



Act 1240 District Waiver Request

District:	Gravette
LEA Number:	0404000
Superintendent:	Maribel Childress
Email:	maribel.childress@gravetteschools.net
Contact for Waiver:	Maribel Childress
Contact Email:	maribel.childress@gravetteschools.net
Contact Phone:	479-787-4100
Date Received by DESE:	3/9/21

The following documents must be submitted with the waiver request:

1. Evidence of the local school board's approval of the waiver request(s)
2. Evidence of stakeholder involvement, including teachers and student families

1. The Act 1240 Waiver request is on the agenda for the March 15, 2021 regular meeting of the Gravette Board of Education.
2. Attached are copies of the agenda and sign-in sheets from the Gravette Middle School faculty meeting, Gravette High School faculty meeting and the joint school parent meeting. In addition to these formal meetings, a planning session was held on February 26, 2021 with the superintendent, administrators and library media specialists from each school. Email confirmation of that meeting is attached.

Waiver Request #1

Topic:	Library Media Specialist
Standards/Statutes/Rule's	6-25-103(b)- Library Media Specialist Time Requirements Standard 4-F.2 – Library Media Ratio
Duration Requested:	Three years
Name of Open-Enrollment Charter Holding the Waiver	Arkansas Virtual Academy
Schools, Grades or Classes the Wavier Will Apply To	Gravette Middle School, Grades 6-8 Gravette High School, Grades 9-12

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.

Since early February, our team has been exercising our creative thinking to develop a plan to support our students with course/credit failures so they can stay on track for on-time graduation. As a result of unsuccessful virtual learning and pivots to and from virtual learning we have an unusually large number of students, particularly ninth grade students with failures from the 2020 fall semester: 34 students failed English 9, 24 students failed Algebra 1, 27 students failed Physical Science and 14 failed US History. In tenth grade, 10 students failed English 10, 14 students failed Geometry, and 16 students failed Biology. Our goal for all of these students is on-time graduation. In order to achieve this goal and continue to serve all other students' academic needs requires additional staff to teach the extra courses. To hire a certified teacher for 2 English courses, 2 math courses and 2 science courses would be highly inefficient and could cost the district 3 teachers' salaries (over \$200,000) unless we are able to find a teacher with multi-subject credentials. In addition, we see this as a short term need and do not wish to obligate those salary/benefit funds for the long term. We are requesting a three year waiver in order to support this current 9th grade class through their graduation. We do not anticipate a need beyond that period of time.

By accessing the Act 1240 waiver for library media specialist time, we can meet the needs of these students, with highly effective teachers at no additional cost to the district. The library media specialist at GMS is certified in English 7-12. In addition to his role in the Gravette School District, he currently teaches English Composition for NWACC. The library media specialist at GHS is certified in math and science 7-12. In addition to her role in the Gravette School District, she currently teaches GED classes for mathematics. If granted an Act 1240 waiver, these two professionals could each teach 1-2 courses and serve as an academic mentor in their subject area expertise and help us achieve our goal of on-time graduation for these students.

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

It is our expectation that students and teachers will not recognize a change in library services. Each of these libraries has a library aide. The libraries will remain open with the support of the library aides when the LMS are teaching their class(es). The majority of the day, the LMS will be in the library and providing library services. No library services or programs will be compromised by the granting of this waiver.

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 both the instructional support to meet the students' academic needs and the accessibility to library media services.

- Track student progress toward on-time graduation
- Monitor student enrollment numbers in each course for efficiency

- LMS participation in content area PLCs
- Classroom observation data
- Surveys and collegial conversations with LMS, faculty, students and parents
- Analysis of circulation data
- Analysis of participation in library programs
- Analysis of LMS time logs regarding the amount of time each role is consuming their school day

Gravette Middle School

PLC Agenda
March 5, 2021

Time	Session Focus	Process/Intended Results	Resources
2:30-2:40	EAST Board Game competition for advisories	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vote on participation	See Hankins' email for specifics
2:45-3:00	Act 1240 Waiver	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Information about waiver and discussion/ Q&A	Mike Walker
3:00-3:15	Grade level competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Who can win at Pictionary	
3:15-3:30	Grade level meetings	As needed	As needed

