



**DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY  
& SECONDARY EDUCATION**

## **Act 1240 Waiver Request**

<b>District:</b>	<b>East End School District</b>
<b>LEA Number:</b>	5301
<b>Superintendent:</b>	Heidi Wilson
<b>Email:</b>	hwilson@bigelow.k12.ar.us
<b>Contact for Waiver:</b>	Heidi Wilson
<b>Contact Email:</b>	hwilson@bigelow.k12.ar.us
<b>Contact Phone:</b>	501-759-2808
<b>Date Received by DESE:</b>	

**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

<b>Topic:</b>	School Calendar
<b>Standards/Statutes/Rules:</b>	Statues: Ark. Code Ann. § 6-10-106
<b>Duration Requested:</b>	2024-2025 School Year
<b>Name of Open-Enrollment Charter Holding the Waiver</b>	Arkansas Virtual Academy
<b>Schools, Grades or Classes the Wavier Will Apply To</b>	Anne Watson Elementary K-6 Bigelow High School 7-12
<b>PURPOSE OF THE WAIVER (Must check at least one)</b>	<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.**

For a school implementing a 4 day week school calendar, the mandatory start date of August 19th provides obstacles that hinder student learning success. With a waiver to the start of school date, students will have enhanced student learning opportunities accompanied with the removal of barriers that may affect student learning.

- With school beginning on August 19, 2024, in order to complete the first semester before the Christmas Holiday, the first and second nine weeks would have a disproportionate amount of days compared to the third and fourth nine weeks. For example, with a 4 day week school calendar, the first and second nine weeks would have only 36 and 32 student days per nine weeks. The third and fourth nine weeks would have 48.75 days respectively. With many classes being semester classes, this provides students in the first semester class fewer days of instruction compared to those receiving the instruction during the second semester. A waiver allowing the district to begin earlier than August 19<sup>th</sup> would allow the district to develop a calendar with more proportionate days between each semester.
- An early start date would give our 4 day calendar 36 days in quarters 1,2,3 and 35.75 days in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter respectively.
- A waiver to the start of school date would enhance student learning opportunities by allowing students to have more days in which to be taught the rigorous state academic standards before taking mandated state exams which are often administered during April or early May.
- As the weather continues to dictate in the winter school closings, it is even more essential for us to make those days count in August than late May and early June. Moving the start date up one week helps to get those days in on the front end of testing rather than the latter end after testing is completed. This waiver will give greater assurance of school ending in May rather than extending into June. More instruction days and earlier release date will help get an early start for tourism in the natural state.

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

A waiver to the school calendar and the start day of school will not waive any services provided to students. With August 19<sup>th</sup> falling on a Monday and school not being allowed to start prior to this time frame, this

would meet the criteria of a very exceptional circumstance. Attached is the school calendar that our district wishes to implement with a waiver.

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

The district will monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the waiver through:

- Stakeholder input. Stakeholders will include all staff, parent/families, and community.
  - A survey was sent out to stakeholders, staff and parents. The survey overwhelmingly approved an early start date.
- Attendance data- Our data shows that attendance is exponentially better in August than late in May.
- State assessment data- The district would like to get as many days in before testing starts in April and May. Adding the additional week will help achieve this goal.



# East End School District Board of Education

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114 West Panther Drive Bigelow, Arkansas 72016 Phone: 501-759-2808 Fax: 501-759-2808

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## Resolution 24-05

The East End School District School Board of Education has voted in an open public meeting held February 13, 2024, to allow EESD to pursue an Act 1240 Waiver that would allow EESD to start school earlier than August 19<sup>th</sup>.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heather Fulmer".

Heather Fulmer, Board President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Autumn Fulton".

Autumn Fulton, Board Vice President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laura Wiles".

Laura Wiles, Board Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brandi Edwards".

Brandi Edwards, Board Member

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gloria Mabry".

