



Act 1240 Digital Learning Waiver Request

Status: **Submitted to ADE DESE**

 Eureka Springs School District (0802000)

School Year 2021-2022

Applications will be reviewed in the order received. Incomplete applications will be returned to the district.
A notification letter will be sent to the superintendent at the email address listed above upon approval by the Arkansas State Board of Education.
NOTE: The approved application must then be posted on the district website - State Required Information.

District:
LEA #: 0802000
Superintendent: Bryan Pruitt
Email: bryan.pruitt@es.k12.ar.us
Phone: (479) 253-5999
Duration Requested (not to exceed five years): 5 Years
(School year 2022-2023 to 2027-2028)

The proposed waiver(s) will apply to the following schools:

LEA(s)	Grades/Courses	Interaction	Delivery	Platforms
0802006 - Eureka Springs Elem. School	K-12	Asynchronous	Virtual (Online) / Remote (Distance)	LMS
0802007 - Eureka Springs High School		Synchronous		CMS
0802008 - Eureka Springs Middle School				



Waivers

Waiver Topic	Standard for Accreditation	Division Rules	Arkansas Statutes	Indicate if the district is applying for the waiver and explain how the district waiver will be utilized.
Attendance			6-18-213(a)(2)	<p>Waiver</p> <p>Eureka Springs School District virtual learners will not be present on campus. Therefore, alternate means will need to be used to measure attendance. Attendance for students in grades K-12 will be taken based on completion of daily assignments in the learning management platform. Virtual student attendance will be monitored by each building's virtual facilitator. The facilitator for each building will access reports provided by Edgenuity/Virtual Arkansas to enter attendance in eSchool.</p> <p>District attendance policies will apply to virtual students. Chronic absenteeism may result in a recommendation to return to onsite instruction or a referral to the juvenile court.</p>



Waiver Topic	Standard for Accreditation	Division Rules	Arkansas Statutes	Indicate if the district is applying for the waiver and explain how the district waiver will be utilized.
Class Size Number of students:	1-A.5	DESE Rules Governing Class Size and Teaching Load	6-17-812(a)(2)	No Waiver Requested Eureka Springs School District is not requesting additional waivers for class size. Class sizes for ESSD will not exceed the allowed class size.
Teaching Load Number of students: Teacher of Record provides virtual instruction to only students who are remote. Please note that 100% virtual (online) or remote (distance) classes are considered large group instruction courses as per DESE Rules for Distance and Digital Learning and teaching load would not apply as per DESE Rules Governing Class Size and Teaching Load.	1-A.5	DESE Rules Governing Class Size and Teaching Load	6-17-812	No Waiver Requested Eureka Springs School District is not requesting a waiver for teaching load. Virtual teachers provide virtual instruction to only students who are remote.
Six Hour Instructional Day (Waiver applies to virtual/remote students only)	1-A.4.2		6-16-102; 6-16-126	



Waiver Topic	Standard for Accreditation	Division Rules	Arkansas Statutes	Indicate if the district is applying for the waiver and explain how the district waiver will be utilized.
				<p>Waiver</p> <p>Virtual learners in the Eureka Springs School District will learn through a combination of asynchronous and synchronous learning. The learning will be self-paced and flexible in nature based on their individual learning plan. Students will be required to complete coursework to master the standards of each course.</p> <p>Synchronous learning will be scheduled for Science of Reading instructions and for some electives.</p> <p>We are requesting the six-hour instructional day waiver. The daily assignments will include six hours of learning; however, it may not take students the entire allotted time to successfully engage with the learning.</p>



Waiver Topic	Standard for Accreditation	Division Rules	Arkansas Statutes	Indicate if the district is applying for the waiver and explain how the district waiver will be utilized.
Clock Hours	1-A.2			Waiver Clock hours needed to complete a course for virtual learners may vary due to the flexible nature of virtual learning. Some learners may complete the coursework in less than the required seat time, while others may need more than the required time to master the standards.
Recess (Waiver applies to virtual/remote students only)	1-A.4.3	DESE Rules Governing Nutrition and Physical Activity Standards and Body Mass Index, Section 7.11	6-6- 102(a)(5)	



