



**DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY
& SECONDARY EDUCATION**

Act 1240 Waiver Request

District:	Sloan-Hendrix
LEA Number:	3806000
Superintendent:	Clifford Rorex
Email:	crorex@sloan-hendrix.com
Contact for Waiver:	Melanie Spence
Contact Email:	mspence@sloan-hendrix.com
Contact Phone:	870-869-2101
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:	Attendance
Standards/Statutes/Rules:	Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-213(a)(2) This basic record, showing the daily attendance and absence of each student for the school year, shall be kept by a teacher or other officially designated person who notes the attendance or absence of each student on a daily basis.
Duration Requested:	2023-2024 School Year
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Promote Innovation <input checked="" 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.**

We are requesting a waiver for attendance. The delivery of digital learning provides students and families with some degree of control over time, pace, path, and place for learning. The district waiver will be utilized to support the flexibility provided in an online learning environment.

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

K-8 students will be required to attend daily Zoom instructional classes. Attendance will be taken each morning and reported to the connection coach. Students are required to log in to the daily learning management system between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. each day. Virtual teachers will provide daily reports to the District Connection Coach for school data entry in eSchool. Virtual teachers will monitor student time and pace with the LMS and Zoom instructional classes.

9-12 students' attendance will be based on completion of assignments, as well as scheduled videoconferences. Weekly communication is expected.

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

The district will employ a District Connection Coach (DCC) who will be the liaison between the school, virtual academy, a parent or in loco parentis, and student. She will provide guidance in technology training, as well as student progress. The DCC will communicate closely with school administrators, counselors, and other support staff to ensure students are receiving adequate and equitable services.

Waiver Request #2

Topic:	Six-Hour Instructional Day
Standards/Statutes/Rules:	<p>Ark.Code Ann. 6-16-102 (a) (1) As used in this section, "school day" shall mean a day in which classes are in session and students receive at least six (6) hours of instructional time. (2) Any day in which less than six (6) hours of instructional time are provided to students shall be counted as one-half (½) of a school day if at least three (3) hours of instructional time are provided to students. (3) Any day in which less than three (3) hours of instructional time are provided to students shall not be counted as any part of a school day. (4) A school district may include as part of the school day the travel time between public schools or other educational programs of those students attending classes or programs authorized by law. Standard 1-A.4.1 Each public school shall provide a minimum of 178 days of student-teacher interaction time. (S/P)</p>
Duration Requested:	2023-2024 School Year
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Promote Innovation <input checked="" 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.

We are requesting a waiver. Research shows that students benefit from a shortened instructional day when learning virtually.

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

The daily schedules for students will include 6 hours of learning; however it might not take them the entire allotted time to successfully engage with the learning. The instructional day will consist of Zoom instructional classes, interventions, small groups, and asynchronous coursework in the K-8 program. The instructional day will consist of online instructional videos and instruction, as well as scheduled meetings and intervention options in 9-12.

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

The district will employ a District Connection Coach (DCC) who will be the liaison between the school, virtual academy, a parent or in loco parentis, and student. She will provide guidance in technology training, as well as student progress. The DCC will communicate closely with school administrators, counselors, and other support staff to ensure students are receiving adequate and equitable services.

Waiver Request #3

Topic:	Recess
	<p>1-A.4.3 At least forty (40) minutes of instructional time per school day shall be used for recess for students attending public elementary schools, in accordance with the Division's nutrition and physical activity standards.</p> <p>Arkansas Public Schools Section 7. 7.01 The physical education curriculum and physical activity requirements for every public school student who is physically fit and able to participate are:</p> <p>7.01.1 Except as provided in Section 7.01.2 of these rules, for students in grades kindergarten through six (K-6): 7.01.1.1 7.01.1.2</p> <p>At least forty (40) minutes as determined by the superintendent of the school district, of physical education training and instruction each calendar week of the school year; and Ninety (90) minutes of physical activity each calendar week of the school year, which may include without limitation daily recess, physical education instruction in addition to the requirement of Section 7.01.1.1 of these rules, or intramural sports;</p>

	<p>7.01.2 For students in grades five through eight (5-8) who attend a public school organized to teach grades 5-8 or any combination thereof, at least forty (40) minutes as determined by the superintendent of the school district, of physical education training and instruction each calendar week of the school year or an equivalent amount of time in each school year, with no additional requirement for physical activity; and</p> <p>7.01.3 For students in grades nine through twelve (9-12) one-half (1/2) unit of physical education as required for high school graduation, with no additional requirement for physical activity.</p>
	<p>ADE 259-13</p> <p>7.02 Nothing in these rules prohibits:</p> <p>7.02.1 A public school student's elective enrollment or voluntary participation in physical activity or physical education as a part of public school curriculum or extra-curricular activities; or</p> <p>7.02.2 A school district's decision to require physical education instruction or physical activity in excess of the amounts identified in Section 7.01 of these rules.</p> <p>7.03 The physical education training and instruction shall be designed to:</p> <p>7.03.1 Improve the health of this state's school children;</p> <p>7.03.2 Increase knowledge about the health benefits of physical activity and exercise;</p>

