



DR. ANDY ASHLEY
Superintendent

andy.ashley@heberschools.org
501-362-6712

September 1, 2022

Ms. Deborah Coffman and Dr. Matthew Sutherlin
One Capital Mall
Little Rock, AR 72201

Ms. Coffman and Dr. Sutherlin:

On behalf of Heber Springs Schools, I am requesting a Standards for Accreditation waiver for standard 1-A.5 – *class size*. The standard states, “Each public school district shall comply with the laws of the State of Arkansas and the rules of the Division regarding class size and teaching load.” Heber Springs Schools is seeking this waiver under Ark. Code Ann. 6-15-202(b)(2)(A).

We have experienced unexpected growth in our kindergarten class and high school for the 2022-23 school year.

- Our typical kindergarten class has 100 to 110 students. Currently, we have 124 kindergarteners and six classroom teachers. Growth is an excellent problem to have. When we realized we would be over the 20-student per teacher limit, we advertised for an additional kindergarten teacher and had no applicants. Currently, we have two classrooms with 22 students and two classrooms with 21 students. I am requesting this waiver to prevent moving students from the current teacher to another classroom. Not moving students away from their teacher is in the best interest of our students, and our principal and teachers agree. We are requesting a waiver of three (3) students over the student per teacher limit in the elementary school. We will use paraprofessionals to support these teachers and students when possible and if we can find additional staff.
- Our high school has averaged 425 to 440 over the past two school years. This school year, we grew by almost 50 students at the high school to a total of 496. There are a few of our class periods where teachers have over the 30-student limit. The most are four additional students. We are requesting a waiver of four (4) students over the student per



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teacher limit in the high school. There are no other class times for these students to receive the credits they need for graduation. We are currently one (1) English teacher short and have two (2) teachers teaching during their preparation periods.

I hope you will grant Heber Springs Schools these waivers.

Sincerely,

Dr. Andy Ashley
Superintendent
Heber Springs Schools

