



DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY
& SECONDARY EDUCATION

Public School Waiver Request

District:	Paris School District
LEA Number:	4203000
Superintendent:	Jim Loyd
Email:	jloyd@parisschools.org
Contact for Waiver:	Teresa Inman
Contact Email:	tinman@parisschools.org
Contact Phone:	(844)963-3243
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:	<u>AR Code § 6-10-106 (2020)</u>
Duration Requested:	2024-25 School Year
Name of Open-Enrollment Charter Holding the Waiver	Arkansas Virtual Academy
Schools, Grades or Classes the Wavier Will Apply To	K-12 District
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.**

Arkansas law states the first day of school shall be on or after the Monday of the week in which August 19 falls. In order to provide more instructional days prior to state testing and balance the required days per semester so fall semester exams are administered before Christmas break, we would like to request the waiver for a start date of the week of August 12, 2024.

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

This waiver will enable us to have balanced semesters and additional minutes built into both semesters in the event circumstances outside our control cause us to miss instructional time.

Balanced semesters that have a natural break coinciding with Christmas break is beneficial for our students, staff, and community. It would also allow the school calendar to end before June, which also benefits our staff, students, community, and state. And although we don't make educational decisions around state assessments, we see the importance of showcasing our student growth by optimizing our instructional time.

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

This waiver will enable us to provide more instructional in-person time to our students in the event of unexpected disruptions, such as inclement weather and natural disaster. We can monitor the effectiveness through monitoring state assessments, community survey , and input from stakeholders.

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF Paris School District AUTHORIZING THE
DISTRICT TO REQUEST A WAIVER
DATE: FEBRUARY 8, 2024

WHEREAS, the Paris 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, 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.

WHEREAS, 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 school district will create a calendar with an earlier start date which will remain the same length but 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.

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.

Additional Advantages:

- 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.

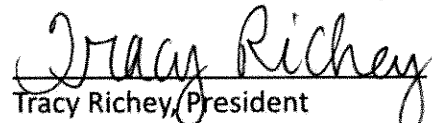
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of Paris School District hereby authorizes the district administration to formally request a waiver from A.C.A. 6-10-106, which establishes the first allowable day of class as the Monday of the week that contains August 19 to allow the first day of school to be as early as August 12, 2024.

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 DATE February 8, 2024, by the Board of Directors of Paris School District.


Tracy Richey, President
Paris District Board of Directors

ATTEST:


June Gilbreath, Secretary
Paris Board of Directors

0: search and view documents | 1: find a file | 2: share with friends... | 3: bookmark | 4: download files



STUDENT REGISTRATION FOR 2023-2024

SCHOOL CHOICE APPLICATION 2024

LIVE STREAM HOME ATHLETICS

COMMUNITY SURVEY

ARP ESSER - LEA PLAN - 11-13-23

EVENTS | [See All Events](#)

Paris School District

Community Survey

Paris School District values community input. Please take a minute to answer a couple of calendar questions. Thank you for your time.

In an effort to maximize student/teacher instructional in-person time, we originally extended our school day to 384 minutes per day, which exceeds the minimum number of 360 minutes required by the state of Arkansas. We are requesting a waiver from the state to change only the name of our calendar to alternate to more accurately reflect our approved calendar. This minor change will allow us to bank minutes we have already attended school, therefore we won't have to go additional days to make up missed snow days.

Linear scale



1 to 5

1 I disagree

5 I agree with submitting this...

Required

Arkansas law says the first day of school shall be on or after the Monday of the week in which August 19 falls. In order to provide more instructional days prior to state testing and balance the required days per semester so fall semester exams are before Christmas break, Paris Schools would like to request a waiver for a start date of the week of August 12, 2024.

1 2 3 4 5

I disagree.

I agree with submitting this waiver.