



Public School Waiver Request

District:	Shirley School District
LEA Number:	7104000
Superintendent:	Aaron Wiggins
Email:	aaron.wiggins@shirley.k12.ar.us
Contact for Waiver:	Aaron Wiggins
Contact Email:	aaron.wiggins@shirley.k12.ar.us
Contact Phone:	501-518-2223
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 District Calendar/Early Start Date Request
Standards/Statutes/Rules:	Statutes: Ark. Code Ann. § 6-10-106
Duration Requested:	Duration of Waiver, beginning with 2024-2025 school year
Name of Open-Enrollment Charter Holding the Waiver	Lisa Academy, Estem Public Charter, Academics Plus Public Charter
Schools, Grades or Classes the Wavier Will Apply To	Shirley Elementary (K-6), Shirley High School (7-12)
PURPOSE OF THE WAIVER (Must check at least one)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enhance Student Learning Opportunities <input type="checkbox"/> Promote Innovation <input checked="" 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.**

Based on current statute, the 2024-2025 school year begins on Monday, August 19, 2024. The Shirley School District is requesting a waiver afforded to the above-mentioned charter schools, to begin on an earlier date. If granted, the waiver would allow the Shirley School District to set the first day of classes for the 2024-2025 school year on Wednesday, August 14, 2024.

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

No services for students will be waived. If this waiver is granted, services provided to students will begin sooner due to the earlier start date. Since August 19, 2024, falls on a Monday and schools are prohibited from starting before this date, this situation meets the criteria of a highly exceptional circumstance.

- 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 this waiver through:

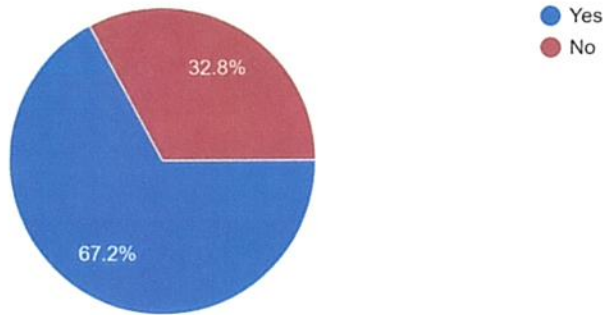
- Stakeholder input (staff, parents/guardians)
- Attendance data
- State assessment data

Input from Stakeholders

Early Start Date 24-25 SY

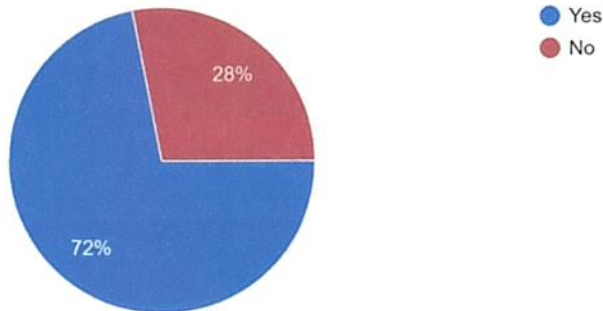
Parent/Guardian Survey Results

Would you support the district starting the 24-25 school year earlier than August 19th? (Current law states that schools can begin the Monday of the week earlier than August 14th or later than August 26th).
64 responses



Employees Survey Results:

Would you support the district starting the 24-25 school year earlier than August 19th? (Current law states that schools can begin the Monday of the week earlier than August 14th or later than August 26th).
50 responses



**SHIRLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
February 26, 2024**

2024-2025 Early Start Date

WHEREAS the **SHIRLEY** School District Board of Directors met in a regular, open, and properly-convened board meeting on February 26, 2024, in the PD Center/Boardroom; and


Whereas 4 members were present, a quorum was declared by the chair; and

WHEREAS A.C.A. § 6-10-106 requires the first day of the school year for student attendance in the public elementary and secondary schools of the State of Arkansas shall be:

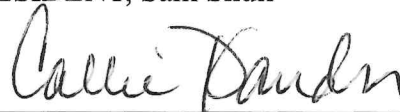
- (i) On or after the Monday of the week in which August 19 falls;
- (ii) Not earlier than August 14; and
- (iii) Not later than August 26.
- (B) The date for beginning the school year shall be determined by the board of directors of the school district.
- (C) Labor Day shall be celebrated as a school holiday in all the school districts of the state, and school shall not be held on that date.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the **SHIRLEY** School District approves of a school start date of **AUGUST 14, 2024**, for the 2024-2025 school year.

ADOPTED in regular session by the Board of Directors of the **SHIRLEY** School district (February 26, 2024).



PRESIDENT, Sam Shull



SECRETARY, Callie Davidson