



Act 1240 Digital Learning Waiver Request

Status: **Submitted to ADE DESE**

 Cave City School District (6802000)

School Year 2021-2022

! New Digital Learning Waiver requests can not be created after May 1st. Existing drafts and revisions will continue to be reviewed.

Applications will be reviewed in the order received. Incomplete applications will be returned to the district.

A notification letter will be sent to the superintendent at the email address listed above upon approval by the Arkansas State Board of Education.

NOTE: The approved application must then be posted on the district website - State Required Information.

District:

LEA #: 6802000

Superintendent: Steven Green

Email: sgreen@cavecity.ncsc.k12.ar.us

Phone: (870) 283-5391 Ext. 1011

Duration Requested (not to exceed five years): 1 Year
(School year 2021-2022 to 2022-2023)

The proposed waiver(s) will apply to the following schools:

LEA(s)	Grades/Courses	Interaction	Delivery	Platforms
6802001 - Cave City Elementary School	k-6	Synchronous	Virtual (Online) / Remote (Distance)	LMS CMS



Waivers

Waiver Topic	Standard for Accreditation	Division Rules	Arkansas Statutes	Indicate if the district is applying for the waiver and explain how the district waiver will be utilized.
Attendance			6-18-213(a)(2)	CCSD will request this waiver for k-6. All instruction will be synchronous, and students will be required to meet daily. In these cases, attendance will be taken through the evidence of completed assignments. Monitoring of synchronous interaction will occur on a daily basis, but a waiver is needed for the manner in which attendance is calculated.
Class Size Number of students:	1-A.5	DESE Rules Governing Class Size and Teaching Load	6-17-812(a)(2)	CCSD will request this waiver. Student to teacher ratio will be 30:1 (k-2) and 50:1 (3-6).
Teaching Load Number of students: Teacher of Record provides virtual instruction to only students who are remote. Please note that 100% virtual (online) or remote (distance) classes are considered large group instruction courses as per DESE Rules for Distance and Digital Learning and teaching load would not apply as per DESE Rules Governing Class Size and Teaching Load.	1-A.5	DESE Rules Governing Class Size and Teaching Load	6-17-812	Cave City K-6 will not request this waiver as it does not apply to elementary. The district is not requesting this waiver.



Waiver Topic	Standard for Accreditation	Division Rules	Arkansas Statutes	Indicate if the district is applying for the waiver and explain how the district waiver will be utilized.
Six Hour Instructional Day (Waiver applies to virtual/remote students only)	1-A.4.2		6-16-102; 6-16-126	CCSD will request this waiver for k-6. All students learn at a different pace, based on age and background. Virtual learning allows the flexibility for class times to be conducted based on age and appropriate time limits. Six-hour instructional day guidelines will exceed age-appropriate screen time limits. A waiver for the 6-hour instructional day will be utilized to provide instruction within the parameters of the recommended screen times.
Clock Hours	1-A.2			CCSD will not request this waiver for K-6. Clock hours do not apply to k-6.
Recess (Waiver applies to virtual/remote students only)	1-A.4.3	DESE Rules Governing Nutrition and Physical Activity Standards and Body Mass Index, Section 7.11	6-6-102(a)(5)	CCSD is requesting this waiver for k-6 Governing requirement to provide forty (40) minutes of recess due Nutrition to the fact that instruction is 100% virtual



Digital Model

Please complete the following application with responses describing the school and district digital programming.

Interaction / Delivery

What are the ways teachers and students will interact with digital content (Synchronous or Asynchronous)? Please describe instructional expectations and participation for students.



CCSD will send Alerts/communications to parents about missing/upcoming assignments in Google Classroom.

The K-6 TRVP will be a synchronous model for K-6 core instruction. The synchronous model will allow for structured learning, increased interaction, and direct instruction for virtual students. This model will also allow for improved student-teacher relationships and targeted learning for all students.

Through synchronous instruction k-2 virtual students will receive all components of the Science of Reading.

Teachers: Daily participation of students includes a required participation in synchronous instruction. Instructional expectations include Science of Reading, modeling, guided practice, and independent practice.

Teachers are expected to upload all resources and materials at least one day prior to the virtual lessons. Teachers will teach daily virtual lessons for core instruction for students in the synchronous environment. virtual lessons will be recorded so students can revisit the lessons for a refresher, or if the student missed a virtual lesson.