Waiver Topic	Standard for Accreditation	Division Rules	Arkansas Statutes	Indicate if the district is applying for the waiver and explain how the district waiver will be utilized.
				<p>Waiver</p> <p>Virtual learners will have flexibility in the structure of their day. Therefore, they will be able to move around, engage in physical activity, and have time for play as they need. The waiver is requested because ESSD staff cannot provide synchronous monitoring of the physical activity requirement.</p> <p>The district virtual facilitators will share suggestions for brain breaks and movement for virtual learners. These suggestions will be emailed to parents and to students and will also be shared on the district social media accounts.</p>

Digital Model

Please complete the following application with responses describing the school and district digital programming.

Interaction / Delivery



What are the ways teachers and students will interact with digital content (Synchronous or Asynchronous)? Please describe instructional expectations and participation for students.

Eureka Springs School District virtual learners will receive content through primarily asynchronous format provided by Edgenuity. The majority of learning activities will allow students to have control over the time and place their learning takes place, while other learning activities may require scheduled synchronous learning.

Students in Grades K-12 will learn primarily in an asynchronous format. Videos, activities and assignments will be provided by Edgenuity and may be completed at students' own pace and time but are expected to be completed and submitted daily or as deadlines state. Some 9-12 courses will be provided by Virtual Arkansas and may be presented either synchronously or asynchronously depending on the nature of the course.

Parent/student contracts with learning expectations will be a part of the application process. A copy of this contract is provided here:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1NiIYtau9JKY_vleK63x58u9_hlExm0dz/edit?usp=sharing&oid=104287370880747749570&rtpof=true&sd=true

What delivery approach will the school or district utilize to meet the needs of both teachers and students (i.e., virtual (online) / remote (distance) or blended (hybrid)? Please explain.



K-12 - Eureka Springs School District will offer a virtual/remote delivery approach. The district is partnering with Edgenuity and Virtual Arkansas to provide digital instruction through their online platforms. Each student will have an individualized learning plan in Edgenuity. Edgenuity and Virtual Arkansas will provide the virtual staff which shall be certified teachers. The district will identify a staff member in each building to serve as a virtual facilitator who will serve as a liaison for virtual families, Edgenuity, and Virtual Arkansas.

K-5 students will be enrolled in math, ELA, Science, Social Studies, and two electives. The ELA curriculum follows the Science of Reading components , including phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, comprehension, and writing. The curriculum will include instructional videos, assessments and intervention programs. Tutors and interventionists will be available to help with more intensive remediation as needed through the Edgenuity platform. Tech support is provided to help parents and students.

Some students may utilize the blended model. Certain courses for students in grades 9-12 may require student attendance on campus such as Advanced Placement, band, choir, Career and Technical courses, and athletics. Students participating in these courses should plan to be on campus for learning activities that cannot be presented virtually.

Will teachers be dedicated to primarily remote instruction or serving in a dual role, teaching both remote and in-person learners?
Â *If teachers will serve in a dual role, describe whether it will be simultaneously, meaning remote and in-person at the same time with course/schedule specific considerations.

Students enrolled in the virtual program will be served by dedicated, certified teachers provided by Edgenuity/Virtual Arkansas. This allows district teachers the time to focus on in-person learning.



Describe the expectation for teacher instruction, interaction, and frequency with virtual students.

K-12- Daily instruction will be provided primarily through the Edgenuity/Virtual Arkansas curriculum which will be delivered by Edgenuity/Virtual Arkansas certified teachers. Clear expectations for completion of learning activities and due dates will be part of the virtual learning contract and will be monitored by Edgenuity and district staff. Edgenuity concept coaches will provide real-time, on-demand tutoring in core courses. Edgenuity also offers 24-hour communication through their Genius Learning Management System. District facilitators are expected to monitor students and provide reports to parents/guardians and to district administration. For K-5 students, a dedicated home learning coach will be required. The home learning coach must be an adult who will facilitate remote learning.

If utilizing district waivers for **class size**, what supports will the district put in place to support the teacher and students? How will the district monitor and determine if the supports are adequate for teachers who exceed class size in digital learning settings?