Sign In 3/5/21 PLC

Brad Lead

Amy Mathamp

Bethany McKinzie

Alisa Corke

Jobi Sotallaro

Shirley Reynolds

Sandy Drummond

Mark Hendrik

Jennifer Norman

Rachel ~~Field~~

Kalena ~~Kesteven~~

Dustin Deese

Jennifer Deese

Dean Auffstetter

Electra Von

Morgan Maestro

Paul R. ~~Field~~

James Deese

Amy Hartzell

Michelle Bohannon

Kelly ~~Field~~

Faculty Meeting Sign-In Sheet

Topic(s) of Meeting: Act 1240 Waiver for Media Specialist

Date: 3/5/2021 Time: 2:45 pm Facilitator: Shannon Mitchell

Building GHS Grade Level _____ Special Committee _____ Other _____

Bassing, Megan	Megan Bassing
Bearden, Bryan	
Blessing, Mariana	Mariana Blessing
Bohannon, Kelby	Kelby Bohannon
Buck, Andrea	Andrea Buck
Buck, Barrette	
Busch, Matt	
Butler, Ren	Ren Butler
Carriera, Thomas	Thomas Carriera
Cluck, Sue	Sue Cluck
Eaves, Lesa	Les Eaves
Galloway, Ian	Ian Galloway
Gravette, Jeff	Jeff Gravette
Grider, Robert	
Griffin, Melinda	Melinda Griffin
Hall, Andrew	Andrew Hall
Hartsell, Amy	
Hendrick, Mark	
Hendrick, Mollie	Mollie Hendrick
Hicks, Carla	Carla Hicks
Hilger, Robin	Robin Hilger
Houtchens, Lara	Lara Houtchens
Johnson, Bob	
Jones, Brandy	Brandy Jones
Jones, Taos	Taos Jones
Kildow, Jill	Jill Kildow
Kirkpatrick, Cindy	Cindy Kirkpatrick
Landon, Jayston	Jayston Landon
Lovell, Brittany	Brittany Lovell
McKinzie, Sheldon	
Milton, Lisa	Lisa Milton
Mitchell, Norman	
Mitchell, Shannon	Shannon Mitchell
Moots, Shannon	Shannon Moots
Morgan, Samantha	Samantha Morgan
Mullen, Curtis	
Nichols, Connie	
Parker, Annette	Annette Parker
Pittman, Will	
Rawlins, Skyler	
Ray, Aaron	Aaron Ray
Reiff, Jacki	Jacki Reiff
Schaffer, Ali	Ali Schaffer
Sharp, Janna	Janna Sharp
Stoesz, Jenny	Jenny Stoesz
Thomas, Jessica	Jessica Thomas
Tolle, Karen	
Webb, Sherri	
Wietecha, Daniel	Dan Wietecha

(Tori Annell)

Act 1240 Library Time Waiver Parent Meeting

Assessment of Need:

Fall Semester 2020 Course Failures

- 34 English 9
- 27 Physical Science
- 24 Algebra 1
- 10 English 10
- 16 Biology
- 14 Geometry
- 14 US History

In order to keep students on track for on-time graduation, we will need additional sections of core content courses next year, particularly for 9th grade courses, to help students get caught up.

Hiring additional staff to teach these courses would cost the district \$60,000-\$200,000 depending on whether or not we could find teachers with multiple certifications.

Solution:

GMS Library Media Specialist has certification in English for grades 7-12.

GHS Library Media Specialist has certification in Math and Science for grades 7-12.

If granted an Act 1240 waiver for library time, each of these teachers could teach 2-3 courses and meet the district's needs at no additional cost.

During the remainder of the school day, they would continue to serve as library media specialist. Each of these school libraries also employs a library aide who could keep the library operational while the library media specialist is teaching. Students and teachers would see no change in service provided.



