



**DISTRICT WAIVER REQUEST FORM**

**District Name:** OMAHA SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Superintendent:** DR. RYAN HUFF

**Email Address:** ryan.huff@omaha.k12.ar.us

**District LEA:** 0504000 **Submission Date:** 02/13/2019

**Phone Number:** (870) 426-3366

**Name of Charter School(s) Attended by District Students**

Arkansas Virtual Academy

Arkansas Connections Academy

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**Waiver Topic:** School Day

**Statute/Standard/Rule to be Waived**

**Arkansas Code Annotated**

- § 6-16-102 - School day.

**Standards for Accreditation**

- 1-A.5.2 School Calendar.

**Rationale for Waiver**

Omaha School District is requesting a waiver for A.C.A. § 6-16-102 - School Day and Standard 1-A.5.2 School Calendar. This request is for 5 years. This waiver would allow the district to dismiss 1 hour and 45 minutes early a maximum of 15 school days per school year for Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) to have the necessary common time to meet and effect change in instruction and student achievement .

These days would be scheduled throughout the school year. The 2019-2020 calendar shows 12 of these days, should this waiver be approved. During recent years, teachers and administrators have requested scheduling options that allow for regularly scheduled common development and learning time. During these early release times, staff would focus on the four questions of PLCs:

1. What do we want our students to learn?
2. How will we know if they have learned?
3. What will we do if they don't learn?
4. What will we do if they already know it?

Plus other tasks and topics: student data analysis, instructional strategies, personalized student learning plans, and efforts seeking to improve the quality of instruction or increase student achievement.

This waiver will eliminate the need for teachers to miss instructional time to meet with their PLC and acquire needed professional development to ensure the goals of the district are accomplished.

Early release for the purposes of professional development and PLCs allow the district to provide high-quality and timely professional development throughout the school year while also allowing students to be present for breakfast and lunch. This is a concern for professional development days in which

students do not attend school as we are a high poverty school district and many of our students are served free or reduced price breakfast and lunch.

When the form is complete, email it with the waiver lists for the charter school(s) that serve district students to Kelly McLaughlin at [kelly.mclaughlin@arkansas.gov](mailto:kelly.mclaughlin@arkansas.gov). Waiver lists can be accessed from the Arkansas Department of Education: My School Info webpage at <https://myschoolinfo.arkansas.gov/>. Instructions for accessing waiver reports can be found at [www.arkansased.gov/public/userfiles/Learning\\_Services/Charter\\_Schools/Accessing\\_Waivers\\_on\\_My\\_School\\_Info.pdf](http://www.arkansased.gov/public/userfiles/Learning_Services/Charter_Schools/Accessing_Waivers_on_My_School_Info.pdf).

Questions should be directed to Kelly McLaughlin by email at [kelly.mclaughlin@arkansas.gov](mailto:kelly.mclaughlin@arkansas.gov) or by phone at (501) 682-2130.

## OPTIONAL CONSIDERATIONS TO ADDRESS

The State Board of Education requests, but cannot require, written responses to the following considerations as part of the petition for district waivers. All written responses should be emailed to the Arkansas Department of Education with the waiver request and list(s) of open-enrollment charter waivers.

### Discuss the ways in which the proposed waivers will impact the district.

- Ways in which the waivers would support or complement the district's **vision, mission, and/or strategic plan**
- District **policies**, if any, that would have to be developed or revised to implement the waiver
- The **fiscal impact** of the waivers, if any
  - Additional costs associated and sources of funding
  - Planned uses for savings
- Effects of the waivers, if any, on current academic, fiscal, or facilities **distress status**
  - Ways the waivers will help alleviate distress issues
  - Potential for implementation of the waivers to cause distress issues
- Effects of the waivers, if any, on compliance with the **Standards for Accreditation**
  - Ways the waivers will help alleviate accreditation issues
  - Potential for implementation of the waivers to cause accreditation issues

### Discuss the planning that has taken place to ensure successful implementation of the waivers.

- **Options considered** by the district to request the waivers
  - School of innovation
  - District conversion charter
  - Reasons district waivers are being requested rather than seeking a school of innovation or a charter
- **Student gains** for students if these waivers are granted
  - Academic gains
  - Other benefits
- **Implementation** of the waivers
  - **Charter** school(s) use of the waivers
    - ◆ Application of the waivers
    - ◆ Evaluation of ongoing need for the waivers
  - **District** use of the waivers
    - ◆ **Specific plans** to implement the waivers
      - Certain schools, grade levels, and/or programs to be affected
      - Description of the changes to take place
      - Length of time for which the waivers are requested
- **Evaluation** of the usefulness of the waivers
  - **Method(s)** to be used to determine benefits of and/or problems with using the waivers
  - **Timeframe** for assessing the use of the waivers
  - **Outcome(s)** that will demonstrate successful use of the waivers
  - **Plan of action** if use of waivers is not achieving the desired results

### Discuss the transparency of the process and methods used for garnering support for the waivers.

- Efforts, including **methods, times, dates, places**, for notifying and including all stakeholders
  - Students
  - Teachers and other staff
  - Parents
  - Community members
  - School board (board resolution)
- **Feedback** received from stakeholders and how it was and will be used in district planning