Teachers will remind students to attend virtual lessons, pull small groups, and/or work 1:1. These requests will be based on student needs identified by robust grading practices. Teachers will be available for additional support during their office hours so that synchronous students (and their parents/caregivers) can communicate with the teachers as the need arises. Turnaround time for responses from teachers is a maximum of one business day. All teachers will have daily designated office time for support.

Students:

Regular attendance to the virtual lessons is crucial to the academic growth of the students; therefore, it is expected that students will attend and complete 178 days of instructional content. Days missed due to illness or other events will be made up through small group instruction, or other methods deemed to be in the best interest of the student. If additional time or support is needed, the student and/or caregiver should contact the teacher during his or her office hours

All students have a variety of options for connecting synchronously with our teachers--email, office hours, etc. Students also have their virtual teachers' contact information.



What delivery approach will the school or district utilize to meet the needs of both teachers and students (i.e., virtual (online) / remote (distance) or blended (hybrid)? Please explain.

Since Cave City will participate in the K-6 TRVP, virtual teachers and students will utilize online virtual (remote) learning through Google Classroom, Google Meet, and Zoom. The program will provide instruction using a model that is primarily synchronous. Students will engage in digital coursework through Google Classroom. All students will have the opportunity to participate in virtual lessons sessions for synchronous learning with the teacher. All virtual lessons sessions will be recorded using Zoom, housed in Digital Sandbox, and linked in Google Classroom so that synchronous students will have access to the digital content. All learning and instruction will be virtual.

Will teachers be dedicated to primarily remote instruction or serving in a dual role, teaching both remote and in-person learners?

Â *If teachers will serve in a dual role, describe whether it will be simultaneously, meaning remote and in-person at the same time with course/schedule specific considerations.

The K-6 Tri-County Virtual delivery of instruction for K-6 students will be 100% virtual/remote. The K-6 TRVP will provide Arkansas certified teachers of record for virtual learners. The K-6 TRVP teachers will be solely dedicated to remote instruction. The K-6 TRVP will have Arkansas certified teachers as the instructors for all course content via the Google Classroom CMS. This program is a model of synchronous.

The K-6 virtual teachers will work in tandem with districts' point-of-contact personnel for their virtual students. These designs will be referred to as the Campus Connection Coaches (CCCs). The CCC may be a certified teacher or administrator. Training and support will be provided to the TRVP teachers and district CCCs throughout the year.

Describe the expectation for teacher instruction, interaction, and frequency with virtual students.



Content will be delivered to all virtual students by a certified teacher. Instruction, to include content and interventions, will be delivered via Zoom, Google Classroom, or Google Meet.

Teachers will provide daily, synchronous instruction for virtual students. It is highly encouraged that synchronous students attend and/or view all virtual lessons sessions each week. Research shows that students who attend virtual lessons are more successful than students who do not attend virtual lessons sessions. Virtual lessons provide for real-time direct instruction with individual and small groups of students using voice-over IP, chat, electronic whiteboard, and shared web surfing. These daily sessions allow teachers and synchronous students to interact with one another in real-time in a virtual classroom. Synchronous students may also revisit these recorded sessions at a later date if they have scheduling conflicts or want to refresh themselves on the topics covered.

Teachers, parents, and students will be able to communicate using the Google Classroom CMS or via email. Teachers are expected to monitor students and provide timely grading and robust feedback on assignments. Teachers will communicate regularly and provide access to their students' progress. Communication between virtual teachers, parents, and students will be addressed via age-appropriate means, such as Gmail and/or Google Classroom messages. All student and teacher communication is captured and logged. Students and parents can request meeting times through the Gmail and/or Google Classroom messages, pop into virtual lessons, or meet during the teacher's set office hours.

Virtual teachers will also pull small groups or work 1:1 with students based on needs.



If utilizing district waivers for **class size**, what supports will the district put in place to support the teacher and students? How will the district monitor and determine if the supports are adequate for teachers who exceed class size in digital learning settings?

The K-6 will utilize district waivers for class size.

Special services for virtual student will include: a specific contact district liaison for student and parent communication, the district will analyze data for individual students and determine if student interventions are needed for academic support (to include tutoring, RTI, Tier II or III interventions). For teachers who exceed class size in digital learning settings, special support services will include: professional development offered by the Educational Cooperatives, special professional development for virtual teachers to acclimate them in the software and resources available for CCSD students, a district appointed liaison for two-way communication.

