

Staff Development

This waiver allows the district and charter schools to train staff on various educational strategies designed to improve student performance in lieu of student instruction during the school year. The waiver provides for a maximum of 2,100 total waiver minutes to use for professional development for districts and charter schools that provide operational and instructional minutes.

As noted in the 2024-2025 Student Attendance Accounting Handbook (SAAH), **effective with the 2025–2026 school year**, districts and open-enrollment charter schools that are four-day-school-week LEAs are not eligible to receive a staff development waiver.

Each district and open-enrollment charter school may choose how to apply their approved *Staff Development Minutes Waiver*. For instance, schools may choose to offer early release, late start, all day staff development, or a combination. However, the total waiver minutes for staff development shall not exceed 2,100 minutes per year.

This waiver is for staff development in place of student instruction; therefore, the waiver minutes are only applicable to staff development provided instead of student instruction during the school year. Effective with the 2018-2019 school year, the *Staff Development Minutes Waiver* may not be used prior to the first day of student instruction or after the last day of student instruction.

On staff development days when students are in attendance part of the day, in order to receive full ADA funding, the district or open-enrollment charter school must provide at least 120 minutes of student instruction. *Instructional* minutes are defined in the SAAH as the portion of the school day in which instruction takes place along with other exceptions. In addition to the 120 minutes of student instruction, any staff development waiver minutes reported must reflect actual staff development minutes provided.

Districts and charter schools should continually seek to provide high-quality staff development that will impact student outcomes.