



DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY
& SECONDARY EDUCATION

Public School Waiver Request

District:	Westside Consolidated Schools
LEA Number:	1602
Superintendent:	Scott Gauntt
Email:	sgauntt@westsideschools.org
Contact for Waiver:	Scott Gauntt
Contact Email:	sgauntt@westsideschools.org
Contact Phone:	870.336.8016
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 Start Date
Standards/Statutes/Rules:	A.C.A. 6-10-106
Duration Requested:	Five years
Name of Open-Enrollment Charter Holding the Waiver	Arkansas Virtual Academy
Schools, Grades, or Classes the Wavier 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 Northeast 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, it will be Monday, August 19, 2024.

We respectfully request a waiver to allow the Westside Consolidated School District to set their start date “no earlier” than August 12 for each of the next five school years.

The advantages of the early start option include the following:

1. It gives us a greater chance of having more instructional time before state testing, even in years when we miss a significant number of days due to inclement weather.
2. It allows us to begin in mid-August when students and staff are eager to return to the new year and complete the year by the end of May before many of the summer activities begin in early June.
3. It provides a greater balance between the number of days in the first and second semesters of the school year.

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

The requested waiver will not impact the calendar length chosen by the Westside Consolidated School District. It will only provide the flexibility to begin the school year earlier, providing the above advantages to students, staff, and parents. The services provided to our students will be the same as those supplied without waiver approval regarding days and/or hours of instruction.

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

The district will monitor the following items: 1) # of instructional days or hours gained in advance of state testing by starting earlier, 2) student and staff attendance on those dates, and 3) state test results to try and determine what correlation exists between achievement results and instruction time before testing.

WESTSIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCOTT GAUNTT, SUPERINTENDENT

Committed to Learn... Committed to Lead

1630 Hwy 91 West * Jonesboro, AR 72404

(870) 935-7501 * Fax (870) 268-9119



2/13/2024

RE: Resolution

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF **WESTSIDE CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT** AUTHORIZING THE DISTRICT TO REQUEST A WAIVER

WHEREAS, the **WESTSIDE CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT** Board of Directors is committed to providing a high-quality education to all students within the district;

WHEREAS, certain circumstances or regulations may require the district to seek waivers to better address the unique needs or challenges faced by the district;

WHEREAS, Board of Directors of the **WESTSIDE CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT** is 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, 2024. The specific waiver being requested is to allow the **WESTSIDE CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT** to set the district's first day of class to be no earlier than Monday, August 12, 2024;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of **WESTSIDE CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT** hereby authorizes the district administration to formally request a waiver for Westside Consolidated School District to start school no earlier than August 12, 2024;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Superintendent or designee is authorized to take all necessary steps and actions to submit the waiver request, including providing any additional information or documentation required by the relevant authorities;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Directors expresses its support for the waiver request and acknowledges the importance of flexibility in addressing the unique needs and circumstances of the district.

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

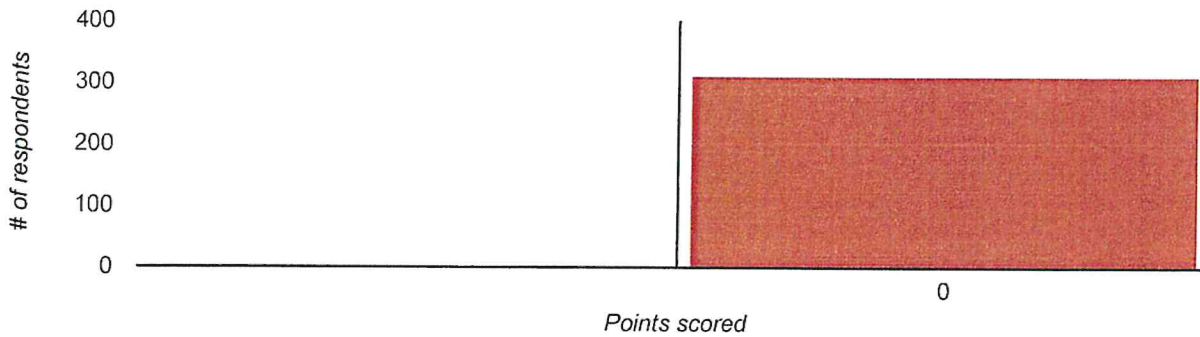
ADOPTED this 13 FEBRUARY, 2024 by the Board of Directors of **WESTSIDE CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT**.


SHANNON DAVIS, Westside Consolidated School Board President


MYCA FERGUSON, Westside Consolidated School Board Secretary



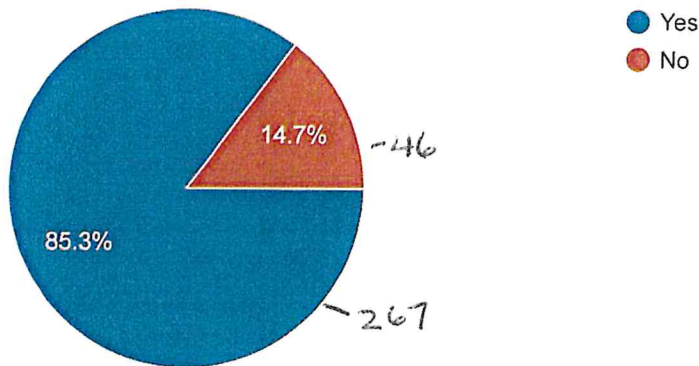
Total points distribution



Would you support the School's efforts in seeking a waiver to start school next year as soon as August 14, 2024, in place of the current start date of August 19, 2024. The week of August 12, 2024 is the same calendar week Westside started school this year. By starting a week earlier, school would have the opportunity to dismiss a week earlier in May.



