

Act 1240 Digital Learning Applications and Process

Communication:

The State Board of Education met on January 14, 2021, and gave DESE the ability to move forward with the expedited Act 1240 Digital Learning Waiver process.

- Information was provided to districts on the [Digital Learning webpage](#) including the Guidebook for Digital Learning.
- Commissioner's Memo [COM-21-073](#) was posted 1/21/2021.

Act 1240 Application:

Districts applying for Act 1240 digital learning considered (1) interaction, (2) delivery, and (3) platform. In the application, the district described the plans for teacher and student interaction, technology and platforms that will be utilized, teacher supports, and the student supports for food security, physical and mental health. The plan outlines the academic response to intervention including services and supports for dyslexia, gifted and talented, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL/ESL), and Special Education. The district plan ensures equitable access to opportunities for success for digital learners, including students living with poverty, homelessness, migrant, foster care, and military connected families. All digital learners are expected to participate in the statewide summative assessment onsite as per DESE guidance. Parents and families of digital learners will be engaged in the process. Districts provided links to district policies for attendance, discipline and grading. Stakeholders were engaged in the planning process and the local school board approved the waivers.

Pre-approved Waivers: (Districts may apply for additional waivers.)

Waiver	Standards for Accreditation	Arkansas Code Annotated	DESE Rules
Attendance		6-18-213(a)(2)	
Class Size	1-A.5	6-17-812(a)(2)	DESE Rules Governing Class Size and Teaching Load
Teaching Load	1-A.5	6-17-812	DESE Rules Governing Class Size and Teaching Load
Six Hour Instructional Day	1-A.4.2	6-16-102; 6-16-126	
Clock Hours	1-A.2		
Recess	1-A.4.3	6-6-102(a)(5)	DESE Rules Governing Nutrition and Physical Activity Standards and Body Mass Index, Section 7.11

DESE review process:

1. District submits Act 1240 Digital Learning Application via LEA Insights.
2. DESE team reviews the application and provides feedback (if applicable) to the district and co-op.
3. When all components of the digital learning application meet expectations, the DESE team recommends the application to the State Board of Education for expedited approval.
4. DESE will notify the State Board of Education if there are any components that need further discussion.

DESE review team:

District Support	Technology	Learning Services	Educator Effectiveness	DCTE
Ginny Stroud	Don Benton	Kiffany Pride	Karli Saracini	Mary Beck
Melissa Matus	Ray Girdler	Lisa Tyler	Andy Sullivan	
Traci Holland	Jeff Killingsworth	Matt Sewell	Sandra Hurst	
Tally Harp	Emily Powell	Rachel Horn	Joel Lookadoo	