



**DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY
& SECONDARY EDUCATION**

Public School Waiver Request

District:	Dierks
LEA Number:	3102
Superintendent:	Grover Hill
Email:	Grover.hill@dierksschools.org
Contact for Waiver:	Grover Hill
Contact Email:	Grover.hill@dierksschools.org
Contact Phone:	870-286-2191
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	0
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 Dierks School District is 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 FY25 school year that date is Monday, August 19, 2024.

The specific waiver requested is to allow the school district to set the first day of class to be “no earlier than Tuesday, August 13.”

The advantages of this waiver include but are not limited to:

- A. The number of days for instruction the first semester would more closely align to the number of days for instruction in the second semester. We are a four-day week school district. The number of days required for a four-day school is 143. The waiver would give us 72 days in the first semester and 71 days in the second semester.
- B. There would be an increase in the number of days of instruction prior to spring testing rather than days of instruction after spring testing.
- C. The ending of the school term would align to community needs for the last day of school before Memorial Day.
- D. For inclement weather situations, it would allow a few days of makeup following Memorial Day prior to June should inclement prohibits instruction during school term.
- E. Student engagement is much higher at the beginning of the school year versus the ending of the school year. Engaged students equate to more learning at any level.

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

The Dierks School District 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. This would allow the district to continue with a school calendar structured as closely as possible to the current one and avoid dramatic changes to the calendar which would result without the waiver.

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

Dierks School District will monitor student assessment results and student attendance data related to the earlier state date to determine the effectiveness of the early start date.



Dierks Public Schools

800 & 900 Old Highway 70 West, PO Box 124 Dierks, AR

Phone: 870-286-3234, Fax: 870-286-2450

Grover Hill, Superintendent
grover.hill@dierksschools.org

Scott Feemster, High School Principal
scott.feemster@dierksschools.org

Craig Dodson, Elementary Principal
craig.dodson@dierksschools.org

School Board Resolution

Comes now the Dierks school district board acting by and through its superintendent duly authorized to do herein and declare. A regular board meeting was held on January 25, 2023 wherein a quorum was present, and the majority of the quorum voted to approve ACT 1240 Waiver Request. Therefore, this document is to serve as formal resolution of the Dierks School District Board of Directors pursuant to Arkansas law that said ACT 1240 (347) is hereby approved.

Dierks School District of Howard County

By: Grover Hill Superintendent

Date 1-25-24

By: Jan Fpa Board President

Date 1/25/24

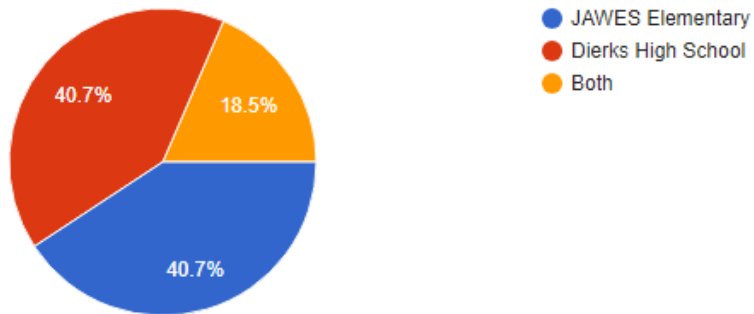


Stakeholder Data Request for Early Start

I have a student at:

27 responses

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I support the waiver request to start school on August 13, 2024

27 responses

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