



**DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY  
& SECONDARY EDUCATION**

## **Public School Waiver Request**

<b>District:</b>	<b>Mountain Pine School District</b>
<b>LEA Number:</b>	2607000
<b>Superintendent:</b>	Bobby Applegate
<b>Email:</b>	bobby.applegate@mpsdrd.com
<b>Contact for Waiver:</b>	Dana Janush
<b>Contact Email:</b>	dana.janush@mpsdrd.com
<b>Contact Phone:</b>	501 767 1530 ex. 1
<b>Date Received by DESE:</b>	April 9, 2024

**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

<b>Topic:</b>	School Start Date
<b>Standards/Statutes/Rules:</b>	A.C.A. 6-10-106
<b>Duration Requested:</b>	5 years
<b>Name of Open-Enrollment Charter Holding the Waiver</b>	Arkansas Virtual Academy
<b>Schools, Grades or Classes the Wavier Will Apply To</b>	K-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.**

The member school districts of the Dawson 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 a week that contains August 19. For the 2024-2025 school year that date will be Monday, August 19. We would appreciate approval for the early start date for the listed schools in our region giving public schools the equity afforded to Charter Schools.

The specific waiver requested would allow the applying school districts to set their individual district's first day of class to be "no earlier than August 12, 2024" though we are currently on a four-day school week so the official first day of school would be August 13, 2024. The law as currently written provides a wide swing in the allowable opening date of school.

There are several advantages of this waiver:

- An earlier start date for school automatically results in more days of instruction before spring testing. Additional days of instruction should result in higher test scores.
- The waiver will give better assurance of school ending in late May, rather than extending into June. There is research indicating a decrease in learning and motivation past the Memorial Day holiday.
- The fall and spring semesters would be closer to the same length, which would benefit our single semester classes.

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

This will give us the option of creating a calendar with an earlier start date which will provide more flexibility throughout the school year, and ensure that more than 1068 hours of instruction is provided.

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

We will monitor the results of student assessments as well as attendance data to determine the effectiveness of the change.

# 2024-2025 First Day of School

Dear Parents,

We have the option of getting a waiver from the state to start school on August 13, 2024 or start school on August 20, 2024. We will still be on a 4-Day week for the 2024-2025 school year. Please help us out by giving us your opinion on what day you would like school to begin in August. Your input is valuable.

Thank you,

MPSD Administration

dana.janush@mpsdrd.com [Switch account](#)



\* Indicates required question

Email \*

Record dana.janush@mpsdrd.com as the email to be included with my response

I would like the first day of school to be: \*

Please choose one

Tuesday, August 13, 2024

Tuesday, August 19, 2024

Send me a copy of my response.

Submit

[Clear form](#)

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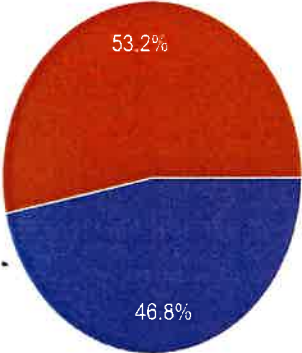


Google Forms

**Mountain Pine School District Staff Survey  
Results of First Day of School preference:**

Choose one of the calendar options below.

62 responses



- Calendar option 1 (start date August 20 and end date May 23)
- Calendar option 2 (start date August 13 and end date May 21)

AR,

29

9

Like

Comment

Mountain Pine School District limited who can comment on this post.



Mountain Pine School District

February 6 · 🌐

Dear Parents, we need your input. If you already gave us your opinion thanks so much! Please choose the date you would like the 24-25 school year to begin.

### 2024-2025 First Day of School

Dear Parents,  
We have the option of getting a waiver from the state to start school on August 13, 2024 or start school on August 20, 2024. We will still be on a 4-Day week for the 2024-2025 school year. Please help us out by giving us your opinion on what day you would like school to begin in August. Your input is valuable.  
Thank you,  
MPSD Administration

Your email will be recorded when you submit this form.

\* Indicates required question

I would like the first day of school to be: \*

Please choose one

Tuesday August 13, 2024

Tuesday August 19, 2024

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### 2024-2025 First Day of School

Dear Parents, We have the option of getting a waiver from the s...

