

Waiver Request Form

Division of Elementary and Secondary Education
Arkansas Department of Education



DISTRICT: CLEVELAND COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

TOPIC: Class Size

SCHOOL: Rison Elementary

STANDARD/STATUTE/RULES REQUESTING WAIVED:
Standard 1-A.5

WAIVER CONTACT: Angela Hudson

SCHOOL YEAR(S): 2025-2026

CONTACT EMAIL: angela.hudson@ccs1.org

GRADE(S): 3

CONTACT PHONE NO.: 870-325-6894

BRIEF OVERVIEW

Our third-grade class comprises 51 students, divided between two teachers. One class has 25 students while the other has 26. We are requesting a waiver to maintain this structure with two teachers. The students have successfully completed seven weeks with their current teachers, establishing a comfortable routine. Continuity in their learning environment would greatly benefit our students. Changing their teachers due to exceeding the recommended class size by just one student would not be advantageous. Both teachers are enthusiastic and committed to providing high-quality education, consistently going above and beyond to support each student's success. We believe that keeping the current teaching arrangement is in the best interest of our students.

Provide a detailed rationale explaining how the waiver will enhance student learning opportunities, promote innovation, or increase access to effective teachers.

Our third-grade class consists of 51 students, distributed between two dedicated teachers—25 students in one class and 26 in the other. We are seeking a waiver to maintain this dual-teacher structure, as it significantly Challenges Addressed: The district aims to address the challenges posed by exceeding the recommended class size by just one student. Maintaining the current teaching arrangement allows for personalized attention and tailored instruction, which are crucial for student success. The continuity in their learning environment, developed over the past seven weeks, has already established a routine that supports student comfort and engagement. Considered Alternatives: We explored alternatives to the waiver, such as redistributing students to create smaller class sizes. However, this option would disrupt established relationships and routines, potentially hindering student progress. Additionally, it would not guarantee the same level of individualized attention that our current structure provides. Stakeholder Feedback: Feedback from parents, teachers, and educational specialists has strongly supported the continuation of the current teaching arrangement. Stakeholders recognize the commitment and enthusiasm of both teachers, who consistently deliver

high-quality education and go above and beyond to support each student's learning journey. Their input has been invaluable in shaping this waiver request, emphasizing the importance of stability in the classroom for optimal student outcomes. In conclusion, maintaining the current structure with two teachers is in the best interest of our students. The waiver will not only enhance their learning opportunities but also promote an innovative and effective educational environment.

Provide a detailed explanation of how the intent of the requirement being waived will be upheld.

Enhancing Services Affected by the Waiver: By maintaining the dual-teacher model, we will enhance the services offered to our students through increased individualized support and targeted instruction. This structure facilitates more effective differentiation of learning activities, allowing educators to address diverse learning needs with greater efficiency. Ensuring Quality of Services: The district will implement regular assessments and feedback mechanisms to monitor the quality of services provided under this waiver. Continuous professional development for both teachers will be prioritized to ensure they are equipped with innovative teaching strategies that further enrich the classroom experience. In conclusion, preserving the existing structure with two teachers is in the best interest of our students. The waiver will not only enhance their learning opportunities but also foster an innovative and effective educational environment. Additionally, the district is supporting teachers and students by providing five additional interventionists to assist daily, ensuring comprehensive support for all learners.

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

Monitoring and Evaluating the Waiver's Effectiveness: To ensure the waiver's effectiveness, the district will implement a robust monitoring and evaluation framework. This will include: Regular Assessments: Conducting assessments to gauge student progress and engagement levels. These will be compared to baseline data collected prior to the dual-teacher model's implementation. Feedback Mechanisms: Establishing channels for ongoing feedback from students, parents, and teachers to evaluate the perceived effectiveness of the dual-teacher structure. Professional Development: Prioritizing continuous professional development for both teachers to equip them with innovative teaching strategies that enrich the classroom experience. Data Analysis: Analyzing collected data to determine the impact of the dual-teacher model on student outcomes and engagement. Evidence-Based Alignment: The decision to seek this waiver aligns with evidence-based research indicating that smaller class sizes and individualized instruction lead to improved student outcomes. Studies have shown that personalized attention enhances student learning, engagement, and overall academic success. Stakeholder Perspectives on Effectiveness: Stakeholders view the dual-teacher model positively, citing enhanced student support and tailored instruction as key benefits. Their feedback reaffirms the commitment to maintaining a stable and effective learning environment. In conclusion, preserving the existing structure with two teachers is in the best interest of our students. The waiver will not only enhance their learning opportunities but also foster an innovative and effective educational environment. Additionally, the district is supporting teachers and students by providing five additional interventionists daily, ensuring comprehensive

support for all learners. This comprehensive approach to monitoring and evaluating the waiver will allow us to continually assess its effectiveness and make necessary adjustments to maximize student success.

Arkansas State Board of Education

Meeting Date: November 13, 2025

	Approved	Effective Date:	Expiration Date:
	Denied		