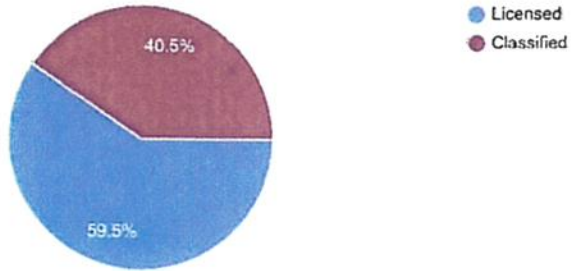
Gloria Mabry, Board Member

East End

Results from the Google form:

Are you a Licensed or Classified staff member?

74 responses



Please select which calendar you prefer:

74 responses



Timestamp	Email Address	Staff Member Name	Are you a Licensed or Cle	Please select which calendar you prefer:
2/7/2024 9:28:55	williamsk@bigelow.k12.ar	kim williams	Classified	Calendar Option 2
2/6/2024 13:40:15	asmith@bigelow.k12.ar	Allison Smith	Licensed	Calendar Option 1
2/6/2024 17:05:58	ascrogg@bigelow.k12.ar	Angelia Scroggins	Licensed	Calendar Option 2
2/6/2024 13:24:27	ablackburn@bigelow.k12.ar	April Blackburn	Licensed	Calendar Option 1
2/6/2024 13:24:50	ahowell@bigelow.k12.ar	April Howell	Classified	Calendar Option 1
2/7/2024 12:17:51	blim@bigelow.k12.ar	us Baylee Lim	Licensed	Calendar Option 2
2/7/2024 8:04:38	akridgeb@bigelow.k12.ar	Brad Akridge	Classified	Calendar Option 1
2/6/2024 14:19:07	bragan@bigelow.k12.ar	u Brenda Ragan	Licensed	Calendar Option 2
2/7/2024 7:53:27	taylorb@bigelow.k12.ar	u Brian Taylor	Licensed	Calendar Option 1
2/6/2024 17:26:58	bshipp@bigelow.k12.ar	u Brittany Shipp	Licensed	Calendar Option 2
2/6/2024 16:18:52	bstrickland@bigelow.k12.ar	Brooke Strickland	Licensed	Calendar Option 1
2/6/2024 15:35:54	cle@bigelow.k12.ar	us Caitlin Lee	Licensed	Calendar Option 2
2/6/2024 14:09:45	cturner@bigelow.k12.ar	u Caitlin Turen	Licensed	Calendar Option 2
2/7/2024 11:21:13	clements@bigelow.k12.ar	Caleb Clements	Classified	Calendar Option 1
2/6/2024 20:01:12	cquiroz@bigelow.k12.ar	u Callie Quiroz	Licensed	Calendar Option 1
2/7/2024 8:08:52	cgosnell@bigelow.k12.ar	Carla Gosnell	Classified	Calendar Option 2
2/6/2024 15:09:36	cgifford@bigelow.k12.ar	u Carrie Gifford	Licensed	Calendar Option 1
2/7/2024 12:07:35	csayers@bigelow.k12.ar	Casey Sayers	Licensed	Calendar Option 1
2/7/2024 10:00:21	wilsonc@bigelow.k12.ar	u Chad Wilson	Licensed	Calendar Option 1
2/6/2024 13:31:16	dmabry@bigelow.k12.ar	delorice mabry	Classified	Calendar Option 2
2/7/2024 11:33:15	meriweat@bigelow.k12.ar	Dena Meriweather	Licensed	Calendar Option 2
2/6/2024 13:47:45	gipsonde@bigelow.k12.ar	Denice Gipson	Classified	Calendar Option 2
2/7/2024 7:42:58	dgraddy@bigelow.k12.ar	Donna	Classified	Calendar Option 1
2/6/2024 13:26:20	dgipson@bigelow.k12.ar	Donna Gipson	Classified	Calendar Option 1
2/7/2024 8:59:23	ecarter@bigelow.k12.ar	u Erin Carter	Classified	Calendar Option 1
2/7/2024 12:36:25	russeng@bigelow.k12.ar	Gina Russenberger	Classified	Calendar Option 1