N/A

If utilizing district waivers for **teaching load**, what supports will the district put in place to support the teacher and students? How will the district monitor and determine if the supports are adequate for teachers who exceed teaching loads in digital learning settings?

N/A

Technology / Platforms

Identify the learning management system/content management system that schools and districts will use? (Canvas, Buzz, Google Classroom, etc.)

The Learning Management System to be used by students in K-12 will be the Edgenuity-Genius Learning Management System. This platform will connect students with their learning activities, teachers, and additional resources. Home learning coaches for K-5 students will attend training provided by Edgenuity to ensure understanding of the LMS. Students in grades 6-12 will also receive this training. In grades 9-12, some courses will utilize the Virtual Arkansas platform which uses Blackboard and MOODLE as their LMS.



Describe the digital content that will be available to students, including any digital curriculum and supports that are available to teachers. If the district is using a content management system (CMS), please specify grades levels and subjects that the CMS will address.

Digital content for virtual students in grades K-12 will be provided by Edgenuity for all core classes. This provider is listed as a DESE approved digital provider.

K-5 - Students will be enrolled in math, ELA, social studies, and science. ELA includes Science of Reading components. Additionally, students will be enrolled in two elective courses per semester such as art, music, and PE.

6-12 - Students' curriculum will include all state required courses per grade level. As well as, appropriate electives provided by Edgenuity. Students in grades 9-12 may enroll in some Virtual Arkansas courses or on campus courses.

What video communication software is required for any remote student? Please describe the video communication software the teacher will use to facilitate live conferences between two or more participants.

Edgenuity uses Zoom as their video communication software to communicate with students and parents as needed. The district provides devices to students that allow for audio and video communication through these platforms.

Zoom and/or Google Meet will be utilized for synchronous contact with students by ESSD staff. Staff members have been issued devices with the necessary equipment to complete video communication.

Describe the technology access (device and connectivity) that will be provided to each digital learning student to ensure each student receives a free public education.

Each student in grade K-12 will be provided with a Chromebook and charger. Hot spots will be available for students who lack internet access at home. Additionally, District WiFi is accessible in any school parking lot. Numerous free WiFi access points will be placed within the community for individuals who are unable to connect with a hot spot due to remote location. Families can contact their school administrator to inquire about checking out a hot spot for student use. The Edgenuity technology support team will be available during school hours to offer technical support. The district will also offer tech support as needed from 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Student Supports



Describe the manner and frequency the district or school will use to monitor the wellness and safety (food security, physical, mental health, etc.) of students in a total remote setting. (This may be in-person, video communication, etc.). Identify supports available to assist students within the district.

District counselors will schedule monthly phone calls or Zoom meetings to monitor the well being of virtual learners. The counselors for each building will be available to support the needs of all students. The district also partners with Burrell Behavioral and Chenal to meet the social/emotional needs of all students including virtual students. Google Meet or Zoom meetings will be scheduled when in person counseling is not possible.

Daily meals are available to virtual students at no cost. The district child nutrition department works directly with families to manage needs and schedule pick up times.

Describe the manner and frequency the district or school will use to monitor the academic and student engagement in a virtual setting. Describe the additional supports available for students struggling with engagement.

Teachers through Edgenuity/Virtual Arkansas provide multiple layers of support for effective online learning. Supports include special education coordination, state certified virtual teachers, concept coaches (on-demand tutoring), and a success coach. These staff members will partner with a district virtual facilitator(s) and administration to ensure academic success in the virtual setting.

If a learner is struggling with engagement, parents/guardians and home learning coaches will be notified by the building facilitator or administrator. Individualized success plans will be created to improve engagement. The virtual facilitator and administrators will monitor student progress and may remove a student from virtual learning if the student is not successful.

Describe the Academic Response to Intervention plan for remote (virtual) students, including additional supports and personnel.

