24 school year
Name of Open-Enrollment Charter Holding the Waiver	North Little Rock Virtual Academy
Schools, Grades or Classes the Wavier Will Apply To	Elementary students grades 1-5
	X Enhance Student Learning Opportunities
PURPOSE OF THE WAIVER (Must check at least one)	□ Promote Innovation
	□ 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.

Virtual instruction at NLRSD was first offered during the 20-21 school as an alternative to onsite learning during the COVID pandemic. We have continued our virtual program for the last two school years. We are no longer accepting new elementary students for the 23-24 school year (except for extenuating circumstances), but are allowing past, successful elementary students to remain virtual at the request of their families. The families enjoy the flexibility of the virtual program, but it is also valuable for students will anxiety, or health issues that may occur when learning in an onsite location. We would like to continue to have a virtual option for our elementary families, but cannot accomplish a coordinated daily recess activity.

2. Provide a detailed explanation of how the services being waived will be provided for students. Recess (physical activity) is scheduled outside the daily instructional learning hours.

Elementary students do have asynchronous PE activities in their learning platform and the opportunity for a weekly synchronous activity.

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

The Coordinator of Innovative Virtual Programs for the NLRSD will monitor instructional schedules for students grades 1-5 to allow for adequate time away from the computer screen daily. Students complete daily physical activity logs as a component of their PE class for grades 1-5.

7/21/23, 8:17 AM BoardDocs® Pro



Thursday, July 20, 2023 Regular Meeting

Administration Building 2400 Willow Street North Little Rock, AR 72114

5:30 PM

	MENTS

1.1 Public Comments

2. CALL TO ORDER

2.1 Mrs. Dorothy Williams, Board President

3. INVOCATION & FLAG SALUTE

3.1 Mrs. Dorothy Williams, Board President

4. VISION AND MISSION STATEMENTS

- 4.1 Vision Statement
- 4.2 Mission Statement

5. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

5.1 Board Members

6. RECOGNITION OF PEOPLE/EVENT/PROGRAMS

- 6.1 Special Recognition
- 6.2 Superintendent's Honor Roll
- 6.3 Parent North S.T.A.R. (Supporting Teachers Achieving Results) Award
- 6.4 The Great Rising Adult-Youth Mentor Recognition

7. EXECUTIVE CLOSED SESSION

7.1 Executive sessions may be held only for the purpose of considering employment, appointment, promotion, demotion, disciplining, or resignation of an employee or to discuss matters of pupil punishment, if requested by the parent or legal guardian. 5:45 to 6:45 pm

8. BOARD MEMBER AND SUPERINTENDENT INVOLVEMENT

- 8.1 Board Member Involvement
- 8.2 Superintendent Involvement

9. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

9.1 Legislative Update

7/21/23, 8:17 AM BoardDocs® Pro

10. CPPC MONTHLY REPORT & LPPC MONTHLY REPORT

- 10.1 Classified Personnel Policies Committee Report
- 10.2 Licensed Personnel Policies Committee Report

11. INFORMATION ITEMS

- 11.1 2023-2024 School Board Data Presentation Schedule
- 11.2 Rock Region Metro Fare Agreement
- 11.3 Human Resources Licensed Staffing Data

12. ACTION ITEMS - NEW BUSINESS

- 12.1 Employment of Personnel
- 12.2 Rock Region Metro Fare Agreement
- 12.3 NLRSD Superintendent Annual Performance Goals for 2023
- 12.4 Draft Arkansas Aspiring Teaching Permit Resolution
- 12.5 Act 1240 Waiver Request
- 12.6 2023-2024 Insurance Renewal
- 12.7 Legal Transfer
- 12.8 Disposition of Regular Meeting Minutes June 15, 2023
- 12.9 Disposition of Special Meeting Minutes July 6, 2023
- 12.10 Disposition of Special Meeting Minutes July 11, 2023

13. CONSENT AGENDA

- 13.1 Bank Reconciliation
- 13.2 Net Legal Balance Worksheet
- 13.3 Monthly Financial Reports
- 13.4 Business Office Items
- 13.5 Payment Regular Bills
- 13.6 Facilities Use Request
- 13.7 Approval of the Consent Agenda

14. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

14.1 Acknowledgements

15. FUTURE MEETINGS/EVENTS

15.1 Future Meetings/Events

16. ADJOURNMENT

16.1 Move to Adjourn

NLR Virtual Learning Academy Program FAQ

Vision: The vision of the NLR Virtual Learning Academy Program is to provide a quality online education option for the students of North Little Rock.

