



**DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY  
& SECONDARY EDUCATION**

## **Act 1240 District Waiver Request Extension**

<b>District:</b>	<b>Watson Chapel</b>
<b>LEA Number:</b>	3509000
<b>Superintendent:</b>	Jerry Guess
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:jguess@wcmail.k12.ar.us">jguess@wcmail.k12.ar.us</a>
<b>Contact for Waiver:</b>	Kerri Williams
<b>Contact Email:</b>	kwilliams@wcmail.k12.ar.us
<b>Contact Phone:</b>	870-879-0220
<b>Date Received by DESE:</b>	3/5/21

**The following documents must be submitted with the waiver request:**

- 1. School Board Resolution approving the waiver request**
- 2. Evidence of stakeholder involvement, including teachers and student families**

## Waiver Extension Request #1

<b>Topic:</b>	Teacher Licensure
<b>Standards/Statutes/Rules:</b>	A.C.A §§ 6-15-1004 A.C.A §§ 6-17-309 A.C.A §§ 6-17-401 A.C.A §§ 6-17-902 A.C.A §§ 6-17-919 A.C.A §§ 6-17-301 4-D.1 –Teacher Licensure DESE Rules Governing Educator Licensure - Section 7
<b>Duration Requested:</b>	Requested for a five year period, through the 2025-2026 school year.
<b>Name of Open-Enrollment Charter Holding the Waiver</b>	Lighthouse Charter, Friendship Aspire, Arkansas Virtual Academy, Arkansas Connections, Academics Plus
<b>Schools, Grades or Classes the Wavier Will Apply To</b>	Schools: All Grades: K-12 Classes: All Eligible

- 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.**

Watson Chapel School District is currently experiencing teacher shortage in English, math, Spanish, biology, history, and elementary grade levels. The district has a high turnover rate due to various factors impacting the district such as; location, current status, and declining enrollment. This waiver would allow the district to recruit and develop high performing instructional staff that would assist in creating students that are prepared for tomorrow’s opportunities in a globally competitive period. It is vital to the success of our students that they are instructed by qualified staff who are skilled and knowledgeable in specific content areas.

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

If the waiver is approved, it will allow the district to hire degreed individuals in the classroom in place of substitute teachers. It is vital to the success of our students that they are instructed by qualified staff who are skilled and knowledgeable in specific content areas. This would give the district an opportunity to hire recent graduates and assist in training them to become highly effective educators.

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

All employees hired on the waiver will be provided additional support to assist with licensure. Meetings will be held each semester by district level staff to monitor the progress of each individual and to gauge the support needed to assist in becoming licensed. The district will continue to work with building level administrators to monitor evaluations and progress in the classroom.

**4. Describe how the waiver has ensured success in the school or district over the past five years. Provide data or evidence to support your answer.**

Since implementing the ACT1240 Waiver in 2016-17 school year, we have been able to transition 5 paraprofessionals into teaching positions. The teachers are currently enrolled in programs to complete certification or working on passing the PRAXIS test. Since implementation of the waiver, we have not had to start the school year out with a substitute in a classroom or utilize long-term substitutes due to not having a qualified teacher.

**RESOLUTION  
TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
March 8, 2021**

**Resolution: ACT 1240 of 2015**

**(DESE) DISTRICT WAIVER**

**WHEREAS**, the Watson Chapel School District is currently experiencing a shortage of certified teachers in English, Math, Science, Social Studies, and nonacademic content areas to provide instruction for its students during the 2021-2022 school year; and

**WHEREAS**, the positions are currently being serviced by substitute teachers some of whom with college degrees and some with high school diplomas; and

**WHEREAS**, our goal is to place a certified teacher in every classroom to ensure our students are provided the best instruction possible to meet their academic needs; and

**WHEREAS**, the shortage of teachers in tested areas hinders our students from being well prepared to perform at a high level; and

**WHEREAS**, ACT 1240 of 2015 allows a Waiver for school districts to employ individuals with a four year degree in particular content areas to serve as a teacher; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the recommendation by the Superintendent of Schools that the board adopt this Resolution; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Superintendent is granted permission to submit the DISTRICT WAIVER FORM to Arkansas Department of Education Division of Elementary and Secondary Education for approval.

Motion made by: Donnie Hartsfield

Seconded by: Goldie Whitaker

That the foregoing resolution be adopted

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

3/8/2021