K-12 - All tiers of instruction will be provided by the teacher of record by Edgenuity/Virtual Arkansas. Edgenuity/Virtual Arkansas will communicate with district staff to ensure all tiers of intervention are provided. Students in need of additional support such as 504, Special Ed, and ELL students will have individualized plans in Edgenuity which will be coordinated with district personnel. Edgenuity concept coaches provide real-time, on-demand tutoring to assist with tiered support. The RTI team will assess virtual learners and make recommendations of needed support and interventions.



Describe the district or school's formative assessment plan to support student learning.

Formative assessments are integrated throughout the Edgenuity curriculum. Student progress is communicated to parents and district personnel. Learning targets are identified by grade-level. The formative assessment results are used to determine additional supports and instruction as needed.

Virtual students will be expected to complete the following assessments as required by the district: ACT Aspire Interims, ACT Aspire, the Arkansas Rapid Automatized Naming Screener, NWEA Map, Phonological Awareness Skills Test (PAST), Independent Reading Leveling Assessment (IRLA), ACT, ASVAB, and DIBELS.

Describe how dyslexia screening and services will be provided to digital learning students.

Students will be required to complete screeners and reading assessments. Students exhibiting reading difficulties will be referred to the RTI team for additional services. Dyslexia referrals are based on universal screeners and students are assessed by the dyslexia coordinator to receive services through our dyslexia program. The district has just hired an additional paraprofessional to work directly with these students under the guidance of the dyslexia coordinator and literacy interventionists. Eureka Springs School District will ensure that all virtual students have any needed materials and resources for interventions. At the high school level, students are screened in the same manner and instructed through a Critical Reading/Literacy Class. These interventions may be provided on-site or virtually through Google Meet/Zoom. All requirements of the dyslexia law will be met for virtual learners

Eureka Springs School District will adhere to the Arkansas Department of Education Rules governing how to meet the needs of children with dyslexia per ADE guidelines found here: https://adecm.ade.arkansas.gov/Attachments/COM-18-108--Final_CLEAN--_Dyslexia.pdf

Supports will also be provided by the digital content providers. Edgenuity and Virtual Arkansas provide accessibility tools to support students with dyslexia.



Describe how Gifted and Talented supports and services will be provided to digital learning students.

Identified Gifted and Talented students will receive virtual instruction from the Eureka Springs School District Gifted and Talented teacher. This will be provided through Zoom or Google Meet or alternative learning activities. G/T placement tests will be given to all referred students, and 2nd grade students will be screened annually. These tests and screeners will be delivered virtually or on-site to our virtual learners. All requirements of the GT Program Approval Standards will be met for the gifted program for remote learners.

Describe how English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL / ESL) supports and services will be provided to digital learning students.

Screening will occur for virtual students who enroll in the district based on their home language surveys. Identified ELL students will receive intervention based on their individual plans. The district ELL coordinator will work with Edgenuity/Virtual Arkansas to ensure individual LPAC plans are being met. All requirements of the LPAC plan will be met for virtual students.

Describe how all Special Education services and supports will be provided to digital learning students, including the process for special education evaluations and conferences.

For Special Education virtual students, services will follow the students' IEP plans and will be provided by district special education staff and Edgenuity/Virtual Arkansas teachers. District teachers will modify assignments as appropriate and provide instructional services through Google Meet/Zoom meetings. Evaluations and conferences will be scheduled both onsite and virtually.

Students who are struggling will be progress monitored by the RTI team and may be referred for special education testing if needed. Testing will occur on-site.

Speech services will be conducted via video communication. OT/PT services will be provided on-site.

Describe common and frequently used digital accommodations that the district or school has provided to general education teachers to assist students in digital learning classes.

Although Edgenuity/Virtual Arkansas will be the primary providers, all district teachers have received professional development and have access to necessary technology, including laptops and projectors. Swivl video recorders will also be available in each building for teachers to record lessons.

District teachers have been trained to utilize text read alouds, audible books, and instructional videos. Additional resources teachers use include Google Slides, Flip Grid, Screencastify, Kami, and Arkansas Digital Sandbox. Tech support is provided to assist teachers, students and parents with implementing and troubleshooting.



Teacher Supports

Describe district and school supports to provide on-going digital content and instructional supports for teachers.

