



**DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY
& SECONDARY EDUCATION**

Act 1240 District Waiver Request

District:	Western Yell County
LEA Number:	7509000
Superintendent:	Deanna Klaus
Email:	klausd@wycschools.com
Contact for Waiver:	Deanna Klaus
Contact Email:	klausd@wycschools.com
Contact Phone:	870-404-5620
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:	Teacher Licensure
Standards/Statutes/Rules:	DESE Rules Governing Nutrition and Physical Activity 7.09.1 & 7.09.2 as well as, state code 6-15-1004, 6-17-301, 6-17-401,6-17-309, 6-17-902, and 6-17-901, Standard 4-D.1
Duration Requested:	3 years
Name of Open-Enrollment Charter Holding the Waiver	Arkansas Virtual Academy
Schools, Grades or Classes the Wavier Will Apply To	K-6 Physical Education

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.

The Western Yell County School District has been on the state's consolidation list for the last 3 years. As the new superintendent, I am working to restore the academic success of the school. Over the past few years, our district has absorbed several positions and this reduction in personnel has made it extremely difficult to provide the quality of education that our children deserve. I am working to add back several licensed positions for the academic success of the district. In doing so, we are also working on scheduling our core classes for student success. Currently, our physical education is being taught by our high school football coach. Since his athletic periods are in the afternoon, he has been teaching physical education in the morning at our elementary. The morning is prime learning time for students and we would much rather have core classes taught at this time and teach physical education in the afternoon. Also, this coach/teacher has just been hired at another district and has resigned his position. Due to our low numbers, we do not plan to continue with the football program. It would be financially beneficial for us to hire a classified position rather than hire a licensed teacher back, under these circumstances. An added complication is that the elementary and high school campuses are 5 miles apart. This makes sharing a physical education teacher extremely difficult.

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

A trained paraprofessional will work under the supervision of a licensed physical education teacher within the district and provide the required 40 minutes per week of physical education for our students. They will serve the students by ensuring the health and safety of the students while following the Arkansas K-8 Physical Education Standards. We will be able to schedule physical education in the afternoon, enabling the students to attend core classes in the morning when they are able to maximize their learning. The district will be able to use its financial resources to better serve students' needs rather than hiring additional licensed staff at this time. The para will receive any necessary and appropriate training to help them deliver quality instruction to our students. If necessary and applicable, we would have the para work on completing the coaching endorsement.

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

We will ensure that the paraprofessional responsible for teaching physical education will receive training through Arkansas Ideas, our local educational cooperative, or other suitable organizations. The training will focus on subjects relevant to the teaching assignment, PE topics, basic first aid/CPR, heat illness, cardiac arrest, concussion training, aligning instruction/assessment, classroom management, etc. The para will be supervised by a teacher licensed in PE as well as the elementary principal. The principal will monitor to ensure that the students are receiving quality instruction during the PE time. Our para responsible for teaching PE would receive any necessary training to deliver quality instruction to our students. We had not planned on the para working on the coaching endorsement, as he/she will not be coaching any teams. However, if this is a necessary requirement, we can certainly do this.