Gravette Public Schools

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Superintendent of Schools
609 Birmingham Street SE
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Rebecca Sears
Assistant Superintendent
609 Birmingham Street SE
479-787-4100

Nikki Brecheen, Principal
Glenn Duffy Elementary
601 El Paso Street SE
479-787-4100

Dr. Mandy Barrett, Principal
Gravette Upper Elementary
500 8th Ave SE
479-787-4100

Kelly Hankins, Principal
Gravette Middle School
607 Dallas St SE
479-787-4100

Shannon Mitchell, Principal
Gravette High School
325 Lion Drive S
479-787-4100

Taos Jones, Assistant Principal
Gravette High School
325 Lion Drive S
479-787-4100

Vickie Johnston, Director
Special Education
601 El Paso Street SE
479-787-4100

Richard Carver, Director
Transportation and Maintenance
1133 Main St SE
479-787-4100

Sheila Roughton, Director
Food Services
406 6th Avenue SE
479-787-4100

Daniel Rice, Director
Technology
406 6th Avenue SE

Act 1240 Library Time Waiver

Parent Meeting

March 5, 2021

Sign-In Sheet

Haidee Larson

Melanie Nichols

Alexis Frizzell

Tammy Muller



Maribel Childress <maribel.childress@gravetteschools.net>

Secondary LMS meeting

3 messages

Maribel Childress <maribel.childress@gravetteschools.net>

Thu, Feb 25, 2021 at 8:00 AM

To: Janna Sharp <Janna.Sharp@gravetteschools.net>, Mike Walker <Mike.Walker@gravetteschools.net>, Shannon Mitchell <shannon.mitchell@gravetteschools.net>, Kelly Hankins <kelly.hankins@gravetteschools.net>

Good morning!

I was wondering if you all would be able to meet with me at 3:00PM this Friday afternoon to discuss LMS services for 2021-2022. I'm certain you are aware of how difficult this year has been for many of our students, particularly our online students. We are so fortunate to have both of you serving in our district with all of your passions, talents, and expertise and I want to make sure we are utilizing those skills and your leadership to help us meet the challenges of the year ahead.

Kelly - I know you are out of town, but perhaps we can touch base before or after this meeting.

With it just being four of us, I can safely distance us at the administration building. If for some reason you are unavailable on Friday afternoon, let me know and we can reschedule.

Thanks!
Maribel Childress
Superintendent
Gravette School District

Mike Walker <Mike.Walker@gravetteschools.net>

Thu, Feb 25, 2021 at 8:06 AM

To: Maribel Childress <maribel.childress@gravetteschools.net>

Cc: Janna Sharp <Janna.Sharp@gravetteschools.net>, Shannon Mitchell <shannon.mitchell@gravetteschools.net>, Kelly Hankins <kelly.hankins@gravetteschools.net>

Yes, I can be there.

[Quoted text hidden]

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Mike Walker, BA, MSE, MEd, EdS, ABD
Media Specialist/Parent Involvement Facilitator
Gravette Middle School
[607 Dallas St. SE](#)
[Gravette, AR 72736](#)
479-787-4160

"Libraries store the energy that fuels the imagination. They open up windows to the world and inspire us to explore and achieve, and contribute to improving our quality of life." –Sidney Sheldon

Janna Sharp <Janna.Sharp@gravetteschools.net>

Thu, Feb 25, 2021 at 9:49 AM

To: Maribel Childress <maribel.childress@gravetteschools.net>

Yes, I can meet on Friday at 3 PM.

On Thu, Feb 25, 2021 at 8:01 AM Maribel Childress <maribel.childress@gravetteschools.net> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

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School Board Resolution for the Act 1240 Waiver Request

We, the members of the Gravette School Board approve moving forward with the Act 1240 Waiver Request for Library Media Specialist Time for the Gravette School District by way of the following motion made at the regular meeting of the Gravette School District Board of Education on March 15, 2021.

The motion was made by: Jodi Moore

The motion was seconded by: Jim Craig

The motion carried with a 6-0 vote.

Time the vote was taken 7:13 pm.

Motion:

I move that the Board of Education approve moving forward with the Act 1240 Waiver Request for Library Media Specialist Time for the Gravette School District 2021-2022 school year.

Hinley

School Board President

Albright

School Board Vice President

Rhyn Howell

School Board Secretary

Jim Craig

School Board Member

[Signature]

School Board Member

School Board Member

Jodi Moore

School Board Member