313 responses





Staff School Calendar Surve

All changes saved in Drive



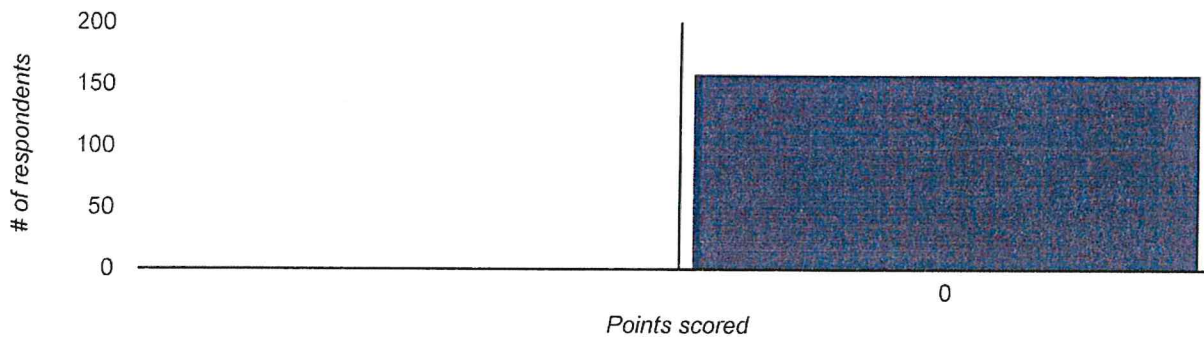
Questions

Responses

Settings

Total points: 0

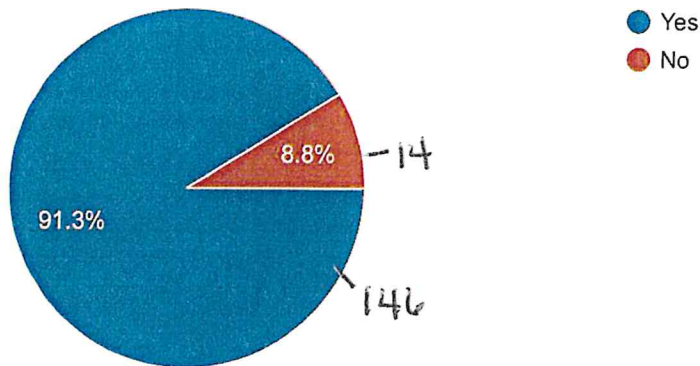
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Copy

160 responses



Westside Cons. School District

Certified PPC Agenda/Minutes

12/4/23

Present:

Scott Gauntt, Superintendent
Chelsea Lehman, Chair, High School Representative
Nicole London, Secretary, High School Representative
Julie Tubbs, High School Representative
Samantha Wolverton, Elementary Representative
Tammy McEntire, Elementary Representative

Absent:

Chris George, Principal, Administrative Representative
Melody Mooney, Middle School Representative
Heidi Cline, Elementary Representative
Staci Darr, Middle School Representative
Jessica Taggart, Middle School Representative

Location: Chelsea Lehman's Room #107 at Westside High School

- 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm

- Engage
 - Welcome - Begin at 3:36 p.m.

- X-plore
 - Good Things:
 - Christmas the Warrior Way is tomorrow night!

- Communicate

Agenda Items

 - Old Business:
 - Approval of previous month's Minutes - Motion to approve Julie Tubbs, Seconded by Nicole London. All present members voted - all approve.
 - Student Attendance Calendar options - looking at alternate calendars, gathering data from students, parents, staff, teachers, and other stakeholders. "What will work best for our students?" - driving question.
 - Discussion of types of calendars. Instructional days v. instructional hours.
 - Discuss Student Attendance Calendar Community survey results and concerns.
 - Roundtable discussion re: information received from middle school form sent to MSTeach.

- New Business:
 - Mr. Gauntt re-shared his tentative calendar with the committee for discussion including minutes of bankable hours. (1064 hours/64080 mins).
 - Possible waiver to change start date to Wednesday, Aug 14th.
 - Discuss calendar options to determine if the PPC will present an alternate to the traditional calendar. Ms. Lehman will email the PPC for input from missing members. Mr. Gauntt will meet with those members.

- Empower

- PPC Meeting Dates - sent via Calendar Invite
 - Next meeting will be Jan 16, 2023

- Launch

- Member Feedback/Reflections
- Meeting adjourned - 4:01 p.m.

To Do/Upcoming:

Friday, Dec 15, 2023 is the end of Quarter 2.

Christmas Break: December 16, 2023 - January 1, 2024.

Tuesday, Jan 2, 2024 is a Required PD Day

This meeting was audio recorded and is available upon request. Contact the Superintendent's office.