



**DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY
& SECONDARY EDUCATION**

Act 1240 Waiver Request

District:	Elkins School District
LEA Number:	7201000
Superintendent:	Jeremy Mangrum
Email:	jmangrum@elkinsdistrict.org
Contact for Waiver:	Jeremy Mangrum
Contact Email:	jmangrum@elkinsdistrict.org
Contact Phone:	479-643-2172
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 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 Northwest Arkansas 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.

Waiver Request #2

Topic:	
Standards/Statutes/Rules:	
Duration Requested:	
Name of Open-Enrollment Charter Holding the Waiver	
Schools, Grades or Classes the Waiver Will Apply To	
PURPOSE OF THE WAIVER (Must check at least one)	<input 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.

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

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

Waiver Request #3

Topic:	
Standards/Statutes/Rules:	
Duration Requested:	
Name of Open-Enrollment Charter Holding the Waiver	
Schools, Grades or Classes the Wavier Will Apply To	
PURPOSE OF THE WAIVER (Must check at least one)	<input 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.

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

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

Waiver Request #4

Topic:	
Standards/Statutes/Rules:	
Duration Requested:	
Name of Open-Enrollment Charter Holding the Waiver	
Schools, Grades or Classes the Wavier Will Apply To	
PURPOSE OF THE WAIVER (Must check at least one)	<input 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.

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

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

Elkins School District
349 N Center St.
Elkins, Arkansas 72727
January 24, 2024

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

WHEREAS, the Elkins 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 a waiver to the rule regarding that the first day of the school cannot start before the week of August 19, 2024;

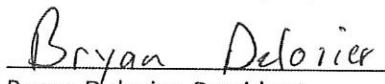
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of Elkins School District hereby authorizes the district administration to formally request a waiver for the requirement that school may not start prior to the week of August 19, 2024, in order to start school no earlier than the week of August 12, 2024, so that the district can provide more face-to-face instructional days to students prior to the ATLAS testing window in an effort to cover more curriculum content and state learning standards, and subsequently improve student achievement;

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 January 24, 2024 by the Board of Directors of Elkins School District.


Bryan Delozier, President
Elkins Board of Directors

ATTEST:


Gayla Stahman, Secretary
Elkins Board of Directors

Community Input - 2024-2025 School Calendar

Elkins School District is considering asking the State Department of Education for a waiver for the requirement of the first day of school which currently would be on or after August 19, 2024.

*If granted, the waiver would allow us to potentially start one week earlier during the week of August 12, 2024.


*This waiver would give the district some flexibility, allow more days of instruction before end of year state testing, and provide better balance to the number of days in each semester.

*Another possible advantage of starting school a few days earlier would mean that the last day of school for students would shift forward a few days from the current projected last day of school, allowing students to finish their requirements before the Memorial Day weekend of 2025.

*We are currently discussing calendar options for next year with district staff members to get their feedback, but your opinion and feedback are valuable and important to us as well.

*Please complete the brief survey question(s) below by Friday, February 16th to let the District know what your thoughts are on this matter.

jmangrum@elkinsdistrict.org Switch account

 Not shared



* Indicates required question

I would like the Elkins School District to ask the State Department of Education for a waiver for the first day of school requirement. If granted, the 24-25 school year could potentially start the week of August 12, 2024. *

Yes

No



Question(s) or comments regarding the 2024-2025 school calendar:

Your answer

Please provide your name and email address if you would like a response to your question(s).

Your answer

Submit

Clear form

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This form was created inside of Elkins School District. [Report Abuse](#)

