# Public School Waiver Request

| District: | Heber Springs |
|---|---|
| LEA # | 1202 |
| Superintendent: | Scott Jennings |
| Email: | scott.jennings@heberschools.org |
| Contact for Waiver: | Shannon Martin |
| Contact Email: | shannon.martin@heberschools.org |
| Contact Phone: | 501-362-3141 |
| 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: | Requirement for a Library/Media Specialist to be certified teacher |
|---|---|
| Standards/Statutes/Rules: | Arkansas Code Ann. § 6-25-104 |
| Duration Requested: | 5 years |
| Name of Open-Enrollment Charter Holding the Waiver | Arkansas Connections Academy |
| Schools, Grades or Classes the Wavier Will Apply To | 9-12 |
| PURPOSE OF THE WAIVER (Must check at least one) | ☐ Enhance Student Learning Opportunities<br><br>☒ Promote Innovation<br><br>☐ Increase Equitable Access to Effective Teachers |

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.**

   Allowing us to employ a non-certified person to fill this position will create a way to continue to offer the services provided by a library/media specialist by having the non-certified person take care of all administration and organizational activities and to work under the guidance of our veteran ELA staff to assist in research and access/use of technology and media services.

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

   All services and standards falling under the Library/Media position will still be provided and taught with fidelity. The non-certified staff member will be responsible for the administrative and organizational tasks and the certified ELA teachers will provide the support for research and evaluating sources traditionally taught by a library/media specialist.

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

   The building principal will continue to monitor and evaluate the services and responsibilities of the non-certified staff member hired under this waiver to ensure that students are not missing out on any opportunity to receive services through the library or media center.

# Waiver Request #2

| Topic: | Requirement for a Library/Media Specialist to be a certified teacher |
|---|---|
| **Standards/Statutes/Rules:** | Arkansas Standard 4-F.1. |
| **Duration Requested:** | 5 years |
| **Name of Open-Enrollment Charter Holding the Waiver** | Arkansas Connections Academy |
| **Schools, Grades or Classes the Wavier Will Apply To** | 9-12 |
| **PURPOSE OF THE WAIVER (Must check at least one)** | ☐ Enhance Student Learning Opportunities<br><br>☒ Promote Innovation<br><br>☐ Increase Equitable Access to Effective Teachers |

**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.**

Allowing us to employ a non-certified person to fill this position will create a way to continue to offer the services provided by a library/media specialist by having the non-certified person take care of all administration and organizational activities and to work under the guidance of our veteran ELA staff to assist in research and access/use of technology and media services.

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

All services and standards falling under the Library/Media position will still be provided and taught with fidelity. The non-certified staff member will be responsible for the administrative and organizational tasks and the certified ELA teachers will provide the support for research and evaluating sources traditionally taught by a library/media specialist.

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

The building principal will continue to monitor and evaluate the services and responsibilities of the non-certified staff member hired under this waiver to ensure that students are not missing out on any opportunity to receive services through the library or media center.

Stakeholders Meeting - 2/7/25
Library-Media Specialist Waiver Request 2025-2026 School Year

The Heber Springs School District will be requesting a waiver for the Library Media Specialist position at the high school for the 2025-2026 school year.

Stakeholders met to discuss how students will be served and the pros and cons of not having a certified person in this position.

Shannon Martin, Principal

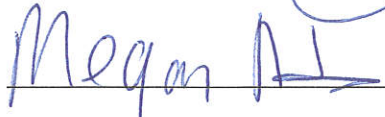| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Parent | Tegan Smith | 2.7.25 |
| Parent | Andrea Riggs | 2-7-25 |
| Teacher | *(signature)* | 2-7-25 |
| Teacher | *(signature)* | 2/7/25 |
| Student | L Pete | 2-7-25 |
| Student | Charles Allen | 2-7-25 |

Heber Springs School District

Board Resolution: Library/Media Specialist

We are requesting a waiver through the Arkansas Department of Education for the Standard 4-F.1 that requires us to employ a certified Library/Media Specialist as well as a waiver for Arkansas Code Ann. § 6-25-104 requiring the same.

We have advertised the position and have gotten no qualified applicants. Our plan is to hire a paraprofessional to conduct the organizational and administrative duties required and to work with the ELA teachers to assist and support in research and media use.

We are requesting the waiver for 5 years.

The officers of this district are authorized to perform the acts to carry out this resolution:

| Director Signature | Printed Name | Date |
|---|---|---|
| _(signature)_ | Zeke Wilson | 2/20/25 |
| _(signature)_ | Ryan Buffalo | 2/20/25 |
| _(signature)_ Megan A. | Megan Adams | 2/20/25 |
| absent – voted by phone | Michael Jett | 2/20/25 |
| absent | Jason Jones | |