Mission.

- Provide students access to quality online education
- Support students, teachers, and parents navigating an online educational environment
- Equip students with skills and knowledge to be productive and responsible online students

Curriculum: The NLR Virtual Learning Academy Program will utilize Pearson for online instruction. Students will receive daily instruction from Pearson/NLR teachers based on state standards. The curriculum will include synchronous and asynchronous instruction. The expectation is that Pearson/NLR teachers will meet with students throughout the day and will provide a combination of direct instruction and independent offline activities.

Definitions and acronyms:

Virtual Learning	The NLR Virtual Learning Academy Program will utilize remote learning, where students attend synchronous lessons with a teacher and peers and complete independent asynchronous lessons throughout the school day.
Synchronous learning	Educational instruction and learning that occurs at the same time but not at the same place

Asynchronous Learning	Educational instruction and learning that do not occur at the same time or same place
DESE	Division of Elementary and Secondary Education
ELL	English Language Learner
IEP	Individualized Education Program
AAA	Arkansas Activities Association
AP	Advanced Placement
GT	Gifted & Talented
LPAC	Language Placement and Assessment Committee
F2F	Face to Face
Plagiarism	Copying and pasting answers from the Internet.

Assessments:

Students grades K-10 will take the NWEA interim assessments at home. All other assessments (DLM, ELPA, ACT, PSAT, ATLAS, AP, NWEA K-2 spring) will be taken in the school building.

FAQ

Question	Answer
First Day of School	August 14, 2023
What if I want to switch to virtual or traditional after a few weeks?	Students will remain in their selected choice of instruction for the first semester. Students will be allowed to switch to virtual or to traditional for the second semester.
May I join virtual in the middle of the nine weeks?	Students will not be able to switch to virtual in the middle of a grading period.
What if I am struggling with virtual?	At the end of the nine weeks, if a student falls below a "C" average and/or has six or more absences, a parent conference will be

	held to determine if the student should remain a remote learner or return to an onsite campus.
Will I still have a space at my home school location if I choose virtual?	Yes, you will be able to return to your home school location after the first semester.
Will I be able to receive school meals?	Yes, daily meal pick-up will be available for virtual students at yet to be determined locations.
Will I receive Dyslexia, Speech, Physical and Occupational therapy services?	Yes, services may be virtual or by appointment at a school location.
Will Quest be available for elementary students?	Yes, Quest will be provided to GT identified students.
Will student devices be provided?	Yes, the student will check out a device at their home school location.
What if I do not have Internet access?	If a student needs Internet access, a hot spot will be made available.
Will textbooks and other materials be provided?	Virtual students will not need a textbook, Pearson provides selected materials.
Will I receive a supply list?	The teachers from Pearson & NLR will provide a list of any needed supplies.
What is the attendance policy?	Virtual students will adhere to the NLRSD attendance policy. Attendance will be based on daily attendance within the Pearson Connexus portal. Students must log in and complete lessons by 12:00 each day (6-12). Attendance will also be taken in required live lessons.
Will Pre-K be virtual?	No, all Pre-K will be F2F.
Will students be on the computer all day?	Students will not have to be at the computer continually throughout the day. Breaks are scheduled for students to be away from the computer screen.
Will elementary students have Art, P.E., and Music	All elementary students will receive a weekly lesson from each "special."
Will AP classes be offered?	Yes, AP classes will be offered virtually.
May students participate in extracurricular activities?	Students may report to school and participate in any AAA sanctioned activity. Families must provide their own

