



**DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY
& SECONDARY EDUCATION**

Public School Waiver Request

District:	Nettleton Public Schools
LEA Number:	1611000
Superintendent:	Dr. Karen Curtner
Email:	karen.curtner@nettletonschoools.net
Contact for Waiver:	Dr. Karen Curtner
Contact Email:	karen.curtner@nettletonschoools.net
Contact Phone:	870-910-7800
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.

The Nettleton School District is 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 2024-2025 school year, August 19th will be on a Monday.

The Nettleton School District would appreciate approval for the early start date for the school in our district, giving us the equity afforded to charter schools.

The specific waiver being requested is to allow the district to set the district’s first day of class to be no earlier than Monday, August 12 for the 2024-2025 school year. The waiver would allow the district to begin the next year and the years to follow on the same relative date as this school year.

There are several advantages of this waiver:

- The fall and spring semesters would be more closely aligned and closer to the same length. Without the waiver the fall semester would be 83 days in length and the spring semester would be 95 days. That is a difference of 12 days. With the waiver the fall semester would be 88 days and the spring semester would be 90 days, a difference of only 2 days. The similar length of the semesters allows for more balanced instruction in courses that are a semester in length and allows for a more seamless term before the holiday break in December.
- This waiver will give greater assurance of school ending in late May rather than extending into June.
- An earlier start date results in more days of instruction prior to state testing in the spring and more instructional days prior to inclement weather events. More days of instruction prior to testing should result in improved test scores.
- Activities such as football will begin early in the fall and therefore, a large number of students will already be on campus to practice and prepare for their activities. In addition to students who play football, this would also include students who participate in groups such as golf, tennis, cross country, volleyball, band, cheer, dance, Student Council, and National Honor Society, as well as others.

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

- The school district will create a calendar with an earlier start date which will provide more flexibility throughout the school year. The school year will remain the same length (178 instructional days), but will allow the district to continue with a school calendar structured as closely as possible to the one from the 2023-2024 school year and avoid any dramatic changes to the calendar.

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

The district will monitor student assessment results and student attendance data related to the earlier start date to determine the effectiveness of the early start date.

Nettleton Public Schools
3300 One Place
Jonesboro, AR 72404
February 20, 2024

Resolution Number:

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF NETTLETON PUBLIC SCHOOLS AUTHORIZING THE DISTRICT TO REQUEST A WAIVER

WHEREAS, the Nettleton Public Schools 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 seek waivers to better address the unique needs or challenges faced by the district;

WHEREAS, 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. Nettleton Public Schools is requesting an early start date to be no earlier than August 12 for the next five years which results in more instructional days before standardized state testing in the spring, a more balanced length of semesters, and assurance of school ending in May and not extending into June;

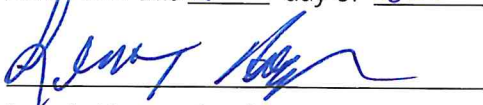
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of Nettleton Public Schools hereby authorizes the district administration to formally request a waiver from A.C.A. 6-10-106 which establishes the first allowable day of class as the Monday of the week that contains August 19. Nettleton Public Schools is requesting an early start date to be no earlier than August 12 for the next five years;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Superintendent or 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.

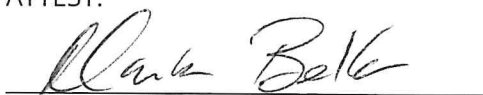
ADOPTED this 20th day of February, 2024 by the Board of Directors of Nettleton Public Schools.



Lennie Hogan, President

Nettleton Public Schools Board of Directors

ATTEST:



Mark Belk, Secretary

Nettleton Public Schools Board of Directors

**3300 ONE PLACE
JONESBORO, AR 72404**

Tuesday, February 20, 2024

PLACE OF MEETING: Nettleton Jr High School
TYPE OF MEETING: Regular Board Meeting
MEMBERS PRESENT: Lennie Hogan, Harry Harvey, Mark Belk, James Adair, Donnie Hauge
TIME OF MEETING: 6:30 P.M.

President Lennie Hogan called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Lennie Hogan declared the regular board minutes of January 23, 2024, approved by unanimous consent.

EXPULSION

The Nettleton School Board went into a closed hearing at 6:31 p.m.

The Nettleton School Board reconvened into regular session at 7:07 p.m.

The board was presented with the recommendation of the superintendent for the expulsion of student number 22553 for one calendar year while permitting the student to take virtual classes from her home. The board heard evidence from the administration and personnel on the scene, reviewed documentation of the incident involved, and heard the presentation of the student's mother with the student present. The presentation of evidence was done in a closed meeting. The board deliberated in executive session and then returned to public session. Mr. Hauge moved to uphold the superintendent's recommendation, Mr. Adair seconded the motion, and the board passed the motion by a 5-0 vote.

BUILDING ADMINISTRATOR

Cara Sims

FINANCIAL

MOTION: Donnie Hauge, to accept the financial report as presented by Dr. Grace Petersen.
SECOND: James Adair
ACTION: 5-0

PROPERTY

MOTION: Mark Belk, to accept the recommendation to approve the resolution to authorize and direct Dr. Karen Curtner, to negotiate and execute a Real Estate Contract for the purchase of property at 2611 Donald Street in the amount of \$150,000.00 as adjusted for closing costs and credits for Nettleton Public Schools, pending completion of a satisfactory due diligence inquiry and all contractual provisions under the contract.
SECOND: James Adair
ACTION: 5-0

RESOLUTION

MOTION: Donnie Hauge, to accept the recommendation to approve the Resolution requesting a waiver for an early start date for the 2024-25 school year.
SECOND: Mark Belk
ACTION: 5-0

PURCHASES

MOTION: James Adair, to accept the recommendation to approve the purchase of architectural services from Brackett-Krennerich Architects for \$56,994.83 for various district projects. These projects will be paid for with building funds.

