



DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY
& SECONDARY EDUCATION

Public School Waiver Request

District:	Brookland School District
LEA Number:	1603000
Superintendent:	Mr. Brett Bunch
Email:	bbunch@bpsbearcats.com
Contact for Waiver:	Mr. Brett Bunch
Contact Email:	bbunch@bpsbearcats.com
Contact Phone:	870-932-2080 ext. 6527
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 Year Early Start Date Request
Standards/Statutes/Rules:	Arkansas Code 6-10-106(a)
Duration Requested:	2024-2025 School Year
Name of Open-Enrollment Charter Holding the Waiver	Brookland School District
Schools, Grades or Classes the Wavier Will Apply To	K-12, Brookland Pre-K, Elementary, Middle, Junior High, & High School
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.**

Student learning is maximized by starting at an earlier date and ending as close to or earlier than Memorial Day as possible. As the school year ends and summer approaches, student engagement tends to decrease; however, by beginning the school year earlier, there are more days for optimal learning and better attendance rates.

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

The start date for students for the 2024-2025 school year will begin on Wednesday, August 14, 2024.

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

Through a staff survey, it was noted that beginning school earlier rather than going later was favored and believed to be more beneficial for our students and community. Attendance rates in August are typically better than in May and can provide evidence for the need to begin school earlier in August.

School Year Calendar Template

<https://www.vertex42.com/calendars/school-calendar.html>



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Year:

Beginning Month:

Start day: 1: Sunday, 2: Monday

2024-2025 School Calendar

Brookland Public Schools

200 W. School St.

870-932-2080

Brookland, AR 72417

Traditional School Calendar AUGUST 14

Aug 7-8, 12-13	PD/Contracted Days
Aug 14	First Day of School for Students
Sep 2	Labor Day - Holiday
Oct 11	1st Quarter Ends
Oct 14	2nd Quarter Begins
Oct 24	PTC (Early Dismissal)
Oct 25	Exchange Day/Snow Day #1 (No School)
Nov 25-29	Thanksgiving Break - Holiday
Dec 20	End of Quarter
Dec 23-Jan 3	Christmas Break - Holiday
Jan 6	3rd Quarter Begins
Jan 20	MLK Day - Exchange Day/ Snow Day
Feb 13	PTC (Early Dismissal)
Feb 14	Snow Day/Exchange Day (No School)
March 14	3rd Quarter Ends
March 17	4th Quarter Begins
March 24-28	Spring Break
April 18	Good Friday - Holiday
May 23	Last Day of School
May 23	4th Quarter Ends
May 26	Memorial Day - Holiday
May 27	Exchange Day/ Snow Day

190 Teacher Contract Days	
178	Student Instructional Days
4	School Year PD Days/Contracted days
2	PTC (Oct. & Feb.)
2	Summer PD Days
4	Teacher Work Days
190	Total Teacher Contracted Days

Daily Hours of Operation(Teachers): 7:30am - 3:30pm

1:20pm early dismissal on PTC days

5	Exchange Days/Snow Days
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Holidays/Non-Student Days

Sept. 2	Labor Day
Oct. 25	Snow Day
Nov. 25-29	Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 23-Jan. 3	Christmas Break
Jan. 20	MLK Day/ Snow Day
Feb. 14	Snow Day
March 24-28	Spring Break
April 18	Good Friday/Snow Day
May 26	Memorial Day
May 27	Snow Day

July 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	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			

August 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	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

September 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	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					

October 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	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		

November 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	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

December 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	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	T	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	

February 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	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	

March 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	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					

April 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	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			

May 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	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

June 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	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					

Grading Periods	
Aug 14-Oct 11	1st Quarter (42 Days)
Oct 14-Dec 20	2nd Quarter (44 Days)
Jan 6 -March 14	3rd Quarter (48 Days)
March 17-May 23	4th Quarter (44 Days)
Total Student Days	178

First & Last Day of School

 Holiday/Non-Student Days	 Professional Development
 PTC	 Snow Days
	 Student Instructional Days


**RESOLUTION OF THE BROOKLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

WHEREAS, the Brookland School District Board of Directors met in a special, open, and properly-called meeting on February 20, 2024, at the Brookland Board Room;

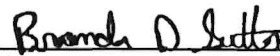
WHEREAS, members were present, a quorum was declared by the chair;

WHEREAS, the Brookland School Board has, pursuant to Act 688 of 2021 to be codified at Ark. Code Ann. § 6-10-106(a), determined that the employees desire to apply for a waiver of the start date for the 2024-2025 school year in an effort to start earlier by one (1) week to enhance the learning opportunities of the student population. Brookland School District held a meeting with both the certified and classified personnel policy committees, including parents of multiple students, also providing a survey and voting platform on the desired start date and calendar for the 2024-2025 school year.

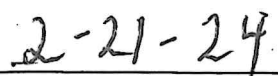
NOW THEREFORE, upon due consideration and deliberation, and having reviewed the reason(s) listed, it is hereby declared to be the intent of the Brookland School District Board of Directors to authorize the approval and adoption of the 2024-2025 school calendar, starting one week earlier than the second Monday before Labor Day, as required by current law.



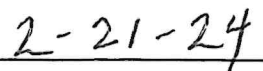
Board President



Board Secretary



Date



Date

New Calendar Meeting

Emily McCall

Madeline Conroy
Lynlee Brooks

Angela Duncan

Adam Roney

~~_____~~

~~_____~~
~~_____~~

Kristen Scarlett

Vanessa Huber

Kodi Platz

Isko edyn

wi Petri ~~_____~~

~~_____~~

God McNeill

Julie Thomas

Bu Clark

Wendy Powell



Brookland Public Schools School Board Meeting Minutes

Date and Time of Meeting: 2/20/2024 5:30 PM

Type of Meeting: Special

Board Members Present: Heath McGaughey, Danna Johnson, Jason Allen, Tim McNatt, Justin Ladd, Colby Brooks

By Zoom: Bandon Sutton (non-voting)

Meeting Called to Order at: 5:30 PM

Called by: Board President Heath McGaughey

Mr. Bunch informed the Board concerning the calendars presented to the staff and the Board had lengthy discussions and made the decision to accept the traditional minutes' calendar for the 24-25 school year with the understanding if the State Board did not approve the needed waiver to start earlier than August 19th the district would follow the traditional calendar as presented that does start on August 19th.

Motion by: Colby Brooks

Second by: Jason Allen

To: Approve the traditional minutes' calendar as presented for the 24-25 school year.

For: 6

Against: 0

Mr. Bunch recommended the approval of the required Waiver Resolution for the calendar as written.

Motion by: Danna Johnson

Second by: Justin Ladd

To: Approve the waiver resolution written.

Motion Passed

For: 6

Against: 0

The meeting was adjourned at 6:29 pm.

Motion by: Tim McNatt

Second by: Danna Johnson

To: Adjourn

Motion Passed

For: 6

Against: 0

Board President

2-20-24

Date

Board Secretary

2-20-24

Date