

MOUNTAINBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

In Arkansas' Most Scenic School District

Superintendent
479-369-2121
Fax: 479-369-2138

Middle School Principal
479-369-4506
Fax: 479-369-4355

129 Hwy 71 S W
Mountainburg, Arkansas 72946

High School Principal
479-369-2146
Fa: 479-369-2845

www.mountainburg.org

Elementary School Principal
479-369-2762
Fax: 479-369-4302

November 8, 2024

Dear Mrs. Hope Worsham and Mrs. Brooke McCain,

The Mountainburg Public School District is seeking a waiver for Standards for Accreditation 1-A.5 which requires that "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." The District is seeking a waiver under Ark Code Ann. 6-15-202(b)(2)(A).

Current enrollment in third grade is 52 with two classrooms available. This number reflects an increase in that grade level cohort of students from 48 in the spring of the previous year, up to 52 as of October 1 of this year.

The building guiding coalition was involved in decisions regarding staffing and grade level assignment through the spring and summer months, and staffing adjustments were made late in the summer to meet other shifts in enrollment. Enrollment is reported and reviewed at each board meeting. The request for Board Approval to seek a waiver on class size was placed on the board agenda, discussed in a board meeting open to the public on September 16, 2024, and approved by the Board at that time in the event enrollments exceed class size limits on the October 1 reporting date, which did occur.

We are glad to experience the increase in enrollment and to welcome these families into our school. It is difficult for a district our size to hire an additional teacher. We have full confidence in the ability of our third grade classroom teachers to manage the addition of one or two students over the class size limit and ensure their students are fully engaged in daily learning. In the event class sizes reached a need for more than 3 students over the limit we would seek alternate solutions such as a split grade level class, or a paraprofessional, etc.

We appreciate your consideration of this request. Please see the Board resolution.

Sincerely,



Dr. Debbie Atwell
Superintendent
Mountainburg Public Schools

**MOUNTAINBURG PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Class Size Waiver RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the Mountainburg School District Board of Directors met in a regular, open, and properly convened board meeting on September 16, 2024, in Mountainburg; and

Whereas five members were present, a quorum was declared by the chair; and

WHEREAS the Department of Education requires the Mountainburg Board of Directors adopt a resolution to authorize the Superintendent to seek a waiver of Standards for Accreditation 1-A.5 Class Size; and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Mountainburg Public School District authorizes Dr. Debbie Atwell to seek a class size waiver.

ADOPTED in regular session by the Board of Directors of the Mountainburg School district September 16, 2024.

Jason Watkins, PRESIDENT





DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY
& SECONDARY EDUCATION

Public School Waiver Request

District:	Mountainburg Public Schools
LEA Number:	1703000
Superintendent:	Dr Debbie Atwell
Email:	Debbie.atwell@mountainburg.org
Contact for Waiver:	Dr. Debbie Atwell
Contact Email:	Debbie.Atwell@mountainburg.org
Contact Phone:	479-369-2121 office 479-414-3675 work 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:	Class Size
Standards/Statutes/Rules:	1-A.5
Duration Requested:	2024-2025
Name of Open-Enrollment Charter Holding the Waiver	Arkansas Connections Academy, Arkansas Virtual Academy
Schools, Grades or Classes the Wavier Will Apply To	Mountainburg Elementary School
PURPOSE OF THE WAIVER (Must check at least one)	<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.**

Enrollment in Grade 3 at Mountainburg Elementary School is currently at 52. The District offers two sections of third-grade classes; the class size in each class is currently at 26. The District is seeking a waiver of the maximum allowed class size of 25.

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

No service is being waived.

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

Student performance will be monitored through classroom formative assessments, interim assessments, and state assessments.