

## Prairie Grove High School

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*Information provided by Applicant is in italics.*

### **General Response to the Waivers from Prairie Grove High School**

After consideration of the ADE Conversion Chart Authorizing Panel's responses to our request for waivers and reviewing our plan for implementation, we have determined that we only need to request the following three waivers to meet our goals:

1. Class Size and Teaching Load: Section 10.02.5
2. Clock Hours: Section 14.03
3. Licensure: Section 15.03 Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-1004, Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-309, Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-401, Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-902, Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-919

We rescind our request for all other waivers as noted in our responses below.

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**Prairie Grove High School  
Waivers Requested in Original Application  
2016 District Conversion Charter Application**

**1. Career and Technical Education**

**Section 9.03.3.9 of the Standards for Accreditation**

*Prairie Grove High School requests a waiver of the requirement to teach Career and Technical Education (CTE) curricula (Keyboarding, Career Orientation, Family and Consumer Sciences and Survey of Agriculture) as separate classes. PGHS will ensure compliance with ADE Standards Rules, Arkansas Frameworks and all applicable rubrics by embedding this curriculum within other courses or presenting courses such as Family and Consumer Sciences or Survey of Agriculture at Grade 8. Such flexibility is necessary to increase time for students to participate in career pathways opportunities at the high school level.*

**Legal Comments:** The section requested is for grades 5-8, and the Applicant refers to grade 8 in its rationale. However, Applicant will serve grades 9-12. Applicant should provide clarification on what section it is requesting and rationale for why. Additionally, waivers are not necessary to embed courses. The applicant should seek course approval for its embedded course(s).

**Applicant Response:** *Exclude or rescind Section 9.03.3.9 of the Standards for Accreditation*

**Remaining Issues:** None – Waiver request has been rescinded

**2. Planned Instructional Day**

**Section 10.01.4 of the Standards for Accreditation**

*Prairie Grove High School requests a waiver of the requirement that the planned instructional time in each school day shall not average less than six (6) hours per day or thirty (30) hours per week in order to increase scheduling flexibility and offer more opportunities during the day for career exploration. By utilizing embedded coursework and a self-paced, personalized learning environment, students will have more time to serve in internships and apprenticeships, gaining experience, industry certification and concurrent credit.*

**Legal Comments:** Rationale should be provided as to why this waiver is necessary to achieve the Applicant's goals and how it will ensure students are mastering the curriculum. In order to effectuate this waiver, waiver of Ark. Code Ann. § 6-16-102 is also necessary.

**Applicant Response:** *Exclude or rescind Section 10.01.4 of the Standards for Accreditation*

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**Remaining Issues:** None – Waiver request has been rescinded

### **3. Class Size and Teaching Load**

#### **Section 10.02.5 of the Standards for Accreditation**

*Prairie Grove High School requests a waiver of the requirement that a teacher shall not be assigned more than one hundred-fifty (150) students and that an individual class shall not exceed thirty (30) students. Prairie Grove High School believes that, in certain circumstance, in order for students to be scheduled as needed, more students than currently allowed may need to be scheduled in some classes. Prairie Grove High School ensures that under no circumstances will any teacher be assigned more than one hundred-eighty (180) students total or no more than thirty-five (35) students in a class. Prairie Grove High School will use this wavier on an as-needed basis only to create flexibility for student scheduling.*

**Legal Comments:** Applicant should acknowledge that special education class sizes cannot be waived. Additionally, if the district will not be compensating an educator for teaching more than 150 students a day, then a waiver of Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-812 is necessary.

**Applicant Response:** *1) We understand that special education class sizes cannot be waived. 2) PGSD will compensate teachers for teaching more than 150 students a day and we do not need to waive Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-812.*

**Remaining Issues:** None

### **4. Professional Development**

**Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-701 et seq.**

#### **Section 15.04 of the Standards for Accreditation**

*To the extent that it is necessary, Prairie Grove High School requests a waiver of the mentioned statutes and ADE Rules for the sole purpose of not requiring its non-licensed teachers to meet the state's teacher professional development requirements. The wavier will apply to Technical areas only and will apply to no core areas. Prairie Grove High School will establish its own training to acclimate new, unlicensed teachers to their teaching roles, responsibilities and expectations. This wavier will help Prairie Grove High School meet its established goal of increasing the number of students participating in a career pathway and obtaining industry certification or concurrent credit before graduation.*

**Legal Comments:** This waiver is not necessary for non-licensed educators as they do not have to follow the professional development requirements, but the waiver would apply for teachers and administrators.

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**Applicant Response:** *Exclude or rescind Section 15.04*

**Remaining Issues:** None – Waiver request has been rescinded

**5. Clock Hours**

**Section 14.03 of the Standards for Accreditation**

*Prairie Grove High School requests a waiver of clock hour requirements for graduation credit in order to meet the goals of its charter. This waiver will be used to create more flexibility in student schedules, which will in turn allow more time for substantial participation in relevant and meaningful career pathway opportunities in accordance with each student's Planned Personalize Pathway. Prairie Grove High School assures that the granting of this wavier will not create a dilution of the coursework required to meet all necessary standards and frameworks for affected courses.*

**Legal Comments:** None

**Remaining Issues:** Applicant should confirm whether planned instructional time will equal a minimum of 6-hours a day or a minimum of 30-hours a week. If not, then additional waivers of Ark. Code Ann. § 6-16-102 and Section 10.01.4 of the Standards for Accreditation are needed. Waivers of Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-211 and the ADE Rules Governing Mandatory Attendance for Students in Grades 9-12 may also be needed based on Applicant’s response regarding planning instructional time.

**6. Licensure**

**Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-1004**

~~**Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-302**~~

**Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-309**

**Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-401**

**Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-902**

**Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-919**

**Sections ~~15.02~~ and 15.03 of the Standards for Accreditation**

*Prairie Grove High School requests a wavier from the above-listed statues and rules to the extent that it is necessary to give Prairie Grove High School the flexibility to hire business and industry professionals or individuals employed by higher education who possess outstanding*

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*credentials and work history, but who do not hold a valid Arkansas Teaching License. All individuals who will be utilized in this manner will be required to pass criminal background and Child Maltreatment Registry checks.*

**Legal Comments:** Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-302 and Section 15.02 of the Standards of Accreditation apply to the requirements for principals only. Applicant should confirm whether it plans to utilize these waivers and if so, how those waivers will help the Applicant meet its goals. If the Applicant doesn't plan to waive the requirements for principals, then Applicant should confirm it is rescinding those waivers.

**Applicant Response:** *PGHS will utilize the waivers noted above excluding or rescinding Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-302 and Section 15.02 of the Standards of Accreditation that applies to the principal. We are only requesting waivers that are necessary for those instructors that do not possess a valid Arkansas Teaching License, which will allow us to employ individuals that possess industry, recognized credentials and have work experience in the field being taught. We believe these highly qualified and highly trained instructors will be the best-qualified employees to train students in career pathways. These waivers will not be used for core academic classes. It will only be used for career or technical fields where the instructor has a valid business or industry recognized certificate, license or credential and substantial work experience.*

**Remaining Issues:** None

**Desegregation Analysis:** Fully Responsive