



Helena-West Helena School District

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November 9, 2021

Deborah Coffman
Assistant Commissioner
Arkansas Department of Education
Division of Elementary and Secondary Education
Public School Accountability
Four Capitol Mall, Mail Slot #26
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Ms. Coffman:

The Helena-West Helena School District is seeking a Class Size Waiver for Kindergarten which is allowable in the Standards for Accreditation due to the need to enroll a foster child. I am seeking a waiver of Standard for Accreditation 1-A.5, which requires that "Each public school district shall comply with the laws of the State of Arkansas and the rules of the Division regarding class size and teaching load." I am seeking a waiver under Ark. Code Ann. 6-15-202(b)(2)(A).

J.F. Wahl Elementary has five (5) Kindergarten classes and the classes are over capacity. Currently, there is a Substitute Teacher with twenty-two (22) students and the remaining four (4) classes with Licensed Teachers each have twenty-five (25) students.

This waiver is direly needed to provide educational opportunities for this child and other children that enroll in our district, as we seek certified teachers and/or as a last resort degreed persons for potential Act 1240 waiver qualifications to place into the classroom, in an effort to alleviate student class size load and to provide impactful instruction to our students.

Sincerely,

**An Equal Opportunity
Employer**