If utilizing district waivers for **teaching load**, what supports will the district put in place to support the teacher and students? How will the district monitor and determine if the supports are adequate for teachers who exceed teaching loads in digital learning settings?

The K-6 will not utilize district waivers for teaching load.

Non-Core subjects will be integrated into the elementary instructional day .

Technology / Platforms

Identify the learning management system/content management system that schools and districts will use? (Canvas, Buzz, Google Classroom, etc.)

Students in the K-6 virtual program will use Google Classroom as the CMS. At home or wherever the Internet is accessible, this user-friendly online system connects students with their lessons, teachers, and resources.



Describe the digital content that will be available to students, including any digital curriculum and supports that are available to teachers. If the district is using a content management system (CMS), please specify grades levels and subjects that the CMS will address.

The Cave City K-6 virtual teachers will use a curriculum that has been developed in conjunction with DESE that is based on Arkansas Academic Standards and current state initiatives such as Science of Reading, AR Math QUEST, and GPS. Google Classroom will be utilized to deliver K-6 core content. Courses consist of direct instruction, videos, rigorous assignments, performance tasks, and assessments to engage all students. The Virtual option teachers can monitor student progress using the grading and monitoring tools available in Google Classroom, as well as 3rd party data reporting tools that operate with Google Classroom content.

Reading instruction is crucial in the overall success of students. Core literacy instruction will be aligned to the Science of Reading and use an approved core program. Resources will be aligned to state initiative goals and will include teacher materials and/or programs that will support virtual instruction. Some items used may include the digital version of the Wilson Reading System, Heggerty Digital Curriculum, and other more traditional resources such as decodable texts and reader class sets. Materials may also include manipulatives such as pointers, markers, dry-erase boards, and counters.

Tri-County virtual teachers will collaborate with Cave City School District and purchase the needed instructional materials, programs, and teacher supplies. Pacing guides and resources will be followed for each core subject.



What video communication software is required for any remote student? Please describe the video communication software the teacher will use to facilitate live conferences between two or more participants.

The K-6 virtual teachers and students will be utilizing ZOOM/Google Meet for all synchronous learning opportunities. These sessions allow teachers and students to interact with one another in real-time in a virtual classroom. In addition, Zoom/Google Meet sessions may be recorded and saved for students who need to revisit at a later date.

Zoom/Google Meet allows teachers to monitor students' progress and invite those students who are struggling with a particular lesson or concept to a Zoom/Google Meet session targeted toward that content. In addition, if a subset of students is moving quickly through their lessons and demonstrating mastery of the lesson objectives through their assessments, invite them to a Zoom/Google Meet session to engage beyond the material covered in the lesson by sharing their writings and collaborating in small groups.

Describe the technology access (device and connectivity) that will be provided to each digital learning student to ensure each student receives a free public education.

Each 100% virtual student will be assigned a district device. Students who do not have reliable internet service will qualify for a district-issued hotspot. Chromebooks are provided for every student. Each student is issued a Chromebook at the beginning of the school year, students return their school-issued Chromebook at the end of the school year.

Student Supports

Describe the manner and frequency the district or school will use to monitor the wellness and safety (food security, physical, mental health, etc.) of students in a total remote setting. (This may be in-person, video communication, etc.). Identify supports available to assist students within the district.

The K-6 virtual teachers are trained to employ actions and behaviors to ensure the physical and mental health of students. Google Classroom uses a variety of methods of communication to do this and partners with schools to ensure students are cared for. When a situation arises where intervention is determined to be needed beyond what can be done virtually the district will be notified. Teachers are trained to report maltreatment/abuse to the Department of Health Services. Additionally, appropriate professional development such as G.U.I.D.E. for Life will be provided to teachers to support SEL strategies.

To provide food security to digital learners, the district will provide carry out meals for students and families.



Describe the manner and frequency the district or school will use to monitor the academic and student engagement in a virtual setting. Describe the additional supports available for students struggling with engagement.