	transportation. If a student is not picked up promptly after a class or practice ends, this privilege may be revoked.
Which electives will be offered?	There are many electives that will be offered virtually. A full course list may be found on the NLR Virtual Academy website.
Classes we <u>cannot</u> offer virtually	Middle School: • Athletics-may attend on campus • Band*-may attend on campus • Choir*-may attend on campus
	High School:: • Athletics-may attend on campus • Band*-may attend on campus • Choir*-may attend on campus
	*Band and Choir programs sanctioned by the AAA
CTE Electives	If a Career and Technical Education class (grades 9-12) is not offered by Pearson, the student may attend class on campus for that class. Students must provide their own transportation.
Concurrent Classes	High School & COE students may come on campus to take concurrent college classes. Students must provide their own transportation.
Will special education students continue to receive services in the virtual academy?	Yes, special education students will still receive services as prescribed in their IEP.
Will ELL students receive services in the virtual academy?	Yes, ELL students will still receive services as prescribed in their LPAC.
Will 504 students receive services in the virtual academy.	Yes, 504 students will still receive services as prescribed in their 504 plan.
How will GT services be provided?	Elementary and middle school students have the option of taking GT enrichment classes in several subjects plus the option of a foreign language. High School students have the option of taking AP classes for enrichment.
Will there be an orientation?	In person orientation sessions will occur in August. Families will have several options

to attend. Chromebooks will be distributed at that time.

Updated: 7/21/2023

22-23 NLR Virtual Learning Academy Program Parent Agreement:

- I understand my child will need to return to campus if he/she is inadequately engaged or unsuccessful in virtual learning.
 - Students with below a "C" average and/or missing six or more at interim will have a required parent conference.
 - Students with below a "C" average and/or at nine weeks will
 potentially return to in person learning after parent conference.
- I understand I am committing to the Virtual Learning Program for at least the first semester.
- I understand my child needs to be physically available in North Little Rock, AR for *on-site* testing or other services required.
- My child has a space at home that is free of distractions during school hours.
- My child's learning style and needs are compatible with digital modes of learning.
- My child is an independent learner and enjoys task oriented work.
- My child will persevere in times of struggle and enjoy demanding work.
- My child is an advocate and will reach out to a teacher when they need more help or solicit parent support.
- I will ensure a family member or family designee will be available to supervise, support the learning, and monitor the work of my child at home.
- My child will turn in assignments on time.
- My child will be able to stay socially connected during prolonged periods of virtual/at-home learning.
- My child has an alternative to the nutrition services provided in schools that adequately meets my family's needs.
- My child is able to continue receiving needed emotional or mental health services through a virtual/at-home option that meets my family's needs.
- My child is able to continue receiving needed behavioral services through a virtual/at-home option that meets my family's needs.
- My child is able to continue receiving dyslexia services through a virtual/at-home learning option that meets my family's needs.
- My child is able to continue receiving the required IEP/504/ learning accommodations/modifications through a virtual/at-home learning option that meets my family's needs.
- My child is able to continue receiving the ESOL program instructional services, as well as required ELL learning accommodations/modifications as specified in their LPAC; through a virtual/at-home learning option that meets my family's needs.
- If my child needs specialized equipment that is usually shared by multiple students on campus (shared devices in OT, PT, etc.), or learning aids, I am able to provide that at home.

Parent/Guardian	· .	D .
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NLR Virtual Learning Program Student Handbook

The vision of the NLR Virtual Learning Program is to provide a quality online education option for the students of North Little Rock.

The Mission of the NLR Virtual Academy is to:

- Provide students access to quality online education
- Support students, teachers, and parents navigating an online educational environment
- Equip students with skills and knowledge to be productive and responsible online students

NLRSD Student Handbook

Attendance

Virtual attendance for the virtual student will follow the NLRSD policy found on page 21 of the NLRSD parent/student handbook. A parent may submit an excuse for up to three days per semester. Notes may not be submitted five days after absence.

Virtual attendance will be based on students completing lessons daily on the Pearson Connexus platform by 12:00 pm(noon). Middle School students will be required to attend daily live lessons. High School students will be required to attend weekly live lessons for each subject through Labor Day. After Labor Day, students with grades at 80% or above will not be required to attend live lessons. Students will complete work at their own pace, while keeping on track academically through progress monitoring by the NLRSD Coordinator of Innovative Virtual Learning Programs.

Class Work and Grading

Pearson and NLR teachers will interact with students during synchronous Live Lessons/Zoom and asynchronously using recorded video instruction. Students may contact their Pearson/NLR teacher and request additional synchronous interaction for individual assistance when needed. Students will be expected to complete lessons and learning tasks as assigned by the Pearson/NLR teacher. Students will utilize the Pearson Connexus Education Management System (EMS) platform to access online program offerings, live instruction, view recorded instruction, access lessons, and turn in assignments.