	<p>7.03.3 Develop behavioral and motor skills that promote a lifelong commitment to healthy physical activity;</p> <p>7.03.4 Promote health-focused activity among children and adolescents; and</p> <p>7.03.5 Encourage physical activity outside of physical education.</p> <p>7.04 Suitable modified courses shall be provided for students physically or mentally unable or unfit to take the course or courses prescribed for other pupils.</p> <p>7.05 A student may be exempted from physical education and physical activity requirements by seeking a waiver from the local school board of directors. The local school board of directors may grant such a waiver based upon the following criteria:</p> <p>7.05.1 The student must present a statement by the student's attending physician indicating that participation in physical education and physical activity will jeopardize the student's health or well-being; or</p> <p>7.05.2 The parent and student must show that attending physical education classes will violate the student's religious beliefs and would not be merely a matter of personal objection. The parent or student must be members of a recognized religious faith that objects to physical education as part of its official doctrine or creed.</p> <p>7.05.3 The local school board of directors shall encourage a student granted a waiver under Section 7.05 of these rules to take, as an alternative to ADE 259-14 physical education, appropriate instruction in health education or other instruction in lifestyle modification if an exemption is granted.</p>
	<p>7.06 Each school shall develop a physical education program that fits effectively and efficiently into the school's existing organization and into the standards and curriculum frameworks adopted by the State Board of Education, while incorporating the goals of these rules.</p>

<p>Standards/Statutes/Rules:</p>	<p>7.07 Nothing in Section 7.00 of these rules shall be construed to require any school or school district to hire personnel licensed in physical education.</p> <p>7.08 The State Board of Education shall submit to the House Interim Committee on Education and the Senate Interim Committee on Education for the committees' review any proposed rules regarding physical education or physical activity standards for grades kindergarten through twelve (K-12) developed pursuant to Section 7.00 of these rules that exceed the maximums identified in Section 7.01 of these rules.</p> <p>7.09 At a minimum, school districts will work with their local School Nutrition and Physical Activity Advisory Committee to:</p> <p>7.09.1 Encourage participation in extracurricular programs that support physical activity, such as walk-to-school programs, biking clubs, after-school walking etc.;</p> <p>7.09.2 Encourage the implementation of developmentally appropriate physical activity in after-school childcare programs for participating children;</p> <p>7.09.3 Promote the reduction of time youth spend engaged in sedentary activities such as watching television and playing video games;</p> <p>7.09.4 Encourage the development of and participation in family-oriented community-based physical activity programs; and,</p> <p>7.09.5 Maintain documentation of strategies to be employed to achieve the requirements set forth in section 7.00 of these rules.</p> <p>7.10 Physical Education Instruction in Grades Kindergarten Through Six (K-6): For grades K-6, physical education classes will have a maximum student to adult ratio of thirty to one (30:1).</p> <p>7.10.1 At least one of the adults directly supervising the physical education classes must be a licensed physical education teacher or, alternatively, a licensed elementary teacher. The licensed physical education teacher or licensed elementary teacher will be responsible for the delivery of physical ADE 259-15 education instruction. A licensed physical education teacher will be responsible for development of the physical education curriculum.</p> <p>7.10.2 Non-licensed personnel may assist in filling the thirty to one (30:1) student to adult ratio requirement if they are trained and assigned to assist licensed personnel in supervising physical education classes.</p> <p>7.11 Physical Education Instruction in Grades Seven Through Twelve (7-12): For grades 7-12, physical education instruction must be provided by a licensed physical education teacher with a license that</p>
<p>Duration Requested:</p>	<p>2023-2024 School Year</p>
<p>Name of Open-Enrollment Charter Holding the Waiver</p>	<p>Arkansas Virtual Academy</p>
<p>Schools, Grades or Classes the Wavier Will Apply To</p>	<p>K-8</p>
<p>PURPOSE OF THE WAIVER (Must check at least one)</p>	<p>X Enhance Student Learning Opportunities</p> <p>X Promote Innovation</p> <p>X Increase Equitable Access to Effective Teachers</p>

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.

We are requesting a waiver. It is our belief that daily physical activity is important to child development and mental health. In an effort to meet the needs of virtual students, we will need a recess waiver.

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

The virtual staff will work with parents to schedule recess daily, provide ideas and resources for recess time, and have parents sign off to ensure they will facilitate recess. Weekly physical education classes are offered.

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

The district will employ a District Connection Coach (DCC) who will be the liaison between the school, virtual academy, a parent or in loco parentis, and student. She will provide guidance in technology training, as well as student progress. The DCC will communicate closely with school administrators, counselors, and other support staff to ensure students are receiving adequate and equitable services.

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
SLOAN-HENDRIX SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Sloan-Hendrix Board of Education met for the rescheduled regular school board meeting in the District Administration Building on Monday, July 24, 2023, with the following members present for the meeting: Mr. Ricky Benson, Dr. Aaron Murphy, Mr. Chris Jones, and Mr. Robert Stallings. Mr. Wade Spence was absent.

