



**DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY
& SECONDARY EDUCATION**

Act 1240 Waiver Request

District:	Caddo Hills School District
LEA Number:	4901000
Superintendent:	Deric Owens
Email:	dowens@caddohills.org
Contact for Waiver:	Deric Owens, Caddo Hills School District
Contact Email:	dowens@caddohills.org
Contact Phone:	870-356-5700 (work); 870-356-8644 (cell)
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:	5 years
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 Caddo Hills 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 FY25 school year that date is Monday, August 19, 2024.

The specific waiver requested is to allow the school district to set first day of class to be "no earlier than Monday, August 12."

The law as presently constructed results in a wide swing in the allowable opening date of school. At the earliest, it can be August 14, which was the case this year— fall of 2023. The latest possible first day is August 20, which, under the law will be — fall of 2029. This waiver would next year allow school to open on the same relative date as this year.

The advantages of this waiver include but are not limited to:

- A. The number of days for instruction the first semester would more closely align to the number of days for instruction in the second semester. We are a four-day week school district. The number of days required for a four-day school is 143. We were able to start August 14 of this year according to the law and the number of days in the semesters were 70 for the first semester and 73 for the second semester. Next year's calendar with a start on August 19, 2024 gives 66 instructional days the first semester and 77 days the second semester.
- B. There would be an increase in the number of days of instruction prior to spring testing rather than days of instruction after spring testing.
- C. The ending of school term would align to community needs for the last day of school before Memorial Day.
- D. It would allow the district to keep the needed professional development days embedded within the school year for continuous real time learning and improvement for staff rather than all pre-loaded professional development before the school term.
- E. For inclement weather situations, it would allow a few days of makeup following Memorial Day prior to June should inclement prohibits instruction during school term.
- F. Student engagement is much higher at the beginning of the school year versus the ending of the school year. Engaged students equate to more learning at any level.

The granting of this waiver does not affect any other law, rule or procedure. The school year will remain the same length. It simply allows a district to continue with a school calendar that is structured as closely as possible to the current one, and avoids the dramatic change to the calendar which must result without the waiver.

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

There will not be a loss of services for students under this waiver. Learning for students will be enhanced due to the number of days prior to spring testing and students are much more ready to learn in the beginning of a school year.

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 of the school year by no more than five days. The movement of the start date should have a positive effect on state assessment scores and student attendance.

The advantage is having more student instruction days prior to the state assessment.



Caddo Hills School District

Home of the Indians



Resolution Number: 4901-2024-1

**A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Caddo Hills School District
Authorizing the District to Request a Waiver**

Nicole Black
President

Ashley Collins
Vice President

Kinzie Bour
Secretary

Allen Cureton
Member

Jarrold Ivy
Member

Deric Owens
Superintendent

WHEREAS, the Caddo Hills School District 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, the District seeks to obtain a waiver for A.C.A. 6-10-106 which requires the start of school for FY25 to be on or after August 19, 2024. The Early Start Waiver for Caddo Hills School District is for the week prior to August 19, 2024. Reasoning for request are as follows but not limited to: 1. The number of days for instruction the first semester would more closely align to the number of days for instruction in the second semester. 2. There would be an increase in the number of days of instruction prior to spring testing rather than days of instruction after spring testing. 3. The ending of school term would align to community needs for the last day of school before Memorial Day. 4. It would allow the district to keep the needed professional development days embedded within the school year for continuous real time learning and improvement for staff rather than all pre-loaded professional development before the school term. 5. For inclement weather situations, it would allow a few days of makeup before June should inclement prohibits instruction during school term.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of Caddo Hills School District hereby authorizes the district administration to formally request a waiver for The Early Start Waiver reasoning previously stated,

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 19th day of January 2024 by the Board of Directors of the Caddo Hills School District

Nicole Black, President
Caddo Hills School District Board of Directors

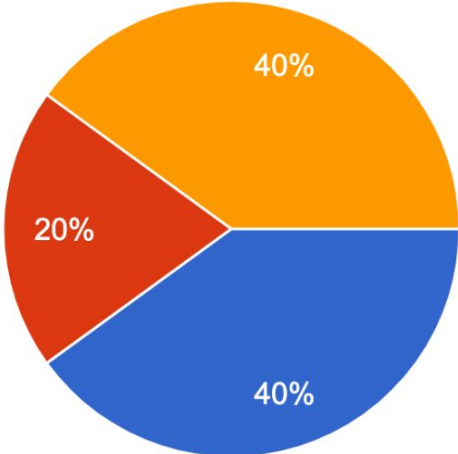
Kinzie Bour Secretary
Caddo Hills School District Board of Directors

Caddo Hills School District
Stakeholder Data
Request for Early Start

January 2024

I have a student at

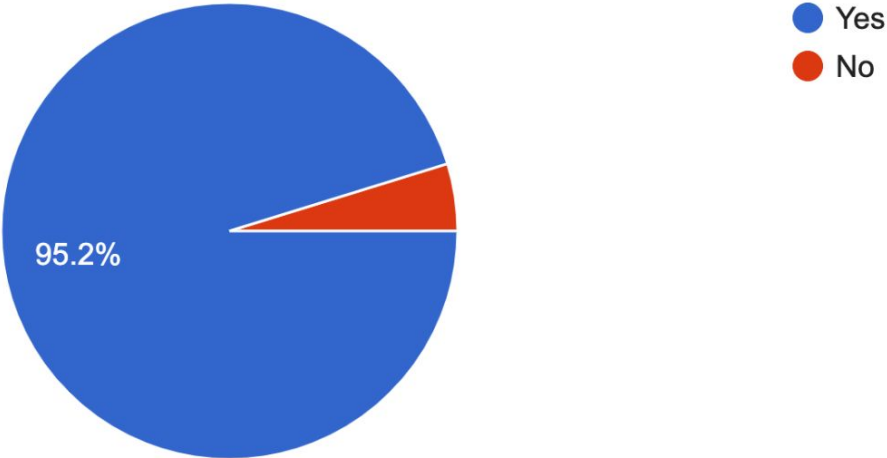
60 responses



- Caddo Hills Elementary
- Caddo Academy
- Both

I support the waiver request to start school on August 12th 2024.

63 responses



General Feedback for Administration-19 responses

Admin is awesome, I really like my kids principal.

I absolutely agree they need to start the 12th

Yes. Start August 12.

This would be fine with me.

I'm game for whatever. Just tell me when to be at work. 😊

I think all of the things that will be accomplished by starting earlier will be beneficial for the students and school staff!

I will be happy with the change.

Love the idea of getting PD during the school year as it would be more beneficial to the teacher.

Proud of our school system

I think this would be helpful for the kids and the administration both. I don't have a