

Ryan Burgess  
Superintendent

# Earle School District

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October 11, 2023

Matthew Sutherlin, Ph. D.  
Coordinator for Standards and Support  
One Capital Mall  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
[matthew.sutherlin@ade.arkansas.gov](mailto:matthew.sutherlin@ade.arkansas.gov)

Dear Dr. Sutherlin:

Earle School District is seeking a waiver of Standard for Accreditation 4-F.1, which requires that "Each public school district shall employ library media specialists that meet the licensure requirements in accordance with the laws of the state of Arkansas and the rules of the Division or are working under a licensure exception in accordance with the laws of the State of Arkansas and the rules of the Division." The waiver being sought is under Ark. Code Ann. §6-25-103. There have been individuals providing services to students in each of the individual school libraries. The district is requesting this waiver for the 2023-24 school year only.

Although the District has increased its base salary, we still have a difficult time finding certified teachers to fill positions in our region. The waiver would allow Earle School District to operate one year without the required library media specialist. Students will have access to the library at the elementary through their general classroom teacher. The high school library is maintained by a paraprofessional allowing students to utilize the library as needed.

We realize the value of having highly qualified faculty in all required areas. Therefore, the district will continue to actively recruit individuals who are highly qualified and certified or individuals who have not only acquired Bachelor's degrees but also advanced degrees. Hiring these individuals as teachers would positively impact the culture and climate of the school.

Sincerely,

Ryan Burgess

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