2/7/2024 11:05:27	gbenson@bigelow.k12.ar	Glenda benson	Classified	Calendar Option 1
2/6/2024 14:28:29	hbright@bigelow.k12.ar	u Hayley Bright	Licensed	Calendar Option 2
2/6/2024 13:32:04	hneumei@bigelow.k12.ar	Heather Neumeier	Licensed	Calendar Option 1
2/6/2024 13:22:19	hwilson@bigelow.k12.ar	u Heidi Wilson	Licensed	Calendar Option 1
2/7/2024 12:25:58	hphillips@bigelow.k12.ar	Hollie Phillips	Licensed	Calendar Option 1
2/6/2024 13:37:58	kristoj@bigelow.k12.ar	us Jacqu Kristofik	Classified	Calendar Option 2
2/6/2024 18:16:37	martinez@bigelow.k12.ar	u Jasmin Martinez	Licensed	Calendar Option 2
2/7/2024 6:19:53	jforrester@bigelow.k12.ar	Jeff Forrester	Classified	Calendar Option 1
2/6/2024 13:56:06	starksj@bigelow.k12.ar	u Jeff Starks	Licensed	Calendar Option 2
2/7/2024 11:10:12	jpresnull@bigelow.k12.ar	u Jenifer Presnull	Classified	Calendar Option 2
2/6/2024 14:30:56	jburnett@bigelow.k12.ar	u Jenna Burnett	Classified	Calendar Option 2
2/7/2024 12:08:54	campj@bigelow.k12.ar	us Jennifer Campbell	Licensed	Calendar Option 2
2/7/2024 9:00:59	jnewsom@bigelow.k12.ar	Jennifer Newsom	Licensed	Calendar Option 1
2/6/2024 14:47:11	jthessing@bigelow.k12.ar	Jennifer Thessing	Classified	Calendar Option 1
2/7/2024 11:31:43	jmerino@bigelow.k12.ar	u Jennifer Thompson	Licensed	Calendar Option 1
2/7/2024 11:34:32	jblair@bigelow.k12.ar	us Jill Blair	Licensed	Calendar Option 1
2/6/2024 16:21:30	kakridge@bigelow.k12.ar	Kaitlin Akridge	Licensed	Calendar Option 2
2/6/2024 13:17:37	kthompson@bigelow.k12.ar	Kassidy Thompson	Licensed	Calendar Option 2
2/7/2024 11:29:48	kweaver@bigelow.k12.ar	Kathryn Weaver	Licensed	Calendar Option 1
2/6/2024 13:39:02	kspears@bigelow.k12.ar	u Kayde Spears	Licensed	Calendar Option 1
2/7/2024 11:21:22	kmayo@bigelow.k12.ar	u Kendra Mayo	Licensed	Calendar Option 1
2/7/2024 11:34:43	kflowers@bigelow.k12.ar	Kim Flowers	Licensed	Calendar Option 2
2/7/2024 13:46:14	kpryor@bigelow.k12.ar	us Kim Pryor	Classified	Calendar Option 1
2/6/2024 13:37:40	kbrowning@bigelow.k12.ar	Kimberly Browning	Licensed	Calendar Option 2
2/7/2024 11:24:19	kstarks@bigelow.k12.ar	u Kristi Starks	Licensed	Calendar Option 2
2/6/2024 13:24:19	teaguek@bigelow.k12.ar	u Krystle Teague	Licensed	Calendar Option 1
2/7/2024 6:19:52	lforrester@bigelow.k12.ar	Lawanda Forrester	Classified	Calendar Option 1
2/7/2024 12:23:56	lheslep@bigelow.k12.ar	u Lori Heslep	Licensed	Calendar Option 1
2/7/2024 11:24:59	lstarks@bigelow.k12.ar	u Luke	Licensed	Calendar Option 2
2/6/2024 13:49:06	lstone@bigelow.k12.ar	us Lynsey Stane	Classified	Calendar Option 2