



DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY
& SECONDARY EDUCATION

Public School Waiver Request

District:	Gosnell School District
LEA Number:	4708000
Superintendent:	Len Whitehead
Email:	lwhitehead@gosnellschool.net
Contact for Waiver:	Anita McKinney
Contact Email:	amckinney@gosnellschool.net
Contact Phone:	870-532-4000
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:	1 year
Name of Open-Enrollment Charter Holding the Waiver	Arkansas Virtual Academy
Schools, Grades or Classes the Wavier Will Apply To	K-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.

Several members school districts of the Crowley's Ridge Service Cooperative are collectively and separately requesting 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 2024-25 school year, that date will be Monday, August 19.

We respectfully request a waiver to allow the Gosnell School District to set their first day of class to be no earlier than August 12.

The advantages of the early start option include the following:

- It gives us a greater chance of having more instructional time before state testing, even in years when we miss a significant number of days due to inclement weather.
- It allows us to begin in mid-August when students and staff are eager to return to the new year and complete the year by the end of May before many of the summer activities begin in early June.
- It provides a greater balance between the number of days in the first and second semesters of the school year.

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

The requested waiver will not impact the calendar length chosen by the Gosnell School District. It will only provide flexibility to begin the school year earlier, providing the above advantages to students, staff and parents. The services provided to our students will be the same as those supplied without the waiver approval regarding days and/or hours of instruction.

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

The district will monitor the number of instructional days/hours gained in advance of state testing by starting earlier, student and staff attendance on those dates and state test results to try to determine what correlation exists between achievement results and instruction time before testing.



Gosnell School District

600 Hwy 181, Gosnell, AR 72315
Superintendent, Len Whitehead

February 26, 2024

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE GOSNELL SCHOOL DISTRICT AUTHORIZING THE DISTRICT TO REQUEST A WAIVER

Whereas, the Gosnell School 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 see waivers to better address the unique needs or challenges faced by the district;

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;

Whereas, Gosnell School District requests via an ACT 1240 Waiver for an Early Calendar Start, one full week before what is currently allowed by law A.C.A. 6-10-106 (no earlier than August 12) for the 2024-25 school year;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gosnell School Board hereby authorizes the District Administration to formally request a waiver for an Early Calendar Start via an ACT 1240 Waiver from A.C.A. 6-10-106;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Superintendent or his/her designee is authorized to take all necessary steps and actions to submit the waiver request, including providing any additional information or documentation required by the 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 February 26, 2024 by the Gosnell School District Board of Directors.

School Board President Donnie Wright:

School Board Secretary John Weiss:

Superintendent Len Whitehead:



Anita McKinney <amckinney@gosnellschool.net>

feedback

1 message

Anita McKinney <amckinney@gosnellschool.net>
To: gsd-staff <gsdstaff@gosnellschool.net>

Tue, Mar 5, 2024 at 10:29 AM

Gosnell School District is seeking feedback regarding the district requesting a waiver for an early start date for the 2024-25 school year (August 12). By starting on this date, this will give the district more instructional time prior to testing and allow for built-in inclement weather days.
Please click on the link to vote.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdqoaf947Xsax8KAQKyS2GqfB5DL_ qskTI812dnMIOa4OXoaw/viewform

--

Anita McKinney
Assistant Superintendent
Gosnell School District
600 Hwy 181
Gosnell, AR 72315
Office (870) 532-4000
Fax (870) 532-4002

LIVE FEED | See All Posts



Gosnell School District - About 2 Months Ago

Gosnell School District will be closed Monday, January 15th for Martin Luther King Jr. Day. School districts are notified. [Read More](#)



Gosnell School District - 7 Months Ago

Due to extreme temperatures this week, the High School and Junior High Football games will have different starting times. [Read More](#)

[View Image](#)



NEWS | See All Posts



Early Start Waiver 24-25

Gosnell School District is seeking feedback regarding the district requesting a waiver for an early start date for the 2024-25 school year (August 12). This will give the district...



EARLY START WAIVER 24-25

Anna Mokeney
MAR 05, 2024

Gosnell School District is seeking feedback regarding the district requesting a waiver for an early start date for the 2024-25 school year (August 12). This will give the district more instructional time prior to testing and allow for built-in inclement weather days. Please click on the link to vote.

<https://bit.ly/3u3pckr>