Mr. Ricky Benson, School Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:27 p.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Chris Jones and seconded by Dr. Aaron Murphy to approve the agenda. Motion carried four for and none against.

A motion was made by Dr. Aaron Murphy and seconded by Mr. Chris Jones to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Motion carried four for and none against.

Old Business

1. A motion was made by Mr. Chris Jones and seconded by Dr. Aaron Murphy to remove the minimum bid requirement on the 235 Case International tractor. Motion carried four for and none against.
2. A motion was made by Mr. Robert Stallings and seconded by Mr. Chris Jones to approve advertising for sealed bids for the sale of a 4410 John Deere tractor and BH80-X backhoe attachment. Motion carried four for and none against.

New Business

1. A motion was made by Dr. Aaron Murphy and seconded by Mr. Robert Stallings to approve the financial statement and expenditures through June 30, 2023 and the FY23 financial statement. Motion carried four for and none against.
2. A motion was made by Mr. Chris Jones and seconded by Dr. Aaron Murphy to approve the following student transfer requests: 5 students from the Pocahontas School District to the Sloan-Hendrix School District; 6 students from the Highland School District to the Sloan-Hendrix School District; and 1 student from the Hoxie School District to the Sloan-Hendrix School District. Motion carried four for and none against.
3. A motion was made by Dr. Aaron Murphy and seconded by Mr. Robert Stallings to approve the "Offer vs. Serve" lunch and breakfast program for 2023-2024 school year. Motion carried four for and none against.

4. A motion was made by Dr. Aaron Murphy and seconded by Mr. Chris Jones to approve the 2023-2024 School Improvement Plans for the Elementary and High School. Motion carried four for and none against.
5. A motion was made by Mr. Chris Jones and seconded by Mr. Robert Stallings to approve the presented ASBA policy updates. Motion carried four for and none against.
6. A motion was made by Mr. Chris Jones and seconded by Dr. Aaron Murphy to approve the purchase of a 2018 Blue Bird 71 passenger bus in the amount of \$74,900 from Masters Transportation. Motion carried four for and none against.
7. A motion was made by Dr. Aaron Murphy and seconded by Mr. Robert Stallings to approve the Act 1240 Waiver Request. Motion carried four for and none against.
8. A motion was made by Mr. Chris Jones and seconded by Mr. Robert Stallings to approve the 2023-2024 Teacher and Administrator Recruitment and Retention Plan. Motion carried four for and none against.
9. A motion was made by Dr. Aaron Murphy and seconded by Mr. Chris Jones to approve the 7-12 ELA curriculum purchase from MyPerspectives in the amount of \$67,384.69. Motion carried four for and none against.
10. A motion was made by Mr. Chris Jones and seconded by Mr. Robert Stallings to approve the contract with Andrew Hicks Architect. Motion carried four for and none against.
11. A motion was made by Mr. Robert Stallings and seconded by Dr. Aaron Murphy to approve the property insurance renewal with the Arkansas School Board Association. Motion carried four for and none against.
12. A motion was made by Mr. Robert Stallings and seconded by Mr. Chris Jones to approve the school calendar revision for the 2023-2024 school year adding inclement weather days. Motion carried four for and none against.
13. Mr. Ricky Benson called the board into executive session at 8:23 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the employment of personnel. The board returned to open session at 9:30 p.m. After returning to open session a motion was made by Dr. Aaron Murphy and seconded by Mr. Chris Jones to approve the following employment for the 2023-2024 school year:
 - Kara Taylor - Teacher and Head Softball Coach
 - Marty Moore - Full Time Bus Route
 - Clifford Rorex - Full Time Bus Route
 - Bobby Whitener - Morning Bus Route

Motion carried four for and none against.

14. Additional information presented to school board members:

- First day of school is Monday, August 14
- Information was provided regarding summer projects and beginning of the school year activities.

15. A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Chris Jones and seconded by Mr. Robert Stallings. Motion carried four for and none against.

President

Secretary

Digital Learning Plan 2023-2024

Committee Members

Clifford Rorex, Superintendent

Ligie Waddell, Principal K-6

Marty Moore, Principal 7-12

Melanie Spence, Assistant Principal K-12

Becky Foreman, Digital Learning Coordinator and Campus Connection Coach

Dan Watson, Technology Assistant

Keitha Huskey, Special Education Teacher

Robbie Matthews, Dyslexia Interventionist

Dena Whitlow, Parent of Virtual High School Student

Debbie Smith, Parent of Virtual Elementary Student

K-8 Digital Learning Discussion
May 16, 2023
AGENDA/SIGN IN

K-8 Tri-Region Virtual Program closing

K-8 Virtual Academy on the River- Arkansas River Cooperative

Other Options

Marianne Spencer _____

Shirley Waddell _____

Kathia Huskey _____

Maitha _____

Becky Foreman _____

Debbie Smith- phone attended via _____

9-12 Digital Learning Discussion
May 17, 2023
AGENDA/SIGN IN

Virtual Learning Options

- Continue with Edgenuity
- Virtual Arkansas
- Arkansas Virtual Academy
- Other

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Keitha Husky

Melanie Spence

[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten signature]

Becky Foreman