

**Osceola School District
2019 Renewal Application**

Expiring Waivers

All waivers, other than those listed below, are fine and there are no legal comments.

Teacher Licensure

Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-309

Legal Comments: Applicant needs additional waivers (Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-15-1004, 6-17-401, 6-17-902, 6-17-908, 6-17-919) Does the Applicant have licensed teachers teaching outside of their licensure area? If yes, it needs a waiver of the ADE Rules Governing Educator Licensure, Section 7 is needed. If no, no waiver of these Rules is needed.

Applicant Response:

Osceola STEM Academy will continue to strive to hire the most qualified teachers. We request a waiver in order to hire and/or utilize qualified teachers regardless of licensure status. These teachers may include teachers with extensive education in content matter or grade level experience. For example, we utilized a K-6 ELA teacher in a 7th grade ELA course based on our current need for their experience in teaching and content. This waiver allows us to make the best teacher placement teachers for our students.

Legal Comments: Applicant's rationale was not responsive to the Legal questions. Applicant needs additional waivers (Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-15-1004, 6-17-401, 6-17-902, 6-17-908, 6-17-919) Does the Applicant have licensed teachers teaching outside of their licensure area? If yes, it needs a waiver of the ADE Rules Governing Educator Licensure, Section 7 is needed. If no, no waiver of these Rules is needed.

Library Media

2-D.1, Standards

Legal Comments: What is the rationale behind this waiver request?

Applicant Response:

The role of library media center takes on a more integral role as part of the core curriculum and within our Discovery Zone class. Due to the limited number of certified library media applicants, Osceola STEM Academy has developed a unique and alternative option for addressing the required standards. The collaborative environment of the Discovery Zone/Library area serves as a learning center for our students. The focus of this area is to reinforce STEM related hands-on activities while reinforcing literacy skills. In addition, the library setting is integrated in Social Studies instruction once a week. The library media

standard are integrated and noted on weekly social studies lesson plan. All Social Studies classes visit the library once a week to choose a title for checkout. This unique scenario provides multiple opportunities for students to access texts. As digital literacy is becoming an area of concentration for our students, we rely less on paper-based materials for research. Osceola STEM Academy maintains a 1:1 student to computer ration which promotes and allows for access to traditional library research materials. In contract, our library collection serves as a hub for fiction with thousands of title available to students. Students have access to computers in the library to all for participation in Accelerated Reading. Due to our unique collaboration of Discovery Zone learning coupled with integration of library skills throughout our core curriculum, Osceola STEM Academy is asking for a waiver for required library media services.

Legal Comments: Based on the rationale provided, no waiver is necessary. Applicant has waivers for library media licensure and student ratio. No rationale has been provided for a waiver of Standard 2-D.1.

Gifted & Talented

2-G.1, Standards

Legal Comments: What is the rationale behind this waiver request? Applicant may need a waiver of the ADE Rules Governing Gifted and Talented Program Approval Standards. Applicant may also need a waiver of 6-42-109.

Applicant Response:

All Osceola STEM Academy teachers are trained in differentiation. Currently, Pre-AP is provided in 5th-8th grade Math and ELA. The Discovery Zone and Gateway to Technology is utilized for enrichment opportunities for all students. In addition, Osceola STEM Academy students participate in Odyssey of the Mind. Therefore, Osceola STEM Academy, is asking for a waiver from required Gifted and Talented.

Legal Comments: The requested Standard waiver only requires the district to provide gifted and talented services in accordance with the laws of the State of Arkansas and DESE Rules. Applicant has not requested waivers of the ADE Rules Governing Gifted and Talented Program Approval Standards, or any Arkansas law related to gifted and talented.

Desegregation Analysis: Fully responsive.