



**DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY  
& SECONDARY EDUCATION**

## **Act 1240 Waiver Request**

<b>District:</b>	<b>Spring Hill School District</b>
<b>LEA Number:</b>	2906000
<b>Superintendent:</b>	Jeffrey Steed
<b>Email:</b>	jeffrey.steed@shbears.org
<b>Contact for Waiver:</b>	Jeffrey Steed
<b>Contact Email:</b>	jeffrey.steed@shbears.org
<b>Contact Phone:</b>	870-777-8236
<b>Date Received by DESE:</b>	

**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:	Arkansas Virtual Academy/Spring Hill School District
Schools, Grades or Classes the Waiver Will Apply To:	K-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. 6-10-106, which establishes the first allowable day of class as the Monday of the week that contains August 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 applying school districts to set their individual district's 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 of 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 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. Without this waiver, the fall semester will be 84 days while the spring semester will be 94 days, a difference of 10 days. With the waiver the fall semester will be 91 days and the spring semester 87 days, a difference of only 4 days. The more unbalanced the semesters are, the greater the issue for classes that are one semester in length.
- The alternative solution for unbalanced semesters is to not end the fall semester until after Christmas break. This results in final exams shortly after two weeks out of school, and the possibility of exams being repeatedly postponed due to winter weather.
- 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 will result in higher test scores,
- Activities such as football will begin next fall on the same relative date as they did this fall, with or

without the waiver, therefore a large number of students will already be on campus to practice and prepare for their activities, regardless of the opening date of school. In addition to students who play football, this would include students who participate in groups such as golf, tennis, cross country, volleyball, band, cheer, dance, ROTC, Student Council, and National Honor Society, as well as others.


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

The school districts will create a calendar with an earlier start date which will provide them with more flexibility throughout the school year. The school year will remain the same length. It simply allows a district to continue with a school calendar structured as closely as possible to the current one and avoids the dramatic change to the calendar which must result without the waiver.

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

The district will monitor student assessment results and student attendance data related to the earlier start date to determine the effectiveness of the early start date.

186 responses

 [Link to Sheets](#)



Accepting responses

Summary

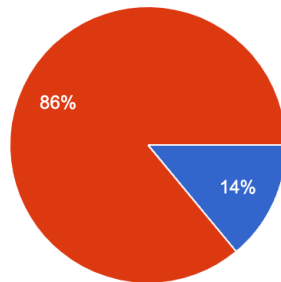
Question

Individual

Please choose one

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186 responses

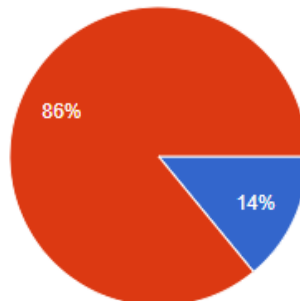


- Version 1 (traditional calendar - same as last year)
- Version 2 (alternate calendar - mins/hrs versus days)

Please choose one

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50 responses



- Version 1 (traditional calendar - same as last year)
- Version 2 (alternate calendar - mins/hrs versus days)



SPRING HILL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
633 SPRING LAKE ROAD  
HOPE, AR 71801

Jeffrey Steed, Superintendent  
Office #870-777-8236  
FAX #870-777-9200  
E-Mail: jeffrey.steed@shbears.org

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MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SPRING HILL  
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 10  
MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION  
ELEMENTARY CONFERENCE ROOM  
6:00 P.M. 3-11-24

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jimmy Don Hill, Ron Price, Danny Whatley, Caleb Askew,  
Mary Harrison

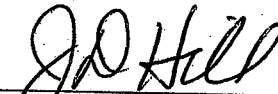
1. Meeting called to order by Jimmy Don Hill at 6:00 pm.
2. Prayer by Danny Whatley
3. Motion by Mary Harrison to approve February's minutes. Seconded by Danny Whatley. Vote 5-0 to approve.
4. Motion by Danny Whatley to approve the Financial Report. Seconded by Caleb Askew. Vote 5-0 to approve.
5. Motion by Mary Harrison to re-hire all Classified and Certified employees for the 2024-2025 school year. Seconded by Caleb Askew. Vote 5-0 to approve.
6. Motion by Danny Whatley to approve ECH Pass Thru-QTR 3 (SWAEC) \$6,160.23. Seconded by Ron Price. Vote 5-0 to approve.
7. Motion by Danny Whatley to accept Kim Hollis registration for the 2024-2025 school year. Seconded by Mary Harrison. Vote 5-0 to approve.
8. Motion by Mary Harrison to approve the alternate calendar for the 2024-2025 school year with the start date of August 14, 2024 and last day of school May 21, 2025. Seconded by Caleb Askew. Vote 5-0 to approve.
9. Motion by Caleb Askew to approve the following Service Bids for the 2024-2025 school year:
  1. Whitney Elme - Elementary Cleaning \$125 per day for 180 days
  2. Mackenzie Smith - S&S Speech Circuit
  3. Liles Therapy – PT, PTA, OT and COTA
  4. Nathaniel Holeyfield – Wastewater TreatmentSeconded by Danny Whatley. Vote 5-0 to approve.