3

3

Like

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Mountain Pine School District

February 5 · 🌐

Guess what week it is? It is National School Counselor's week, and we want to showcase our fantastic counselors! Mrs. Lillian Alderman and Mrs. Brandy Bles pour their hearts and talents into our students daily! Thank you, ladies, for loving our kids!

photos

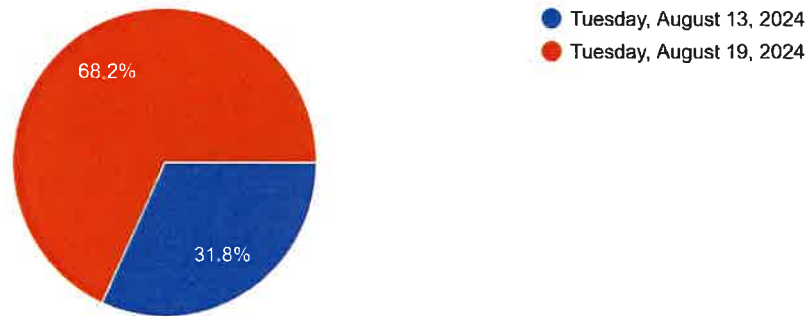


Advertising 24

## Mountain Pine School District Parent Survey Results:

I would like the first day of school to be: Please choose one

88 responses



## Board Members

Shawn Blees  
Jennifer Walker  
Tom Gould  
Clayton Miller  
Josh Wilburn



RED DEVIL PRIDE!

# MOUNTAIN PINE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 46

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

P.O. BOX NO. 1

734 Blakely Dam Rd

MOUNTAIN PINE, ARKANSAS 71956

Bobby Applegate, Superintendent  
Dana Janush, Director of Federal Programs  
Denise Taylor, Curriculum Director  
Shelley Applegate, Special Education Supervisor

Donna Stricklin, District Treasurer  
Tammy Youngblood, Human Resources/Activities Bookkeeper  
Tina Herron-Nevels, e-school & Administrative Assistant

Phone: 501-767-1540

[www.mpsdrcd.com](http://www.mpsdrcd.com)

## MOUNTAIN PINE SCHOOL DISTRICT REGULAR BOARD MEETING- February 21, 2024

The Mountain Pine School Board of Directors met Wednesday, February 21, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. for the regular scheduled meeting. President Shawn Blees, Vice President Jennifer Walker, Secretary Tom Gould, Board Member Clayton Miller and Board Member Josh Wilburn.

President Shawn Blees called the board meeting to order at 5:17 p.m. and Superintendent Bobby Applegate opened with prayer.

Clayton Miller made a motion to approve the consent agenda for January and Special board meeting in February. Jennifer Walker seconded the motion. All for 5-0.

Superintendent report: student count 589

### Principal report:

Elementary Principal Lisa Engebretson gave a report on progress for reading and math interventions in Elementary.

High School Principal James Galarza gave a report about ALE award at Capital. Baseball and Softball starting. Prom April 6<sup>th</sup>. Deana Hughes-High School Science Teacher is in training for the new ATLAS testing. Mr. Braziel-Agri Teacher busy with FFA contests. Junior class has completed required civics testing. Science Fair coming up. New High School Teacher Doug Shott is doing a fantastic job, a great hire. East conference coming up March 13 & 14.

Curriculum Director Denise Smith gave a report on specifics on test scores from the December/February STAR testing comparison results for High School and Elementary. Gave a report on students that hadn't taken the test and on the number of students who dropped a level from the December to the February results.

Superintendent Bobby Applegate said that all Garland County Superintendents are meeting at the Federal Court on Monday, February 26<sup>th</sup> and hopefully will be given a ruling on the desegregation act to see if Garland County Schools can get out from under this ruling.

Dana Janush – Federal Programs Director gave a report about purchasing new desktops and laptops. Cycling out old ones for new ones. Getting bids. Lowest price was from STS Education. Will be also giving a report next board member about more needed more ipads for kindergarten.



Mountain Pine **SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**2024-2025 Regional Early Start Date**

**WHEREAS** the MTN Pine School District Board of Directors met in a [regular/special], open, and properly-convened board meeting on [insert date], in [location]; and

**Whereas** [Number] 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 MTN Pine School District approves of a school start date of Aug 12<sup>th</sup> for the 2024-2025 school year.

**ADOPTED** in regular (change to “special” if true) session by the Board of Directors of the Mountain Pine School district (date), 2024.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
PRESIDENT Shawn Blee

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