CCSD has access to the Google Classroom in order to monitor students in real-time. TRVP teachers will initiate intervention when it is determined a student isn't actively engaging or successfully mastering the content. Regular and frequent assessment will be utilized to identify struggling students. Students who demonstrate lack of achievement will participate in conversations with TRVP teachers and CCES administrators to arrive at solutions to the lack of progress. In cases where needed, teachers will involve the partnering school through the CCC. CCSD will provide a Campus Connection Coach (CCC). For Cave City School District, this person will be the administrator on campus. The CCC will monitor virtual student progress, welfare, and attendance through Google Classroom provided reports (gradebook, student performance to proficiency, mastery of objectives, user activity, test analytics, enrollments, student course enrollment, course details, and user details). The CCC will report any issues or concerns on academics, welfare, engagement, and will be disciplined based on school district policy. The CCC will also set up a regular communication schedule with the virtual teachers regarding the progress of virtual students. The CCSD will provide virtual tutoring sessions 4 days a week, using the same schedule as in-person tutoring. These dates will be communicated to parents via website, alert system, and will be posted on the district social media page.

Describe the Academic Response to Intervention plan for remote (virtual) students, including additional supports and personnel.

K-6 virtual teachers will be trained to identify and intervene with immediacy when a student is determined to not be successful. They are trained to deliver Tier 1 and 2 interventions. Virtual teachers will make phone calls to offer support. Students may be asked to join additional intervention sessions and/or watch recorded sessions. Teachers may use office hours for interventions. Tutoring or other 1:1 support may be provided to ensure academic progress. If those interventions are not successful, the virtual teacher will reach out to the partnering CCC regarding additional Tier 2 or Tier 3 interventions. CCSD will provide the support with the appropriate expert and deliver in the brick and mortar location or virtually, based on need.



Describe the district or school's formative assessment plan to support student learning.

In the K-6 TRVP, formative assessment will be used to support learning. For example, periodic formative assessments, checks for understanding, and pre-tests aligned to the summative assessments. A variety of assessments will be utilized through the course with open-ended discussions/assessments, choice response activities, multiple-choice, and hybrid assessments (open-ended and multiple choice). Assignments will be aligned to SoR, QuEST, and GPS, and will include recognized assessments such as DIBELS, PAST, etc.

Describe how dyslexia screening and services will be provided to digital learning students.

The K-6 TRVP provides accessibility tools to support students with dyslexia. Phonological awareness and phonics strategies will be embedded in synchronous daily lessons to improve fluency for dyslexic students. The district will ensure all requirements of the dyslexia law are met for remote learners.

Describe how Gifted and Talented supports and services will be provided to digital learning students.

The K-6 virtual teachers will embed enrichment activities into core content. Education Cooperative GT Specialists will have input in the development of curriculum in order to ensure rigorous activities are embedded in core content courses. The district will follow all GT program approval standards for the gifted program for remote learners.

Describe how English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL / ESL) supports and services will be provided to digital learning students.

K-12 teachers and the ELD department provide academic language instruction and additional support for the student's specific proficiency level while providing accommodations determined by the LPAC committee. Teachers communicate with ELL students and parents regularly to give feedback on assignments and provide any additional materials needed to support their learning needs. Classroom teachers collaborate with the ELD department to communicate any additional needs of ELLs or parents.

The district will ensure all requirements of the district English learner plan are met for remote learners. K-6 virtual teachers will provide all accommodations and modifications as stated on LPACS.



Describe how all Special Education services and supports will be provided to digital learning students, including the process for special education evaluations and conferences.

K-6 virtual teachers will provide all accommodations and modifications as stated on district-developed IEPs and 504s. They will participate in conferences, as needed in the capacity of a general education teacher.

The district will ensure that any student who displays academic deficiencies will follow the district policy regarding special education referrals and RTI.

Special education conferences and evaluations will be held either in person, or via Zoom or Google Meet.

Describe common and frequently used digital accommodations that the district or school has provided to general education teachers to assist students in digital learning classes.

Assisted technology will be utilized as necessary for student achievement.

Teacher Supports

Describe district and school supports to provide on-going digital content and instructional supports for teachers.

The K-6 TRVP will address the support for professional development for online teachers and might address how this support aligns with the National Standards for Quality Online Teaching. Professional Development offered by the Tri-Region Cooperatives is approved by the Arkansas Department of Education and counts towards the required 36 hours of Professional Development required for teachers each year. Additional continuous learning requirements for certification are generally met through graduate-level course work and/or additional external training opportunities. Trainings focus on developing virtual classroom management, digital pedagogy, data-driven instruction, techniques for supporting social-emotional health of students in a virtual space, techniques for supporting diverse learning groups (exceptional students, gifted students, language learners), and techniques to support a mastery-based instructional model to ensure students have multiple pathways and opportunities to successfully master learning standards. Through direct access to content specialists and Team Digital specialists at each co-op, continuous professional development will be available to all TRVP teachers.



