



DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY
& SECONDARY EDUCATION

Act 1240 District Waiver Request Extension

District:	Clarendon School District
LEA Number:	4802
Superintendent:	Lee Vent
Email:	ventl@lions.grsc.k12.ar.us
Contact for Waiver:	Dr. Ruby Ellis
Contact Email:	ellisr@lions.grsc.k12.ar.us
Contact Phone:	870-747-3351
Date Received by DESE:	6-18-2021

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



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Contact for Waiver:	Dr. Ruby Ellis
Contact Email:	ellisr@lions.grsc.k12.ar.us
Contact Phone:	870-747-3351
Date Received by DESE:	June 16, 2021

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:	Classroom Teacher Licensure
Standards/Statutes/Rules:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Ark Code Ann. 6-15-1004 Qualified Teachers in every Classroom * Ark. Code Ann. 6-17-309 Certification to teach grade of subject matter * Ark Code Ann 6-17-401 Teacher Licensure Requirement * Ark Code Ann. 6-17-902 Definition (definition of a teacher as licensed) *Ark Code Ann. 6-17-919 Warrants void without valid certification and contract <p>Ark Code Ann. 4-D-.1 of the ADE Rules Governing Standards of Accreditation, Licensure and Renewal. Section 7 of the ADE Rules Governing Educator Licensure.</p>
Duration Requested:	1 year
Name of Open-Enrollment Charter Holding the Waiver	Arkansas Virtual Academy
Schools, Grades or Classes the Wavier Will Apply To	Clarendon Elementary School/Clarendon High School

- 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.**

Clarendon School District would like to continue the above mentioned waivers for Clarendon School District due to a critical shortage in licensed teachers in the Delta. Clarendon School District needs these waivers due to limitations in finding licensed personnel that will relocate to our area and stay in our district. We are in a very rural area of the state. Our district enrollment has declined as has our population. Though we advertise our positions, often times we cannot secure licensed personnel. These waivers will allow the district to pay knowledgeable four year degreed instructors for our elementary classrooms. The educator will meet requirements such as completion of criminal background checks, Child Maltreatment registry, and required professional development hours. Our novice waiver teachers will attend novice teacher training at Great Rivers Educational Cooperative. Our novice waiver teachers will also be required to register for a state recommended teacher licensure program.

At Clarendon School District we plan to follow state department guidelines to hire college graduates that have 18 hours in a specified area to teach at our campuses in the specified area. An example is a college graduate with 18 hours in math would teach math in the classroom setting. This year we were able to hire two licensed teachers for the elementary setting. We still need two more elementary teachers at this time. Our district has a major problem getting certified and licensed teachers

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

We have found, when surveying our students and parents, that students much prefer live rather than virtual teachers. Without this waiver, we are hard pressed to find teachers to put in classrooms. Additionally, most of our students are minorities. We have, in the past, been able to employ college-degreed minority teachers to work in these waiver positions. We believe it is beneficial for students to see people of color in leadership positions and often bond well with them. Students will be able to learn from live, engaging individuals who look like they do.

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

At Clarendon School District we have monitored the waivers. We have required our teachers to get in a teacher licensure program as soon as possible after being hired. They are required to take the PRAXIS exams for the licensure area they are working towards. Seven of our district teachers are in the APPEL licensure process at this time through Great Rivers Educational Cooperative. All of these teachers are licensed under the licensure process and only one of the teachers did not pass the PRAXIS. She will

Act 1240 Meeting

Waivers CES has had in the past due to Act 1240

- Teacher Licensure
 - ACA 6-17-902
 - ACA 6-17-919
 - DESE Rule Educator Licensure - Section 7 only
 - Standard 4-D.1
 - ACA 6-17-401
 - ACA 6-15-1004
 - ACA 6-17-309

Of the waiver teachers we employed in the past, only one has not achieved teacher certification

Benefits of waiver teachers

- Addresses the teacher shortage
- We need teachers in high needs content areas
- We are located in a high needs location

We are currently trying to fill multiple elementary school teaching positions and one high school teaching position.

We need to apply for the teacher licensure waiver in order to have live teachers in classrooms in the fall of 2021.

Clarendon School District would like to extend the Teacher Licensure waivers for 5 school years. The waiver request was presented on June 15, 2021 at the 5:30 board meeting. The board members voted to continue to utilize ACT 1240 that allows college educated individuals to pursue a teacher's license through an alternative licensure plan to become teachers in our district.

School Board Members present:

Sashanna Tyler - School Board President
Wahki Skinner - Board member
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Arlene Curthoys - Board Secretary

Act 1240 Meeting

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Clarendon School District

Waiver Request

Shareholders Meeting

June 15, 2021

Sign In Sheet

[Handwritten signature]

Quincy Ellis

Stacey C. Pearson

Bobbie Bemer

Cameron Widen

Ruth A. Bero

Kaylynn Mason

Ti Mason

Dana Marie Woodell

Antonina Laskus

Lari Brune

Linda Skipper

Phillip W. Skipper

Debra Lence