SECOND: Mark Belk
ACTION: 5-0

MOTION: Donnie Hauge, to accept the recommendation to approve the purchase of 50 MacBooks for students to use for AP testing at NHS. The total cost for the MacBooks including taxes is \$43,345.75. ARP/ESSER funds will be used to pay for this purchase.

SECOND: James Adair
ACTION: 5-0

INSURANCE

MOTION: Harry Harvey, to accept the recommendation to approve the ASBA Workers' Compensation Insurance for January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024. The premium for the renewal of this insurance is \$102,480.00.

SECOND: James Adair
ACTION: 5-0

ACADEMIC REPORT

Academic report was presented by Dr. Lacy Baker
Testing - Dr. LaToshia Woods

PROJECTS REPORT

Projects report was presented by Dr. Grace Petersen

FACILITIES REPORT

Facilities report was presented by Ron Cooper

COMMAND CENTER

Command Center update presented by Jack Sample and David Shipman

STUDENT TRANSFERS

MOTION: Mark Belk, to deny the following student transfer into Nettleton Schools: Joseph Thomas from Westside Schools.

SECOND: James Adair
ACTION: 5-0

MOTION: James Adair, to deny the following student transfer out of the Nettleton Schools: Keon Stallings to Jonesboro Schools.

SECOND: Mark Belk
ACTION: 5-0

PERSONNEL

The following personnel items were recommended by the superintendent and approved by the board:

MOTION: James Adair, to approve the recommendation to renew the contracts of the Nettleton Administrative Staff as listed, for the 2024-25 school year.
SECOND: Mark Belk
ACTION: 5-0

MOTION: James Adair, to approve the recommendation to accept the retirement of the following employees at the end of the 2023-24 school year.
Keith Thomas, Director of Transportation and Support Services
Robin Tidwell, Special Education Designee
SECOND: Donnie Hauge
ACTION: 5-0

MOTION: Donnie Hauge, to approve the recommendation to accept the resignation of the following employees.
James Menaugh, cafeteria worker, effective January 31, 2024
Joe Robinson, custodian, effective March 6, 2024
SECOND: James Adair
ACTION: 5-0

MOTION: Donnie Hauge, to approve the recommendation to accept the resignation of the following employees at the end of the 2023-24 school year.
Kendall Beerman, secondary science teacher
Cheketa Hall, pre k para,
SECOND: Harry Harvey
ACTION: 5-0

MOTION: Mark Belk, to approve the recommendation to change the contract of the following employees, for the 2023-24 school year.
Josh Skipper, from a 190 day contract to a 205 day contract
Sundy Ruhl, from a 180 day contract to a 178 day contract, per her request
SECOND: James Adair
ACTION: 5-0

MOTION: Harry Harvey, to approve the recommendation to change the contract of Jody Glass from food service worker to cafeteria manager at NHS, effective February 21, 2024.
SECOND: James Adair
ACTION: 5-0

MOTION: Donnie Hauge, to approve the recommendation to change the contract of the following employees for the 2024-25 school year.

Christy Wortham, dropping the Licensed SPED teacher stipend, per her request

Nichole Gardner, dropping the Licensed SPED teacher stipend, per her request

Christa Chastain, changing her from 205 contracted days to 190 contracted days, per her request

Hannah Deeter, removing the social media stipend, per her request

Jaclyn Hamby, changing from classroom teacher to Instructional Facilitator
SECOND: Harry Harvey
ACTION: 5-0

MOTION: Mark Belk, to approve the recommendation to accept the maternity leave of the following employees.

Harmoni Garner, intermediate teacher, from March 11, 2024 until the end of the 2023-24 school year.

Olga Pittman, SPED teacher, from February 16, 2024 until the end of the 2023-24 school year.

SECOND: James Adair
ACTION: 5-0

MOTION: Mark Belk, to approve the recommendation to hire the following employees for the 2024-25 school year.

Grace O'Donnell, elementary teacher
Danielle Batson, intermediate teacher

SECOND: James Adair
ACTION: 5-0

OTHER

Lennie Hogan declared the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Karen Curtner, Ex-Officio

President

Secretary

KC/jlm

Survey Feedback on Waiver

Questions Responses **634** Settings

634 responses

[Link to Sheets](#)

Accepting responses

Summary

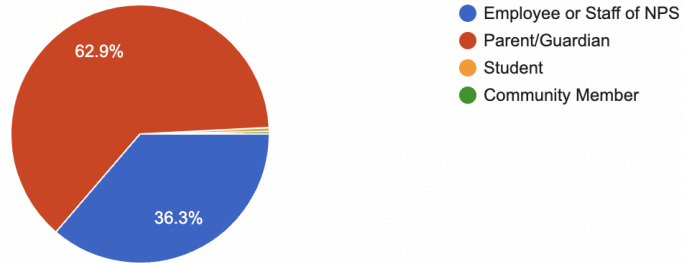
Question

Individual

Please indicate your role below.

[Copy](#)

634 responses



Do you support the Nettleton School District having a state waiver to start school a few days earlier than allowed by current Arkansas Law?

[Copy](#)

634 responses