Identify the daily or weekly amount of time teachers will need to develop and plan for instruction based on options selected and digital supports provided. How will the district support teachers with digital content and planning?

District Supports

Describe how the district will ensure equitable access to opportunities for success for digital learner's needs (poverty, homelessness, migrant, foster care, and military connected students) A link (URL) to the district equity plan may be acceptable if it meets this criteria.

The K-6 virtual teachers will, at a minimum, follow the guidelines and policies set by the state of Arkansas in regards to teacher planning time (40 minutes per day).

The local school/district will provide all appropriate testing and support services for all students. Virtual teachers will provide the appropriate testing data, classroom instructional services (as outlined by the appropriate documentation, ie, the IEP), and accommodations as necessary.

All virtual students will be required to participate in statewide summative and school/district required testing (Edmentum, iReady, etc..) at the building/district site. These tests will be conducted and monitored by the school/district personnel. All testing data will be shared by the school/district for analysis. Virtual staff will participate by communicating with parents and students, as needed, to ensure a smooth assessment.

All students are expected to test (statewide summative assessments) onsite as per DESE guidance. Provide an overview of how the district may communicate to parents and test digital learning students at a district site.

DESE requires all students to be present on campus for summative assessments. CCSD will ensure that all CDC guidelines are followed and social distancing is practiced. CCSD will utilize the alert call system, the website, and social media pages to relay to parents expectations for digital learners during the required testing period. In the event a parent refuses to participate in on-sight testing, the district will offer a secure alternate testing location. Digital learning students will have access to virtual tutoring sessions, classroom textbooks, library resources, as well as counseling and therapy. Digital learners will also have access to meals provided by the district.



Provide a detailed explanation of how the district will monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the digital option(s) and the fidelity of implementation as described within this application.

The district will utilize students' formative assessments, parent communications, conferences, surveys, students' summative data, and district collaboration to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the digital option and the fidelity of implementation by conducting surveys of parents, schools, and students.

The school will use periodic testing and evaluations to determine the effectiveness of digital learning. In the event a digital learning student is not passing or is falling behind grade level curriculum, a meeting with parents will be held to discuss options. Data will be collected three times per school year. The school will use data from iReady, ACT Aspire, and Edmentum to determine the effectiveness of the digital curriculum. Parents will be required to attend a training session for digital learners where the school will explain the importance of being diligent with digital work. Parents will sign an agreement that digital learning must be done with fidelity and requires an independent learner's mindset.

Describe how the teacher(s) will engage families into the digital learning process. (District may link the District Engagement Plan if digital learning is included. The plan must address how the district will support parents/students with digital tools and resources)

All students and caregivers will be required to attend an orientation either face-to-face or virtually prior to the start of the school year. TRVP teachers will also provide technology training and support, as well as parent/teacher conferences. Virtual teachers will provide parents and/or families access to their child's Google Classroom assignments and announcements, and parents will have access to the student's grades.

Districts will provide classroom support for virtual teachers and students in the form of technology, instructional materials and supplies, and grade updates. The school will have training for parents of virtual students at the beginning of each school year. Teachers and aides are also available to answer questions and assist parents on a daily basis. Parents will receive training on how to navigate google classroom and other digital resources and curriculum, how to check student grades online, and how to access online textbooks and library resources.

Provide the URL to evidence of the local school board's approval of the waiver request(s).

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/18afDmCaIAE7jDKaGOpGEAhwz3opJKdgg/view?>



Provide a URL to evidence of stakeholder feedback regarding the waiver request(s) and the district communication plan regarding digital learning program(s).

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Kp8JWwZivJ93zLbIxNHmRiLZRZq_RYL1

Policies

Please provide a link (URL) to the attendance policy for digital learning students.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1yFltz9jVULB1RQnUq5apWYp78DepjLsBy>

Please provide a link (URL) to the discipline policy for digital learning students.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1RaQXXkqIUl1h8ZnbnZPq37ltbo7TsFqrqL>

Please provide a link (URL) to the grading policy for digital learning students.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1oIsS3ASZNjxCgFSqMnIri-5yZWBRNPjjj1H>

[^ Back to Top](#)