



DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY
& SECONDARY EDUCATION

Public School Waiver Request

District:	Cedarville
LEA Number:	1702
Superintendent:	Kerry Schneider ED.D.
Email:	kschneider@cedarvilleschools.org
Contact for Waiver:	Kerry Schneider
Contact Email:	kschneider@cedarvilleschools.org
Contact Phone:	479.474.7220 office 479.629.3946 cell
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	Arkansas Virtual Academy
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 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. We would appreciate approval for the early start date for the listed schools in our region giving public schools the equity afforded to Charter School.

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 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.

The advantages of this waiver are several:

- 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 greater opportunity to improve 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.

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

The school districts will create a calendar with an earlier start date providing more flexibility throughout the school year. The school year will remain the same length. It simply 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.

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

The district will monitor student assessment results and student attendance data related to the earlier start date to determine the effectiveness of the early start date.

Cedarville School District
9500 Pirates Point
Cedarville, AR 72932

February 13, 2024

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF Cedarville School District AUTHORIZING THE DISTRICT TO REQUEST A WAIVER

WHEREAS, the Cedarville 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 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 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.

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 Cedarville 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 class 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 February 13, 2024 by the Board of Directors of Cedarville School District.



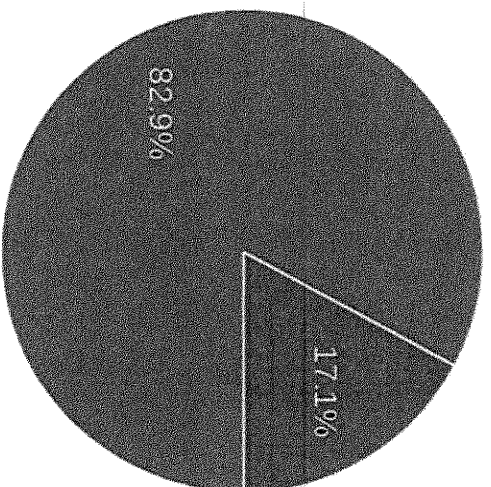
Zach Miller, President
Cedarville School District Board of Directors

ATTEST:



Tracy Mankins, Vice President
Cedarville School District Board of Directors

Would you prefer to move our first day of school (First day students report) to August 12th from August 19th (Current state requirement for next year).
70 responses



- Yes, start school the week of August 12th
- No, start school the week of August 19th



Kerry Schneider <kschneider@cedarvilleschools.org>

August Start Date Poll for 2024-2025 School Year

4 messages

brad.molder@cedarvilleschools.org <brad.molder@cedarvilleschools.org>

Mon, Jan 29, 2024 at 9:17 AM

Reply-To: brad.molder@cedarvilleschools.org

To: allemployees@cedarvilleschools.org

I've invited you to fill out a form:

August Start Date Poll for 2024-2025 School Year

1. Dr. Schneider has asked me to poll staff for the purposes of gathering data so that he can submit a waiver to start school one week earlier next year. IF the majority of staff support such a change.
2. I have made this form anonymous so that it will NOT collect email addresses.
3. You must use your CPS school email to vote.
4. IF we vote a majority in support of the change, there is still an application process that involves Dr. Schneider going before our board & we will need to submit this waiver before Feb. 12. All that to say, if you feel strongly one way or the other, please vote ASAP.

[FILL OUT FORM](#)

Create your own Google Form

Whitney Armer <warmer@cedarvilleschools.org>

To: brad.molder@cedarvilleschools.org

Mon, Jan 29, 2024 at 9:27 AM



Kerry Schneider <k Schneider@cedarvilleschools.org>

Poll

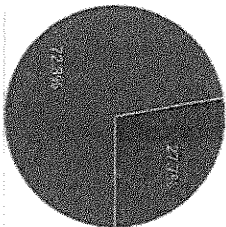
1 message

Brad Molder <brad.molder@cedarvilleschools.org>
To: Kerry Schneider <k Schneider@cedarvilleschools.org>

Mon, Jan 29, 2024 at 12:19 PM

Early results:

Would you prefer to move our first day of school (First day students report) to August 12th from August 19th (Current state requirement for next year).
47 responses



- Yes, start school on August 12th
- No, start school on August 19th

I'll wait till tomorrow to close the poll, but if it helps our numbers are 34/47 for starting Aug 12. 13/47 starting Aug. 19

Sincerely,

Brad Molder
English Teacher
Cedarville High School

