



## **Public School Waiver Request**

<b>District:</b>	<b>Norfolk School District</b>
<b>LEA Number:</b>	0304000
<b>Superintendent:</b>	Mr. Oliver "Chip" Layne
<b>Email:</b>	chip.layne@norfolk.k12.ar.us
<b>Contact for Waiver:</b>	Chip Layne
<b>Contact Email:</b>	chip.layne@norfolk.k12.ar.us
<b>Contact Phone:</b>	870-499-7191
<b>Date Received by DESE:</b>	

**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>	<del>Arrie Goforth Elementary School</del> Arkansas Virtual Academy <del>Norfolk High School</del> Arkansas Connections Academy
<b>Schools, Grades or Classes the Waiver 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 North Central 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 the week that contains August 19. For the 2024-2025 school year, that date will be Monday, August 19.

The specific waiver being requested is to allow the applying school districts to set their individual district's first day of class to be "no earlier than Monday, August 12."

The law as presently constructed results in a wide swing in the allowable opening date of school. At the earliest, it can be August 14, which was the case this year – fall of 2023. The latest possible first is August 20 which, under the law will be – fall of 2029. This waiver would next year allow school to open on the same relative date as this year.

The advantages of this waiver:

- The number of days in each semester would better reflect instructional focus; Fall semester would equal 73 and Spring semester would equal 70. Without this waiver, fall semester will be 71 days and spring semester will be 72. We would prefer to have the additional time prior to testing.
- More time to prepare our students with quality instructional time will lead to higher assessment performance.
- Activities such as basketball, FFA, cheer, and others will begin next fall on the same relative date as they did this fall, with or without the waiver. Therefore, a large majority of students will already be on campus to practice and prepare for their activities regardless of the opening date of school.

The granting of this waiver does not affect any other law, rule, or procedure. The school year will remain the same length. It will simply allow the district to continue with a school calendar that is structured as closely as possible to the current one, and avoids the dramatic change that would result without the waiver.

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

There will be no loss of services for students under this waiver.

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

The district will monitor effectiveness of an earlier start date by no more than 5 days, by tracking student performance data on district and state assessments as well as student attendance data trends. The movement of the start date should have a positive effect on both of these areas by providing more instructional days prior to testing and capitalizing on students' peak performance.

# Faculty - Act 1240 Waiver Survey

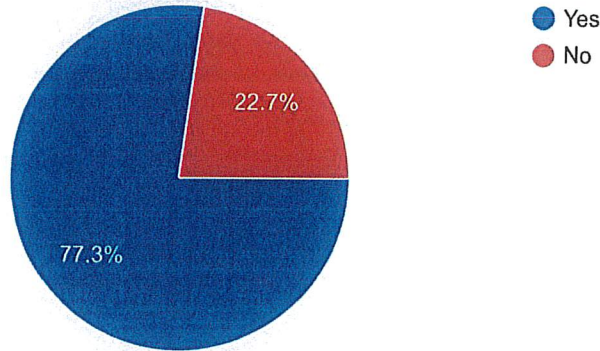
44 responses

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Would you be in favor of supporting Norfolk School District's waiver to start school as soon as August 12, 2024?

 Copy

44 responses



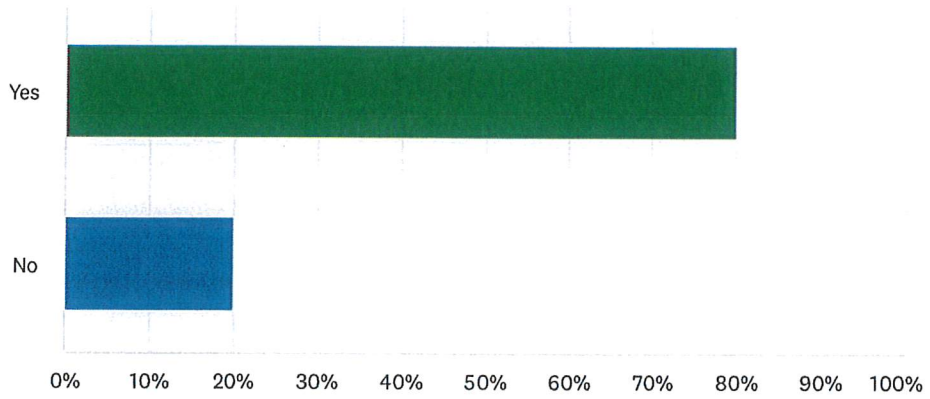
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# Q1 Would you be in favor of supporting Norfolk School District's waiver to start school as soon as August 12, 2024?

Answered: 75 Skipped: 0



**ANSWER CHOICES**

**RESPONSES**

Yes	80.00%	60
No	20.00%	15
TOTAL		75

[Your School District's Name] NORFOLK School District  
[School District's Address] 44 Fireball Lane  
[City, State, Zip Code] NORFOLK, AR 72658  
[Date] 2.13.2024

Resolution Number: [Insert Resolution Number]

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF <sup>Norfolk School District</sup> ~~[Your School District's Name]~~ AUTHORIZING THE DISTRICT TO REQUEST A WAIVER

WHEREAS, the <sup>Norfolk School District</sup> ~~[Your School District's Name]~~ 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, [Include specific details regarding the waiver, such as the name of the waiver, the regulation or requirement it pertains to, and the reasons for seeking the waiver];

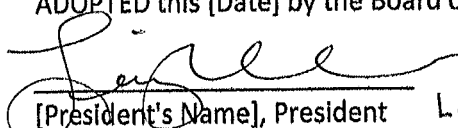
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of <sup>Norfolk School District</sup> ~~[Your School District's Name]~~ hereby authorizes the district administration to formally request a waiver for [Include specific details regarding the waiver, such as the name of the waiver, the regulation or requirement it pertains to, and the reasons for seeking the waiver];

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 <sup>2/13/24</sup> [Date] by the Board of Directors of [Your School District's Name]. <sup>Norfolk School District</sup>

  
[President's Name], President Levi J. Woods  
[Your School District's Name] Board of Directors Norfolk School District

ATTEST:  
  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Shannon W Moody 2-13-24*

[Secretary's Name], Secretary *Shannon Moody*

[Your School District's Name] Board of Directors *Norfolk School District*

**Note: Please consult with your district's legal counsel and ensure that the resolution complies with local laws and regulations before adopting it.**