



**DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY
& SECONDARY EDUCATION**

Act 1240 Waiver Request

District:	Hampton School District
LEA Number:	0701000
Superintendent:	Matt Scarbrough
Email:	mscarbrough@hampton.k12.ar.us
Contact for Waiver:	Matt Scarbrough
Contact Email:	mscarbrough@hampton.k12.ar.us
Contact Phone:	870-798-2229
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**

An email was sent to all faculty and staff explaining the waiver request. Results were 90%-for 10%-against

A website post was made: Hampton School District will be filing a 1240 Waiver with the State of Arkansas seeking the ability to begin school before August 19. This waiver has no impact on the calendar discussions previously held. This allows the District to start earlier than August 19 to balance the semesters and allow for time for planning and preparation before testing. Please email Superintendent Matt Scarbrough at mscarbrough@hampton.k12.ar.us if you have any comments or questions. There were no responses recorded.

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 Arkansas Connections Academy
Schools, Grades or Classes the Waiver 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 member school districts of the South Central Education 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 2024-2025 school year that date will be Monday, August 19. We would appreciate approval for the early start date for the listed schools in our region giving public schools the equity afforded to Charter Schools.

The specific waiver being requested is to allow the applying school districts to set their individual district's 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 — the fall of 2029. This waiver would allow the school to open next year and years to follow on the same relative date as this year.

The advantages of this waiver are several:

- The fall and spring semesters would be closer to the same length. Without this waiver, the fall semester will be 84 days while the spring semester will be 94 days, a difference of 10 days. With the waiver the fall semester will be 91 days and the spring semester 87 days, a difference of only 4 days. The more unbalanced the semesters are, the greater the issue for classes that are one semester in length.
- The alternative solution for unbalanced semesters is to not end the fall semester until after Christmas break. This results in final exams shortly after two weeks out of school, and the possibility of exams being repeatedly postponed due to winter weather.
- This waiver will give greater assurance of school ending in late May rather than extending into June. Some research indicates a decrease in learning past the Memorial Day Holiday.

- **Beginning school earlier automatically results in more days of instruction before spring testing. More days of instruction will result in higher test scores,**

- **Activities such as football will begin next fall on the same relative date as they did this fall, with or without the waiver. Therefore, a large number of students will already be on campus to practice and prepare for their activities, regardless of the opening date of school. In addition to students who play football, this would include students who participate in groups such as golf, tennis, cross country, volleyball, band, cheer, dance, ROTC, 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 districts will create a calendar with an earlier start date which will provide them with more flexibility throughout the school year. The school year will remain the same length. It simply allows a district to continue with a school calendar structured as closely as possible to the current one and avoids the dramatic change to the calendar which must result without the waiver.

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.

HAMPTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

P.O. BOX 1176 - HAMPTON, AR 71744

MATT SCARBROUGH, Superintendent
BRYAN SANDERS, High School Principal
TOM SAWYER, Elementary Principal



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RESOLUTION OF HAMPTON SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2024-003

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

WHEREAS, the Hampton 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, ACT 1240 provides for the school year to begin no earlier than the Monday of the week containing August 19, and the start of school varies from year to year beginning some years as early as August 14 or as late as August 20. The earliest school can begin in 2024-25 is August 19 and a late start to the school year creates unbalanced semesters, reduces the preparation time for state assessments, and limits flexibility in scheduling inclement weather make-up days. The Hampton School District is seeking to have a waiver to begin school at an earlier date;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of Hampton School District hereby authorizes the district administration to formally request a waiver for ACT 1240 affecting the allowable first day of school to balance semesters, allow for preparation time for state assessments, and flexibility in scheduling for inclement weather make-up days and recommends its approval;

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 16th day of January 2024 by the Board of Directors of Hampton School District.

Lindsey Rowland, President, Hampton School District Board of Directors

ATTEST:

Corey Thomas, Secretary, Hampton School District Board of Directors