



**DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY
& SECONDARY EDUCATION**

Act 1240 Waiver Request

District:	BEARDEN
LEA Number:	5201000
Superintendent:	Denny L. Rozenberg
Email:	Cptrozy03@hotmail.com
Contact for Waiver:	Denny Rozenberg
Contact Email:	Cptrozy03@hotmail.com
Contact Phone:	870-687-1192
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**

The Bearden School District is in the process of investigating different calendar options for the 24-25 school year. Choices may include: traditional calendar, beginning on 12 AUG 2024 which is starting school earlier (up to one week), 4 day—week, school calendar by minutes instead of days, and a year around school year calendar. The district will send out a questionnaire / survey in February--March to parents, students, teachers, staff and make a final decision on the 24-25 school year calendar by May 9, 2024. The district is submitting this waiver for starting school up to one week earlier for the next five years to have the option of starting school earlier if a traditional calendar is chosen and also apply with the other school districts in the SCSC—Educational Cooperative.

Waiver Request #1

Topic:	ACT 1240 Waiver to begin school up to 1 week early each school year.
Standards/Statutes/Rules:	1st day to start a new school year.
Duration Requested:	2024—2029 School Year
Name of Open-Enrollment Charter Holding the Waiver	Bearden School District
Schools, Grades or Classes the Wavier Will Apply To	K—6 th Bearden Elementary School 7 th —12 th Bearden 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.**

Beginning the school year up to one week early will allow the district to have more academic contact and instructional time / days with students before administering state assessments in the spring. This will also allow more time for pre-assessments and provide more opportunities for interventions before state assessments and reduce the time away from school for students up to 1 week. This will also allow the district to balance days in each semester, provide more flexibility in scheduling inclement weather days, make-up days. This will also allow us to align our high school schedule with SAU Tech Career Academy and SAU Concurrent Credit courses for our senior who take courses on SAU Tech's campus. (1st Semester—Comp I / World History / Aerospace—Industrial Preparation Program).

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

There are no services being waived with this waiver request. If this waiver is granted it will give the district more days / time to have academic contact and core instructional time for students before state assessments in the spring of the school year. This will also allow more time for pre-assessments and Tier I / II interventions before state assessments in the spring of the school year.

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

The district will compare RTI time from one year to the next. Use the State assessment data to help determine if this extra time (1 week) was beneficial. We will also determine if starting up to one week earlier allows more flexibility in scheduling to align our school calendar with SAU Tech's Career Academy and Concurrent Credit Courses that our seniors take on SAU Tech's campus. (1st Semester—Comp I / World History / Aerospace—Industrial Preparation Program).

Bearden School District
100 Oak Ave
Bearden, AR. 71720
11 January 2024

Resolution Number: 003

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF BEARDEN SCHOOL DISTRICT AUTHORIZING THE DISTRICT TO REQUEST A WAIVER

WHEREAS, the BEARDEN SCHOOL 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, the Bearden School District would like to have the option to begin the school year up to 1 week earlier than the Department of Education's starting date over the next five years, with the purpose of increasing the student contact days in the first semester and increasing the total contact days prior to State Assessments in the spring, and allowing more flexibility in scheduling with SAU TECH Career Academy and SAU High School Con-Current Credit Courses;

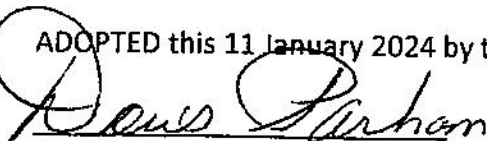
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Bearden School District hereby authorizes the district administration to formally request a waiver for moving the starting date of the school year up to one week earlier than allowed by current attendance laws over the next five years (2024—2028); which is normally the 19th of August; during the 2024—25 school year this would be as early as the 12th of August 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 11 January 2024 by the Board of Directors of Bearden School District.



Mrs. Doris Parham, President
Bearden School District Board of Directors



Mr. Adam Bailey Secretary
Bearden School District Board of Directors

At the time of submission, the district was unable to provide the documentation due to missing 5 days of school. The district will have the missing documentation before the State Board of Education meeting scheduled for February 9, 2024.

Missing Document:

Stakeholder Feedback ~

Parents/Guardians Act 1240

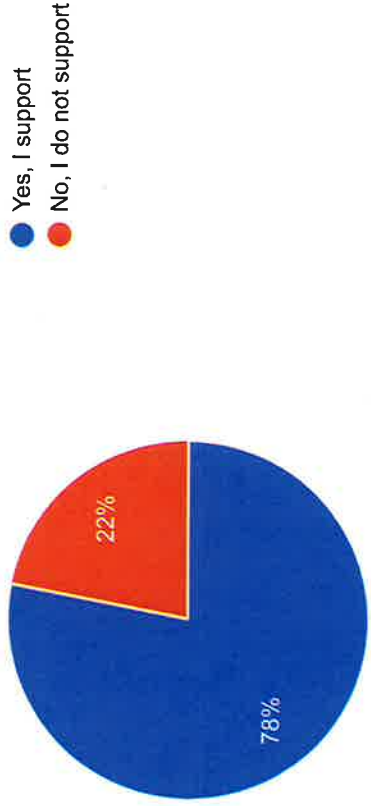
82 responses

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Do you support Bearden School District's waiver application to have the option to start the 2024–25 school year up to one week early each year for the next five years? This coming year it would be as early as Monday, August 12, 2024.

82 responses



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Faculty/Staff Act 1240

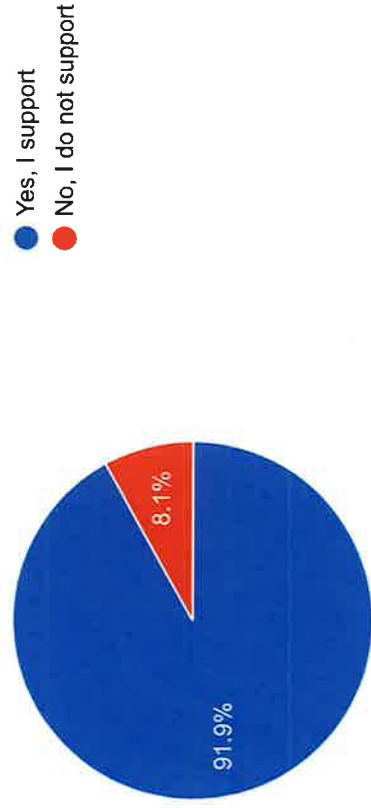
37 responses

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37 responses



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