Google Forms



Timestamp	I would like the Elkins Sc Question(s) or comments	Please provide your name and email address if you would like a response to your question(s).
2/8/2024 16:10:33	Yes	
2/8/2024 16:11:38	No	
2/8/2024 16:14:37	Yes	We have vacation planned and a later start time would allow us some days before school starts.
2/8/2024 16:14:57	Yes	
2/8/2024 16:17:27	Yes	
2/8/2024 16:20:19	Yes	
2/8/2024 16:23:59	Yes	
2/8/2024 16:24:09	Yes	
2/8/2024 16:28:47	Yes	Karen Myers myersbryton1604@gmail.com
2/8/2024 16:29:25	Yes	
2/8/2024 16:30:24	No	
2/8/2024 16:30:34	Yes	Bettie Meek
2/8/2024 16:35:00	Yes	
2/8/2024 16:39:23	Yes	Will this help if there are : Melissa Linde malinde729@gmail.com
2/8/2024 16:40:00	Yes	When is kindergarten registration
2/8/2024 16:44:45	No	
2/8/2024 16:47:35	Yes	I only ask to please leave our school week M-F. We are working parents, minimal family, & our area has limited affordable childcare options.
2/8/2024 16:49:24	Yes	
2/8/2024 16:54:38	Yes	
2/8/2024 16:55:28	No	
2/8/2024 16:58:02	Yes	Does this allow more flexibility during snow days?
2/8/2024 16:59:10	Yes	Kristen@nwacasa.org
2/8/2024 17:02:02	Yes	
2/8/2024 17:02:40	Yes	Shifting it that week also allows some flexibility of we have to make up snow days, meaning we could still finish before the end of May.
2/8/2024 17:03:08	No	
2/8/2024 17:03:17	No	
2/8/2024 17:03:27	No	
2/8/2024 17:04:18	Yes	
2/8/2024 17:06:29	No	
2/8/2024 17:07:00	Yes	
2/8/2024 17:09:49	Yes	
2/8/2024 17:09:58	Yes	
2/8/2024 17:13:34	Yes	Leannskelton@yahoo.com
2/8/2024 17:13:37	Yes	
2/8/2024 17:15:14	No	
2/8/2024 17:15:49	No	
2/8/2024 17:18:16	No	
2/8/2024 17:19:39	Yes	
2/8/2024 17:23:52	Yes	No
2/8/2024 17:25:24	No	

Timestamp	I would like the Elkins Sc Question(s) or comments:	Please provide your name and email address if you would like a response to your question(s).
2/8/2024 17:29:13	Yes	Casey Warford
2/8/2024 17:29:40	Yes	Amber Turnbough, no response needed
2/8/2024 17:40:24	Yes	
2/8/2024 17:43:04	No	Amber shepherd
2/8/2024 17:48:01	Yes	
2/8/2024 17:49:25	Yes	
2/8/2024 17:53:03	Yes	
2/8/2024 18:03:02	Yes	Jamie Burris jamielb1972@yahoo.com
2/8/2024 18:03:06	Yes	Kina.tankersley@gmail.com
2/8/2024 18:04:42	No	
2/8/2024 18:06:20	Yes	
2/8/2024 18:08:13	Yes	
2/8/2024 18:13:41	Yes	
2/8/2024 18:26:28	Yes	
2/8/2024 18:30:17	Yes	
2/8/2024 18:39:45	No	
2/8/2024 18:40:00	Yes	
2/8/2024 18:45:41	No	
2/8/2024 18:51:29	Yes	I think this is a great idea!
2/8/2024 18:51:46	No	
2/8/2024 18:52:15	Yes	
2/8/2024 18:57:21	Yes	
2/8/2024 19:00:46	Yes	
2/8/2024 19:01:50	Yes	
2/8/2024 19:05:29	No	How about adding 30 min to each day? It is easier for parents.
2/8/2024 19:12:18	Yes	Kelly Laird
2/8/2024 19:32:08	Yes	I believe this would most Michelle Kelsay amaigosmom1@hotmail.com
2/8/2024 19:49:34	Yes	
2/8/2024 19:51:14	Yes	
2/8/2024 19:59:39	Yes	
2/8/2024 20:07:19	No	
2/8/2024 20:13:38	Yes	
2/8/2024 20:19:24	Yes	
2/8/2024 20:22:29	Yes	ldavison909@gmail.com
2/8/2024 20:37:09	Yes	
2/8/2024 20:39:02	Yes	

Timestamp

I would like the Elkins Sc Question(s) or comment: Please provide your name and email address if you would like a response to your question(s).

The children need to enjoy their summers w/ family and friends. The school year is long enough as is. Starting any earlier shouldn't even be considered. Ridiculous! How bout' instead, making school weeks M-Thurs only?

