



Act 1240 Waiver Request

District:	Two Rivers School District
LEA Number:	7510
Superintendent:	Dr. Harry Alvis
Email:	alvish@trgators.org
Contact for Waiver:	Dr. Harry Alvis
Contact Email:	alvish@trgators.org
Contact Phone:	(833)272-8773 (office), (479)858-1788 (cell)
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 Calendar
Standards/Statutes/Rules:	Statues: Ark. Code Ann. § 6-10-106
Duration Requested:	2024-2025 School Year
Name of Open-Enrollment Charter Holding the Waiver	Arkansas Virtual Academy
Schools, Grades or Classes the Wavier Will Apply To	Two Rivers Elementary K-4 Two Rivers High School 5-12
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.

For a school implementing an alternative calendar, the mandatory start date of August 19th provides obstacles that hinder student learning success. With a waiver to the start of school date, students will have enhanced student learning opportunities accompanied with the removal of barriers that may affect student learning.

- With school beginning on August 19, 2024, in order to complete the first semester before the Christmas Holiday, the first and second nine weeks would have a disproportionate amount of instructional hours compared to the third and fourth nine weeks. With many classes being semester classes, this provides students in the first semester class fewer hours of instruction compared to those receiving the instruction during the second semester. A waiver allowing the district to begin earlier than August 19th would allow the district to develop a calendar with more proportionate instructional time between each semester.
- An early start date would give our alternative calendar equal amounts of instructional time for both Fall and Spring semesters.
- A waiver to the start of school date would enhance student learning opportunities by allowing students to have more instructional hours in which to be taught the rigorous state academic standards BEFORE taking mandated state exams which are often administered during April or early May.
- As the weather continues to dictate in the winter school closings, it is even more essential for us to make those hours count in August than late May and early June. Moving the start date up one week helps to get those days in on the front end of testing rather than the latter end after testing is completed. This waiver will give greater assurance of school ending in May rather than extending into June. More instruction days and earlier release date will help get an early start for tourism in the natural state.

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

A waiver to the school calendar and the start day of school will not waive any services provided to students. With August 19th falling on a Monday and school not being allowed to start prior to this time frame, this would meet the criteria of a very exceptional circumstance. Attached is the school calendar that our district wishes to implement with a waiver.

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

The district will monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the waiver through:

- Stakeholder input. Stakeholders will include all staff, parent/families, and community.
 - A survey was sent out to stakeholders, staff and parents. The survey overwhelmingly approved an early start date.
- Attendance data- Our data shows that attendance is significantly better in August than late in May.
- State assessment data- The district would like to get as many days in before testing starts in April and May. Adding the additional week will help achieve this goal.

2024-2025 CALENDAR (Alternative - with waiver)

Aug 12-15 - Teacher PD
 Aug 19 - First Day of School

(15 school days)

(99.5 hours)

AUGUST 2024						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				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

JANUARY 2025						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			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	

Jan 6 - Start of 2nd Semester
 Jan 20 - Teacher PD Day
 (19 days)

(126.03 hours)

Sept 2 - Labor Day Holiday
 Sept 6 - Fair Day
 Sept 23 - PT Conferences/Teacher PD Day

(18 School Days)

(119.4 hours)

SEPTEMBER 2024						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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					

FEBRUARY 2025						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						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	

Feb 20 - P/T Conf/Teacher PD Day
 Feb 21-24 - Winter Break - No School
 (17 days)

(112.77 hours)

Oct 14 - Teacher PD day
 Oct 15 - End of 1st 9 Weeks

(22 school days)

(145.93 hours)

OCTOBER 2024						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		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		

MARCH 2025						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						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					

March 14 - End of 3rd 9 weeks
 March 24-28 - Spring Break
 March 31 - Teacher PD day

(15 days)

(99.5 hours)

Nov 25-29 - Thanksgiving Break
 (15 days)

(99.5 hours)

NOVEMBER 2024						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					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 2025						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		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 - No School
 April 21 - Teacher PD Day

(20 days)

(132.67 hours)

Dec 18- End of 1st Semester (80 days)
 Dec 23-Jan 3 - Christmas Break
 (13 days)

(99.5 hours)

(550.56 hours 1st Semester)

DECEMBER 2024						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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				

MAY 2025						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				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

May 16 - Last Day of School
 (12 days) (79.6 hours)

(550.56 hours 2nd Semester)

(166 student contact days @ 6.63 hours per day)
 (1101.12 hours of instruction)

Inclement Weather Makeup Days -
 First 5 days would not have to be made up due to additional instructional hours.

Additional order of Make-up days:
 Feb 24, March 31, April 18.

After 8 days, make-up days will be added beginning May 19.

Replace with your text

Replace with your text

Replace with your text

Two Rivers School District

Resolution

In Support of a Waiver Request Affecting the Allowable First Day of School

A.C.A 6-10-106

WHEREAS Arkansas law, A.C.A. 6-10-106, provides for the school year to begin no earlier than the Monday of the week containing August 19; and

WHEREAS under this law, A.C.A. 6-10-106, the start of school varies from year to year, beginning some years as early as August 14, or as late as August 20; and

WHEREAS under this law, A.C.A. 6-10-106, the earliest school can begin is August 19; and

WHEREAS a late start to the school year creates unbalanced semesters, reduces the preparation time for state testing, and limits the flexibility in scheduling inclement weather make-up days;

THEREFORE be it resolved that the Two Rivers Board of Education endorses the Superintendent's waiver request affecting the allowable first day of school during the week of August 12 and recommends its approval by the Arkansas State Board of Education.

Adopted this 20th day of February, 2024.



President, Board of Education



Secretary, Board of Education

Choose the calendar option of your preference.

44 responses

