



## Act 1240 Waiver Request

<b>District:</b>	<b>Western Yell County School District</b>
<b>LEA Number:</b>	7509
<b>Superintendent:</b>	Taunya Parsons, Interim Superintendent
<b>Email:</b>	parsonst@wycschools.com
<b>Contact for Waiver:</b>	Taunya Parsons
<b>Contact Email:</b>	parsonst@wycschools.com
<b>Contact Phone:</b>	479-476-4116
<b>Date Received by DESE:</b>	

The following documents must be submitted with the waiver request:

- 1. Board resolution approving the waiver request: We had a change in superintendent at the end of February. The Interim Superintendent is working to get all required documents for waiver. Board resolution will be presented at the April 18th board meeting.**
- 2. Evidence of stakeholder involvement, including teachers and student families. Meeting with the PPC and school board to discuss the possibility has already been held. Next PPC meeting is scheduled for April 9th. PPC will send out survey to staff for input and then to families. Data from these 2 requirements will be submitted as soon as they are available.**

## Waiver Request #1

<b>Topic:</b>	School Calendar
<b>Standards/Statutes/Rules:</b>	Statues: Ark. Code Ann. § 6-10-106
<b>Duration Requested:</b>	2024-2025 School Year
<b>Name of Open-Enrollment Charter Holding the Waiver</b>	Arkansas Virtual Academy
<b>Schools, Grades or Classes the Wavier Will Apply To</b>	Western Yell County Elementary K-6 Western Yell County High School 7-12
<b>PURPOSE OF THE WAIVER (Must check at least one)</b>	<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 a 4 day week school 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 days compared to the third and fourth nine weeks. For example, with a 4 day week school calendar, the first and second nine weeks would have only 67 total days. The third and fourth nine weeks would have to have 76 days to meet the 143 required. With many classes being semester classes, this provides students in the first semester class fewer days of instruction compared to those receiving the instruction during the second semester. A waiver allowing the district to begin earlier than August 19<sup>th</sup> would allow the district to develop a calendar with more proportionate days between each semester.
- An early start date would give our 4 day calendar more proportionate quarters across the board.
- A waiver to the start of school date would enhance student learning opportunities by allowing students to have more days 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 days 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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, parents/families, and community.

A survey will be sent out to stakeholders, staff and parents.

Attendance data- data shows that attendance is 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.

## Waiver Request #2

<b>Topic:</b>	
<b>Standards/Statutes/Rules:</b>	
<b>Duration Requested:</b>	
<b>Name of Open-Enrollment Charter Holding the Waiver</b>	
<b>Schools, Grades or Classes the Wavier Will Apply To</b>	
<b>PURPOSE OF THE WAIVER (Must check at least one)</b>	<input 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.

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

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

## Waiver Request #3

<b>Topic:</b>	
<b>Standards/Statutes/Rules:</b>	
<b>Duration Requested:</b>	
<b>Name of Open-Enrollment Charter Holding the Waiver</b>	
<b>Schools, Grades or Classes the Wavier Will Apply To</b>	
<b>PURPOSE OF THE WAIVER (Must check at least one)</b>	<input 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.

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

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

## Waiver Request #4

<b>Topic:</b>	
<b>Standards/Statutes/Rules:</b>	
<b>Duration Requested:</b>	
<b>Name of Open-Enrollment Charter Holding the Waiver</b>	
<b>Schools, Grades or Classes the Wavier Will Apply To</b>	
<b>PURPOSE OF THE WAIVER (Must check at least one)</b>	<input 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.

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

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