



**DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY
& SECONDARY EDUCATION**

Public School Waiver Request

District:	Genoa Central School District
LEA Number:	4602
Superintendent:	Debbie Huff
Email:	dhuff@gcdragons.org
Contact for Waiver:	Debbie Huff
Contact Email:	dhuff@gcdragons.org
Contact Phone:	870-653-7551
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:	School Start Date
Standards/Statutes/Rules:	A.C.A. 6-10-106
Duration Requested:	5 years
Name of Open-Enrollment Charter Holding the Waiver	AR Virtual Academy
Schools, Grades or Classes the Wavier Will Apply To	PK-12
PURPOSE OF THE WAIVER (Must check at least one)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enhance Student Learning Opportunities <input type="checkbox"/> Promote Innovation <input type="checkbox"/> 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.

The member school districts of the Southwest Arkansas Education Service Cooperative are collectively and separately requesting a waiver from A.C.A. 06, which established the first day of allowable day of class as the Monday of the week that contains Aug 19. For the 2024-2025 school year that date will be Monday, August 19. We would appreciate approval for the early start date for the listed schools in our region giving public schools the equity afforded to Charter Schools.

The specific waiver being requested is to allow the Genoa Central School District to set our first day of class to be “no earlier than Monday, August 12”.

The law as presently constructed results in a wide swing in the allowable opening date of school. At the earliest, it can be August 14, which was the case this year – fall 2023. The latest possible first day is August 20 which, under the law will be – the fall of 2029. This waiver would allow the school to open next year and the years to follow on the same relative date as this year.

The advantages of this waiver are several:

- The fall and spring semesters would be closer to the same length. Fall semester would have 85 days and spring semester will have 90 days. This keeps the semesters more balanced which greatly benefits our semester only classes. Semester exams will be able to be completed prior to Christmas break with allows for better retention of the subject area being tested.
- This waiver will give greater assurance of school ending in late May rather than extending into June. Some research indicates a decrease in learning past the Memorial Day holiday.
- Beginning school earlier automatically results in more days of instruction before spring testing. More days of instruction should result in higher test scores.

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

We will create a calendar with an earlier start date which will provide them with more flexibility throughout the school year. We will ensure that more than the required 1068 hours of instruction is met.

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

We will monitor student's assessment results and students attendance data related to the earlier start date to determine the effectiveness of the change.

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE Genoa Central School District
AUTHORIZING THE DISTRICT TO REQUEST A WAIVER

WHEREAS, the Genoa Central School District Board of Directors is committed to providing a high-quality education to all students within the district;

WHEREAS, certain circumstances or regulations may require the district to seek waivers to better address the unique needs or challenges faced by the district;

WHEREAS, a Public School Early Start Date Waiver Request to start school no earlier than August 12, 2024. This would allow for more instructional days during the first semester of school and more instructional time prior to spring testing;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Genoa Central School District hereby authorizes the district administration to formally request a waiver for a Public School Early Start Date Waiver Request to start school no earlier than August 12, 2024. This would allow for more instructional days during the first semester of school and more instructional days prior to spring testing;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Superintendent or designee is authorized to take all necessary steps and actions to submit the waiver request, including providing any additional information or documentation required by the relevant authorities;

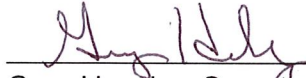
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Directors expresses its support for the waiver request and acknowledges the importance of flexibility in addressing the unique needs and circumstances of the district.

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

ADOPTED March 14, 2024 by the Board of Directors of the Genoa Central School District.



Jesse Thompson, President



Greg Hensley, Secretary



Questions

Responses



Settings

Stakeholder Feedback

Calendar options for SY 24-25 are being discussed at this time by the Genoa Central Personnel Policy Committee (PPC). School began this year on Aug. 14th and the committee would prefer to do so again next year. However, the district must obtain state approval to start before Aug. 19, 2024.

Starting on Aug. 14th will allow:

1. More instructional time during the 1st semester.
2. Allow students to get out of school before Memorial Day for summer break.

Please take a few minutes to provide feedback to the PPC.

Do you support our preferred early start date of August 14, 2024?

Yes

No

What campus do you have children at? (check all that apply)

Elementary

Middle School

Jr High School

High School



Stakeholder Feedback



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Link to Sheets



Accepting responses



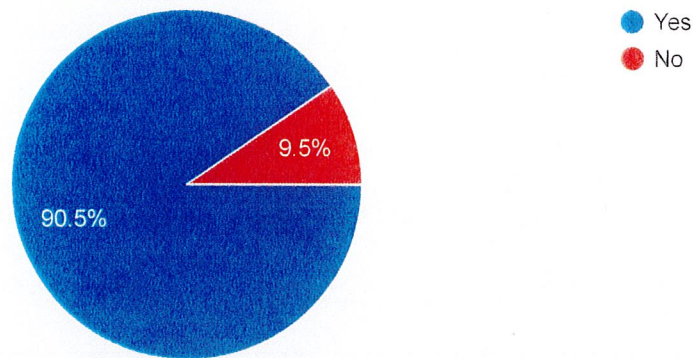
Summary

Question

Individual

Do you support our preferred early start date of August 14, 2024?

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What campus do you have children at? (check all that apply)

Copy

