



**DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY  
& SECONDARY EDUCATION**

## Public School Waiver Request

<b>District:</b>	Rogers School District
<b>LEA Number:</b>	0405000
<b>Superintendent:</b>	Dr. Charlie "Jeff" Perry
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:jeff.perry@rpsar.net">jeff.perry@rpsar.net</a>
<b>Contact for Waiver:</b>	Dr. Roger Hill
<b>Contact Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:roger.hill@rpsar.net">roger.hill@rpsar.net</a>
<b>Contact Phone:</b>	479-636-3910
<b>Date Received by DESE:</b>	

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:	ACA § 6-10-106
Duration Requested:	5 Years
Name of Open-Enrollment Charter Holding the Waiver	LISA Academy
Schools, Grades or Classes the Wavier Will Apply To	All Rogers School District Schools, 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 requested waiver from A.C.A. § 6-10-106 by the Rogers School District aims to enhance student learning opportunities. By allowing schools to set their individual first day of class earlier than Monday, August 19, several advantages are realized:

- **Balanced Semesters:** The waiver ensures that both fall and spring semesters are closer in length, reducing discrepancies between them. Without the waiver, the fall semester is 80 student days compared to the spring semester's 94 student days, resulting in a 14-day difference. With the waiver, the fall semester becomes 83 days and the spring semester 91 days, minimizing the disparity to just 8 days. This balance is crucial for classes that span only one semester.
- **Mid-Week Start:** The waiver will allow a mid-week start date. Beginning the school year mid-week will allow students, teachers, and parents to ease into the routine gradually. It provides a softer transition from the more relaxed schedule of summer break to the structured routine of the school year.
- **Ending School Year in Late May:** The waiver ensures a greater likelihood of ending the school year in late May rather than extending into June, aligning with research indicating decreased learning efficacy past the Memorial Day holiday.
- **Increased Instructional Days Before Testing:** Starting school earlier automatically increases the number of instructional days before spring testing which correlates with better achievement.
- **Consistency in Extracurricular Activities:** The waiver ensures continuity in extracurricular activities such as football and others, as these activities typically commence around the same relative date each fall. This consistency benefits students participating in various groups and organizations, facilitating adequate preparation time regardless of the school's opening date.

Overall, the requested waiver facilitates a more balanced academic calendar, minimizes disruptions to learning and extracurricular activities, and ultimately enhances the educational experience for students in the district.

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

The Rogers School District intends to establish a calendar featuring an earlier commencement date, thereby offering increased flexibility during the academic year. While maintaining the current duration of the school year, this adjustment enables the District to adhere closely to its existing calendar structure, mitigating the need for a significant overhaul that would otherwise be necessitated in the absence of the waiver.

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

The Rogers School District will evaluate the effectiveness of the early start date by monitoring student assessment outcomes and attendance data, while also considering feedback collected from Rogers School District employees and families.

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# Calendar Feedback Survey

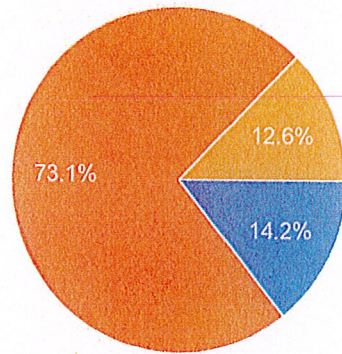
1,988 responses




[Publish analytics](#)

Select the option that fits your role:

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1,988 responses

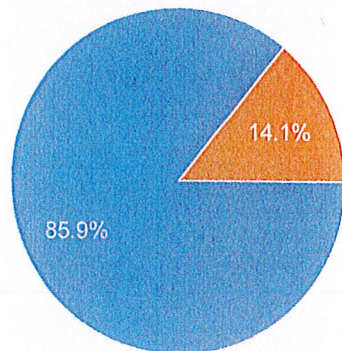




-  Rogers School District Employee
-  Rogers School District Parent/Guardian
-  Both Rogers School District Employee and Parent/Guardian

Please select the start date that you prefer for the 2024-2025 school year:

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1,988 responses



-  Wednesday, August 14, 2024
-  Monday, August 19, 2024



A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ROGERS SCHOOL DISTRICT AUTHORIZING THE DISTRICT TO REQUEST A WAIVER

WHEREAS, the Rogers School District Board of Education 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, Act 1240 of 2015 and Act 815 allow a public school district to petition the State Board of Education for all or some of the school waivers granted to an open-enrollment public charter school;

WHEREAS, LISA Academy is an open-enrollment public charter school that draws students from Rogers School District; and

WHEREAS, the Arkansas State Board of Education granted LISA Academy a waiver of Ark. Code Ann. § 6-10-106 on March 11, 2021, that expires June 30, 2030.

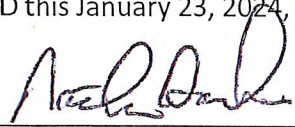
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of Rogers School District hereby authorizes the district administration to formally request a waiver from the Arkansas State Board of Education to be entered through 2029 for Ark. Code Ann. § 6-10-106 to allow the Rogers School District to start the school year before Monday, August 19, to enhance student learning opportunities.

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;

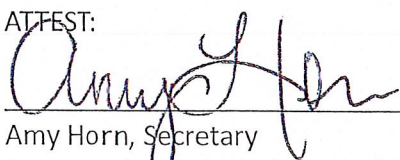
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education expresses its support for the waiver request and acknowledges the importance of flexibility in addressing the unique needs and circumstances of the district.

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

ADOPTED this January 23, 2024, by the Board of Education of Rogers School District.

  
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Nathan Gairhan, President  
Rogers School District Board of Education

2-12-24  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

ATTEST:  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Amy Horn, Secretary  
Rogers School District Board of Education

2-12-24  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date