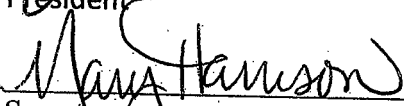
**JIMMY DON HILL DECLARED AN EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:20 P.M. FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING PERSONNEL.**

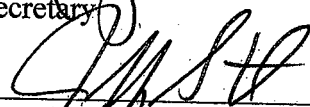
**THE BOARD RETURNED TO THE REGULAR OPEN SESSION AT 6:40 P.M. WITH JIMMY DON HILL STATING THAT NO ACTION HAD BEEN TAKEN DURING THE EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

10. Motion by Danny Whatley to adjourn. Seconded by Ron Price. Vote 5-0 to approve.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent

# 2024-2025 Spring Hill School District Calendar

July 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

July						
4	Independence Day					
	Professional Development					
	Parent Teacher Conferences					
	Teacher Flex Days (PD)					
	School Closed					
	Start/End Marking Periods					

August 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

August						
19	Teacher Flex Days					
5-8	Professional Development					
12-13	Professional Development					
14	First Day of School					
	Start of 1st Quarter					
26	Pre-K First Day of School					

September 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

September						
2	Labor Day - NO SCHOOL					

October 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

October						
11	End of 1st Quarter (42 Days)					
14	Start of 2nd Quarter					
17	Parent Teacher Conferences					
18	NO SCHOOL					
21	NO SCHOOL					

November 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

November						
11	Deer Day - NO SCHOOL					
25-26	Teacher Flex Days (no students)					
25-29	THANKSGIVING BREAK					

December 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29						

December						
19	End of 2nd Quarter (41 Days)					
20	Professional Development					
23-31	CHRISTMAS BREAK					

Alternate

January 2025						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

January						
1	New Year's Day					
2-3	CHRISTMAS BREAK					
3	Teacher Flex Day (no students)					
6	School Resumes					
	Start of 3rd Quarter					
20	Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday - NO SCHOOL					

February 2025						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

February						
13	Parent Teacher Conferences					
14	NO SCHOOL					
17	President's Day - NO SCHOOL					

March 2025						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

March						
14	End of 3rd Quarter (47 Days)					
17	Start of 4th Quarter					
24-28	SPRING BREAK					

April 2025						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

April						
18	Good Friday - NO SCHOOL					

May 2025						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

May						
TBD	Baccalaureate - Class of 2025					
TBD	Graduation - Class of 2025 - Hempstead Hall					
21	Last Day of School					
22-23	End of 4th Quarter (41 Days)					
	Professional Development					
26	Memorial Day - NO SCHOOL					

June 2025						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

June						
385 min/6.42 hrs per day						
171 days						
5 inclement weather days built in						

# Spring Hill High School

## Bell Schedule

### 2024-2025

Morning Bell	7:45
1st Period	7:50-8:45
Breakfast	8:45-8:50
2nd Period	8:55-9:50
3rd Period	9:55-10:50
4th Period	10:55-11:50
7th/8th Grade Lunch	11:50-12:20
5th Period 7-8	12:25-1:20
5th Period 9-12	11:55-12:50
9th-12th Grade Lunch	12:50-1:20
6th Period	1:25-2:20
7th Period	2:25-3:20





# SPRING HILL

## SCHOOL DISTRICT

Licensed Personnel Policy Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, February 14, 2024 @ 12:30 pm

Attendance: Riche Landes, Crystal Anderson, Tara Capps, Waylon Lewallen, Cathy Rothwell

Meeting called to order at 12:30 pm.

PPC met to discuss calendar options to send to staff for a vote.

PPC members were previously emailed 4 calendar options to preview. One calendar was a traditional 178 day calendar. The other three were alternate calendars based on minutes/hours. After looking at the 4 options, PPC decided to send 2 options for the staff to vote on. Option 1 would be the traditional calendar which is similar to this years. Option 2 would be an alternate calendar with 385 instructional minutes per day. Ten minutes would be added to the day which would have high school dismissal time being 3:20 and elementary will start dismissing at 3:00. PPC also decided that August 14th would be the start date dependent on a waiver. Cathy Rothwell will get with Ashley Davis to send out calendar options for staff to vote.

Meeting adjourned.