Virtual students will follow the same grading scale found on page 12 of the NLRSD student handbook. Pearson/NLR teachers will grade work that is submitted by the

student. The Coordinator of Innovative Virtual Learning Programs. will monitor student progress and grades.

Pearson & NLR teachers have the following number of days to grade:

Assessments: 2 business days Portfolios: 5 business days Final grades: 5 business days

Communication

Students and parents are encouraged to communicate with their Pearson/NLR teachers on a daily basis. Students and parents may also contact the Coordinator of Innovative Virtual Learning Programs via phone or email with any questions. Please allow a 24 hour turnaround for responses.

Digital Citizenship

Digital Citizenship is a concept which helps us understand what all technology users should know to use technology appropriately and responsibly. The computer use policy may be found on page 8 of the NLRSD parent/student handbook. Students should only login to their Google account. School Google accounts and Chromebooks should only be used for school work. Students violating the policies will be disciplined according to the rubric on page 47 of the school handbook. Cyber bullying will not be tolerated, see page 44 of the student handbook.

Academic Integrity

Engaging in academic dishonesty, including cheating, intentionally plagiarizing (do not copy and paste from a website), wrongfully giving or receiving help during an academic examination, or wrongfully obtaining test copies or scores. The school policy may be found on page 62 of the student handbook.

Professionalism

Virtual students are expected to promptly arrive for all required live meetings. All students have daily live meetings that they should attend and are expected to be on time when attending. Cameras should be on unless directed otherwise by the teacher. Students should be sitting upright and properly clothed during lessons.

Even though students are at home, please follow the policy set by your teacher for bathroom breaks, drinking water during live class. Students need a home work area that is set up in a quiet space without the distraction of a TV or other loud noises. Students should have all class materials close to their work space.

Cell phones should be silenced and put away during live class meetings. Headphones will not be worn during class unless directed by the teacher. Students will be expected to participate in discussions and ask questions during the class meetings. Students

disrupting the virtual classroom will be muted by the teacher. Parents will be notified when a student's behavior is disruptive.

Student Support

If it is determined by the school counselor that a student needs additional mental health support, therapy services from Strive, the Point, Life Strategies, and the Pat Center may all be provided for virtual students.

At the end of the nine weeks, if a student falls below a "C" average and/or has six or more absences, a parent conference will be held to determine if the student should remain a remote learner or return to an onsite campus.

Daily food pick-up will be available to any virtual student that requests a meal box. This service is allowed for all students. The school district social worker may support virtual families in need of additional food and clothing.

Student Support-Special Populations

Virtual students that have current dyslexia services will continue to receive services through a district dyslexia specialist through synchronous instruction based on the required time.

GT program standards will be met through K-12 Arkansas licensed NLRSD teachers through enrichment activities and advanced lessons.

ESL students will continue to receive their required services as a virtual learner. Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC) conferences may be held virtually or onsite.

The NLRSD Special Education Department will ensure all Special Education services provided virtually will follow all rules and regulations. Special Education minutes listed on the IEP will be served through synchronous instruction. Special Education evaluations will continue to be conducted every three years and annual review conferences will be held yearly in accordance with Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Before a student with an LPAC, IEP or 504 plan enrolls as a virtual student, a parent conference will be conducted to determine the appropriateness of remote instruction for the student. This conference should include the parent, a representative from the appropriate department, and the virtual academy director.

Testing

Students will be required to report onsite to take the ELPA, DLM, ATLAS, ACT, and K-2 spring NWEA assessments. The location will be determined by the number of

students testing. Students may take the NWEA remotely or on site, with the exception of the spring K-2 listed above.

Testing dates will be communicated with parents via district social media site, virtual academy website, email, and a phone call system where testing dates and procedures may be communicated.

Miscellaneous

If a Career and Technical Education class or concurrent college class (grades 9-12) is not offered by Pearson, the student may attend class on campus for that class. Students must provide their own transportation.

Students will still be able to participate in Arkansas Activities Association (AAA) sanctioned activities. Students must provide their own transportation.

Students may attend on campus for any concurrent college class. Students must provide their own transportation.

Revised 7/21/2023