



Act 1240 Waiver Request

District:	Dover School District
LEA Number:	5802000
Superintendent:	Josh Daniels
Email:	josh.daniels@doverschools.net
Contact for Waiver:	Josh Daniels
Contact Email:	Josh.daniels@doverschools.net
Contact Phone:	479-331-2916
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 Calendar
Standards/Statutes/Rules:	Statutes: Ark. Code Ann. § 6-10-106
Duration Requested:	5 Years
Name of Open-Enrollment Charter Holding the Waiver	Arkansas Virtual Academy
Schools, Grades or Classes the Wavier Will Apply To	Dover Elementary School, K-4 Dover Middle School, 5-8 Dover High School, 9-12
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.**
 For our school district in the upcoming school year, 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, 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. 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 19th would allow the district to develop a calendar with more proportionate days between each semester.
 - 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.

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 19th 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. Allowing us to start the school year on August 14th would provide a similar start date as previous years that our community has become accustomed to.

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.
 - Attendance data
 - State assessment data

Dover School District

Resolution

In Support of a Waiver Request Affecting the Allowable First Day of School
A.C.A 6-10-106

WHEREAS Arkansas law, A.C.A 6-10-106, provides for the school year to begin no earlier than the Monday of the week containing August 19; and

WHEREAS under this law, A.C.A 6-10-106, the start of school varies from year to year, beginning some years as early as August 14, or as late as August 20; and

WHEREAS under this law, A.C.A 6-10-106, the earliest school can begin is August 19; and

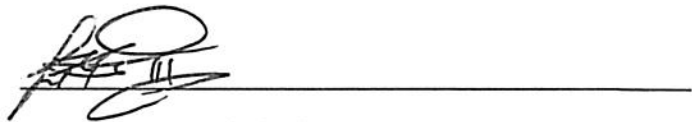
WHEREAS a late start to the school year creates unbalanced semesters, reduces the preparation time for state testing, and limits flexibility in scheduling inclement weather make-up days;

THEREFORE be it resolved that the Dover Board of Education endorses the Superintendent's waiver request affecting the allowable first day of school on August 14 and recommends its approval by the Arkansas State Board of Education.

Adopted this 25th day of January 2024



President, Board of Education



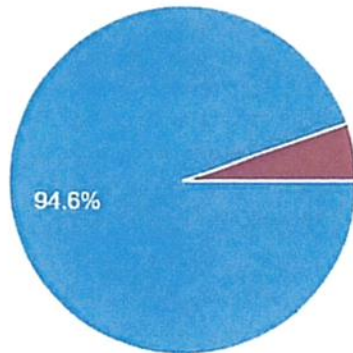
Secretary, Board of Education

24-25 School Calendar Staff Feedback

Dover

For the 24-25 school year, which date do you prefer for the first day of school?

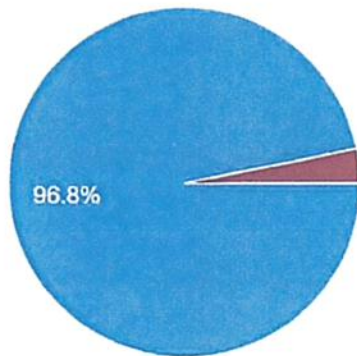
93 responses



- August 14th - will complete the school year BEFORE Memorial Day 2025, depending on snow make-up days if needed
- August 19th - will complete the school year AFTER Memorial Day 2025, plus any snow make-up days if needed

Would you be in favor of starting school on a Wednesday to ease students and staff back into the school routine?

93 responses



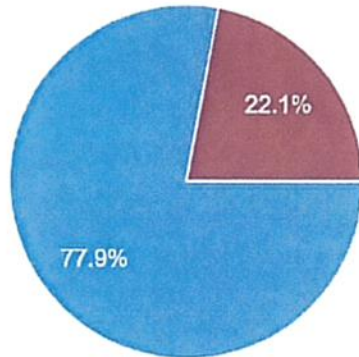
- Yes
- No

24-25 School Calendar Parent Feedback

Dover

For the 24-25 school year, which date do you prefer for the first day of school?

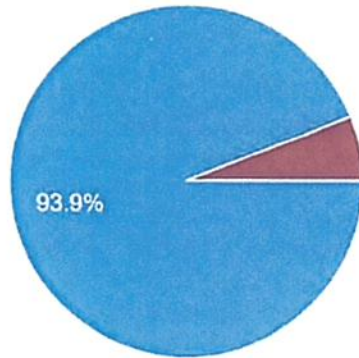
181 responses



- August 14th - will complete the school year BEFORE Memorial Day 2025, depending on snow make-up days if needed
- August 19th - will complete the school year AFTER Memorial Day 2025, plus any snow make-up days if needed

Would you be in favor of starting school on a Wednesday to ease students and staff back into the school routine?

181 responses



- Yes
- No