District staff, such as counselors, special education teachers, and elective teachers, who may provide some digital content, have participated in the selection of digital resources and curriculum. Professional development in virtual instruction and virtual curriculum programs are provided to support these teachers. Our curriculum providers work closely with district personnel to ensure we have the latest updates and options to continually improve teaching and learning.

The district will be purchasing curriculum and instructional support through Edgenuity and Virtual Arkansas to decrease the time demands on ESSD staff.

Identify the daily or weekly amount of time teachers will need to develop and plan for instruction based on options selected and digital supports provided. How will the district support teachers with digital content and planning?

Edgenuity/Virtual Arkansas platform will be used to minimize teacher time and planning required for virtual learning. The use of Edgenuity/Virtual Arkansas certified teachers will alleviate the need for district teachers to plan and provide digital lessons. This will allow district teachers to focus on on-site learners.

District Supports

Describe how the district will ensure equitable access to opportunities for success for digital learner's needs (poverty, homelessness, migrant, foster care, and military connected students) A link (URL) to the district equity plan may be acceptable if it meets this criteria.

Eureka Springs School District provides school supplies and Chromebooks for all students. Hotspots will be available to virtual students as needed. Breakfast and lunch will be available for pickup free of charge.

Students will be welcome on campus at any time to meet with nurses, counselors, and other applicable staff. Our Homeless Liaison and English as a Second Language Coordinators will also closely monitor the needs of these students for equitable services.

It is the policy of the Eureka Springs School District to ensure equitable access to opportunities for all students without regard to race, religion, national origin, sex, age or disability. ESSD affords the same services and educational opportunities to foster, migrant, military, and/or students in poverty that are afforded other children whether digital learners or on-site.



All students are expected to test (statewide summative assessments) onsite as per DESE guidance. Provide an overview of how the district may communicate to parents and test digital learning students at a district site.

Virtual students will be scheduled to come onsite for state mandated testing. Parents will be contacted directly by the building test coordinators and schedules modified to meet students' specific needs, as appropriate and as allowed by DESE. Failure to participate in required on campus summative testing could lead to students being required to resume on campus learning.

Provide a detailed explanation of how the district will monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the digital option(s) and the fidelity of implementation as described within this application.

Student success criteria for virtual option is the same as the criteria for onsite learners: completion of assignments, attendance (both asynchronous and synchronous) and assessment for mastery of learning standards. The building level RTI teams will coordinate with Edgenuity/Virtual Arkansas to assess causes for student lack of mastery and to modify individual student plans. Effectiveness of virtual programs will be continually monitored by district facilitators, administrators and Edgenuity/Virtual Arkansas staff.

Formative assessments will provide data on the effectiveness of the digital option. The data from these assessments will be disaggregated to determine individual as well as overall success of the program.

Describe how the teacher(s) will engage families into the digital learning process. (District may link the District Engagement Plan if digital learning is included. The plan must address how the district will support parents/students with digital tools and resources)

Edgenuity/Virtual Arkansas will provide training for students and parents. Parents may monitor student progress on the Edgenuity/Virtual Arkansas platforms. District administrators and facilitators will communicate with parents regarding progress.

The district will also provide communication on our website, social media platforms, and a district parent app. Parents are contacted via Google Meet/Zoom and/or phone calls for conferences and parent information events.

https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/1291006/Parent_Engagement_Plan_2021-2022_Approved.pdf

Provide the URL to evidence of the local school board's approval of the waiver request(s).

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1OqOz4vUZuS8W8tmVxJOeKTcY9CQhXu9P/view>

Provide a URL to evidence of stakeholder feedback regarding the waiver request(s) and the district communication plan regarding digital learning program(s).

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1KGnf86jJloKvrhAG3qTWod1VcGEtt_eQB1



Policies

Please provide a link (URL) to the attendance policy for digital learning students.	https://docs.google.com/document/d/1aBmkB-Ast-HC8ooZEU0y73Xulu4pjO24st
Please provide a link (URL) to the discipline policy for digital learning students.	https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LK0Jg-w9n5d7p55wMDpyic2ZROkcx5JM
Please provide a link (URL) to the grading policy for digital learning students.	Students will follow the onsite policy: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Bf

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