2/8/2024 20:45:56 No

2/8/2024 20:46:48 No

2/8/2024 20:47:19 No

2/8/2024 20:54:53 Yes

2/8/2024 21:01:52 Yes

2/8/2024 21:02:42 No

2/8/2024 21:06:38 Yes

2/8/2024 21:10:42 No

2/8/2024 21:13:18 Yes

2/8/2024 21:22:15 No

2/8/2024 21:24:22 Yes

2/8/2024 21:26:52 No

2/8/2024 21:38:25 Yes

2/8/2024 21:47:15 Yes

2/8/2024 21:47:34 No

2/8/2024 21:57:33 Yes

2/8/2024 22:01:20 No

2/8/2024 23:23:55 Yes

2/8/2024 23:27:05 Yes

2/9/2024 3:13:46 Yes

2/9/2024 3:19:20 Yes

2/9/2024 5:51:30 Yes

2/9/2024 5:57:50 No

2/9/2024 6:07:04 Yes

2/9/2024 6:12:06 No

2/9/2024 6:39:33 Yes

2/9/2024 7:42:58 No

2/9/2024 7:51:18 No

2/9/2024 7:54:58 No

2/9/2024 8:02:58 Yes

2/9/2024 8:13:54 No

2/9/2024 8:19:02 No

2/9/2024 8:24:54 Yes

2/9/2024 8:39:39 Yes

Catina Pickle

My god. Let the kids enjoy their full summer.

Please let our students and children enjoy their summer. It is already being ran like a prison, give them a break for the love of god. For the love, add snow days!

This would affect parents that work in other school districts and their ability to find child care. I think this is a great idea Suann Downing s.downing23@yahoo.com

AMI days for inclement weather were nice so they're not going as long into the summer
I agree with completing requirements before Memorial Day.

I have seen recently that Kaylee Ryan kaylee.clouse@gmail.com
How will starting early and potential snow days impact end of year?
A four day school week would be nice :)

Will we have AMI days? Amanda Kimbel - amandakimbel@gmail.com

Timestamp	I would like the Elkins Sc Question(s) or comments	Please provide your name and email address if you would like a response to your question(s).
2/9/2024 9:11:06	No	
2/9/2024 9:46:07	No	
2/9/2024 10:10:46	Yes	
2/9/2024 11:16:16	Yes	
2/9/2024 12:33:31	Yes	
2/9/2024 12:34:37	No	
2/9/2024 14:12:00	Yes	NA
2/9/2024 15:21:46	No	
2/9/2024 15:21:53	No	
2/9/2024 17:40:44	Yes	
2/9/2024 18:16:51	No	
2/9/2024 21:24:57	Yes	Cyndiloumiller@gmail.com
2/10/2024 6:19:29	Yes	Would like to see AMI days for inclement weather.
2/10/2024 6:40:04	No	Leave it alone
2/10/2024 7:13:23	Yes	
2/10/2024 12:47:56	Yes	I would really like the sch Amber Fortin awinters08@yahoo.com
2/10/2024 15:15:21	Yes	
2/10/2024 18:07:14	Yes	
2/10/2024 22:56:26	Yes	
2/10/2024 23:00:36	No	
2/11/2024 10:05:23	Yes	Christy hunt huntfam2002@gmail.com
2/11/2024 15:52:02	Yes	
2/11/2024 16:06:10	Yes	
2/11/2024 16:32:52	Yes	
2/11/2024 20:04:24	Yes	
2/11/2024 21:21:21	Yes	
2/11/2024 21:33:33	Yes	
2/12/2024 4:13:24	Yes	
2/12/2024 4:28:23	No	
2/12/2024 4:58:11	Yes	
2/12/2024 5:35:59	Yes	
2/12/2024 5:40:42	Yes	
2/12/2024 5:47:14	No	
2/12/2024 5:54:59	Yes	Marvin Johnson. Mjohmarvin@me.com
2/12/2024 6:34:03	Yes	Elkins School District should do the 4 days in school. And 3 days out.
2/12/2024 6:50:31	Yes	
2/12/2024 6:58:31	No	
2/12/2024 6:58:42	Yes	
2/12/2024 7:03:39	Yes	
2/12/2024 7:55:25	Yes	Start earlier, build in snow days if no AMI.

Timestamp I would like the Elkins Sc Question(s) or comment: Please provide your name and email address if you would like a response to your question(s).

2/12/2024 8:19:41 Yes

2/12/2024 9:53:16 Yes

2/12/2024 10:21:00 No

2/12/2024 13:57:30 Yes

2/12/2024 18:13:18 Yes

2/12/2024 20:32:44 Yes

2/12/2024 21:40:51 Yes

2/12/2024 22:43:44 No

2/12/2024 23:14:14 No

2/13/2024 6:27:08 No

August 19th is a better st Annette Goll agoll@elkinsdistrict.org