

HALL HIGH SCHOOL CONVERSION CHARTER

Required Waivers & Rationales

Board Presentation | November 13, 2025

OVERVIEW

Hall High School requests permission to pursue the following waivers to implement a personalized, competency-based learning model. All waivers are standard for conversion charters implementing similar educational models. These waivers remove regulatory barriers to innovation while maintaining all state accountability requirements, assessments, and graduation standards.

CATEGORY 1: TEACHER LICENSURE & STAFFING FLEXIBILITY

Waivers Requested:

- Arkansas Code § 6-15-1004 – Qualified Teachers in Every Classroom
- Arkansas Code § 6-17-309 – Teacher Licensure Waivers
- Arkansas Code § 6-17-401 – Teacher Licensure Requirements
- Arkansas Code § 6-17-919 – Salaries - Warrants Void Without Valid License and Contract
- Standard 4-D.1 – Teacher Licensure (Standards for Accreditation)

Rationale:

Allows flexibility to employ content experts for specialized instruction, including CTE pathway instructors with industry credentials, internship coordinators with business/career expertise, college liaison roles requiring higher education experience, and project-based learning facilitators with specialized skills. All staff will complete background checks and meet appropriate qualifications. Teachers remain on the path to full licensure within three years per state law.

CATEGORY 2: SCHEDULING & INSTRUCTIONAL TIME

Waivers Requested:

- Arkansas Code § 6-16-102 – School Day/Instructional Time
- Standard 1-A.4 – Adopt School Calendar
- Standard 1-A.4.1 – Student-Teacher Interaction Days (178 days)
- Standard 1-A.4.2 – Instructional Day

Rationale:

Enables flexible scheduling to accommodate college class attendance (students taking courses at local colleges), internship participation during school hours, and competency-based progression rather than seat time requirements.

CATEGORY 3: CLASS SIZE & MULTI-COURSE INSTRUCTION

Waivers Requested:

- Arkansas Code § 6-17-812 – Teaching Load
- Standard 1-A.5 – Class Size
- DESE Rules Governing Class Size and Teaching Load

Rationale:

Supports personalized learning model where one teacher facilitates multiple courses simultaneously (e.g., Algebra I and Geometry students in the same classroom), students work at individual pace on Edgenuity platform, and the teacher provides targeted small-group instruction rather than whole-class lectures. Traditional class-size rules assume that all students receive the same lecture at the same time. Our model personalizes instruction while maintaining appropriate student-to-teacher ratios for support.

CATEGORY 4: PERSONNEL POLICIES

Waivers Requested:

- Arkansas Code § 6-17-203 – Licensed Personnel Policy Committee
- Arkansas Code § 6-17-902 – Teacher Definition

Rationale:

Accommodates redefined staff roles, including teachers as facilitators and success coaches rather than traditional instructors, non-traditional job descriptions (internship coordinators, college liaisons), and a collaborative staffing model with shared responsibilities. All employees retain appropriate due process protections under district policies.

WHAT REMAINS UNCHANGED

Hall High School will continue to comply with ALL non-waived state and federal requirements:

- Arkansas Academic Standards
- State assessment system (ATLAS, etc.)
- Graduation requirements (Smart Core)
- Special education services (IDEA)
- English Language Learner supports (ESOL)
- Background checks for all employees
- Health and safety codes
- Desegregation compliance
- Financial accountability and APSCN reporting