



DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY
& SECONDARY EDUCATION

Act 1240 Waiver Request

District:	Ozark School District
LEA Number:	2404000
Superintendent:	Zane Vanderpool
Email:	Zane.vanderpool@ozarkhillbillies.org
Contact for Waiver:	Zane Vanderpool
Contact Email:	Zane.vanderpool@ozarkhillbillies.org
Contact Phone:	479-667-4118
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 Start Date
Standards/Statutes/Rules:	A.C.A. 6-10-106
Duration Requested:	5 years
Name of Open-Enrollment Charter Holding the Waiver	Arkansas Virtual Academy
Schools, Grades or Classes the Wavier Will Apply To	K-12
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.

The member school districts of the Guy Fenter 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. 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 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 day is August 20 which, under the law will be — the fall of 2029. This waiver would allow the school to open next year and years to follow on the same relative date as this year.

The advantages of this waiver are several:

- The fall and spring semesters would be closer to the same length. Without this waiver, the fall semester will be 84 days while the spring semester will be 94 days, a difference of 10 days. With the waiver the fall semester will be 91 days and the spring semester 87 days, a difference of only 4 days. The more unbalanced the semesters are, the greater the issue for classes that are one semester in length.
- The alternative solution for unbalanced semesters is to not end the fall semester until after Christmas break. This results in final exams shortly after two weeks out of school, and the possibility of exams being repeatedly postponed due to winter weather.
- This waiver will give greater assurance of school ending in late May rather than extending into June. Some research indicates a decrease in learning past the Memorial Day Holiday.

- **Beginning school earlier automatically results in more days of instruction before spring testing. More days of instruction will result in higher test scores,**

- **Activities such as football will begin next fall on the same relative date as they did this fall, with or without the waiver, Therefore a large number of students will already be on campus to practice and prepare for their activities, regardless of the opening date of school. In addition to students who play football, this would include students who participate in groups such as golf, tennis, cross country, volleyball, band, cheer, dance, ROTC, Student Council, and National Honor Society, as well as others.**

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

The school districts will create a calendar with an earlier start date which will provide them with more flexibility throughout the school year. The school year will remain the same length. It simply allows a district to continue with a school calendar structured as closely as possible to the current one and avoids the dramatic change to the calendar which must result without the waiver.

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

The district will monitor student assessment results and student attendance data related to the earlier start date to determine the effectiveness of the early start date.



OZARK SCHOOL DISTRICT



Zane Vanderpool, Superintendent • Jordan Price, Assistant Superintendent & Athletic Director
PO BOX 135, Ozark, AR 72929 • Phone: 479-667-4118 • Fax: 479-667-4092 • ozarkhillbillies.org

Curriculum Coordinator
Ashley Culver • 479-667-4118
District LEA Supervisor
Amber Quillman • 479-667-4118

Ozark High School
Lexie Highfill • 479-667-4116
Ozark Junior High School
Jerrold Burns • 479-667-4747

Ozark Middle School
Brad Culver • 479-468-6111
Ozark Upper Elementary
Shane Vincent • 479-667-3464

Ozark Primary School
Kelly Burns • 479-667-4745
Ozark Kindergarten Center
Jennifer King • 479-667-3021

January 22, 2024

Resolution Number: OSD 1.22.24

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

WHEREAS, the Ozark School District 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, Act 1240 and A.C.A. 6-10-106 provides a district can request a waiver to begin school before August 19 to enhance student learning opportunities, and whereas evidence of stakeholder involvement, including teachers and student families, indicates a substantial interest in beginning school as early as August 12th, and whereas the waiver request is or five years beginning in SY2025, and whereas this Board of Directors agrees with the desire and possibility to enhance student learning opportunities;

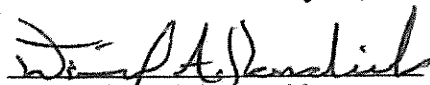
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of Ozark School District hereby authorizes the district administration to formally request a waiver to begin school as early as August 12th for the 2024-2025 school year and for thereafter the duration of the length provided by the Act 1240 School Start Date waiver;

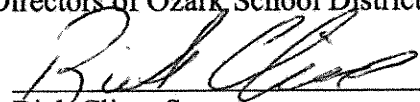
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Superintendent or designee is authorized to take all necessary steps and actions to submit the waiver request, including providing any additional information or documentation required by the relevant authorities;

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 January 22, 2024 by the Board of Directors of Ozark School District.


David Kendrick, President
Ozark School District Board of Directors


Rick Cline, Secretary
Ozark School District Board of Directors

2024-2025 Start of School Survey

Dear Ozark School District,

As it stands now, the earliest day we can start school next year on a traditional school calendar is Monday, August 19th. However, the district can apply for a waiver to start school as early as one week sooner on Monday, August 12th. Please let us know which start date you would prefer?

Please complete this short survey by noon on Monday, January 22nd. Thank you!

* Indicates required question

1. Select your role. *

Mark only one oval.

- Student
- Parent/Guardian
- School Faculty/Staff Member

2. Which date would you prefer to start school Next Year, 2024-2025? *

Mark only one oval.

- August 12, first day of school
- August 19, first day of school

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

Google Forms

2024-2025 Start of School Survey

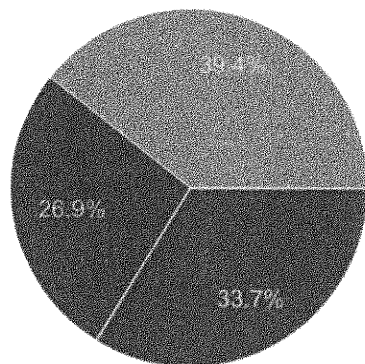
424 responses

Publish analytics

Select your role.

424 responses

 Copy

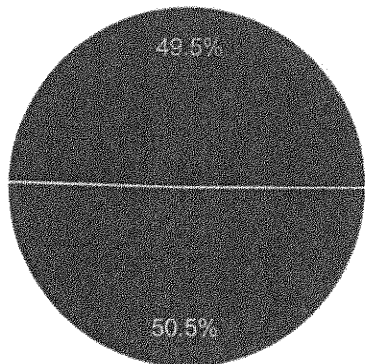


- Student
- Parent/Guardian
- School Faculty/Staff Member

Which date would you prefer to start school Next Year, 2024-2025?

424 responses

 Copy



- August 12, first day of school
- August 19, first day of school

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google. [Report Abuse](#) - [Terms of Service](#) - [Privacy Policy](#)

Google Forms

