



**DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY
& SECONDARY EDUCATION**

Act 1240 District Waiver Request

District:	Augusta
LEA Number:	7401000
Superintendent:	Cathy Tanner
Email:	ctanner@augustasd.org
Contact for Waiver:	Cathy Tanner
Contact Email:	ctanner@augustasd.org
Contact Phone:	870-347-2241
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:	Twelve-month contracts for vocational agriculture teachers
Standards/Statutes/Rules:	AR Code § 6-17-802
Duration Requested:	1 year
Name of Open-Enrollment Charter Holding the Waiver	
Schools, Grades or Classes the Wavier Will Apply To	9-12

- 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 Augusta School District is asking for a waiver that will allow the agriculture teacher contract be reduced to a 190-day contract due to the agriculture teaching less than a full day in the area of Agriculture. The Augusta School District will be granted a conditional waiver by the Arkansas Career and Technical Department due to low enrollment in grades 9-12. The following plan was purposed by ACTE.

This is the plan that Mr. Eichelberger has developed for Augusta High School in regards to conditional approval and rebuilding of the program.

- Conditionally approve their Agricultural Science and Technology program for 3 years why they offer the following:
 - Year 1: 1 Survey of Agricultural Systems course.
 - Year 2: An additional Level 2 course will be added to the schedule and continue offering Survey of Ag Systems.
 - Ag Business Systems could be this Level 2 course, but they will need to apply for a Program Stat-Up since they are not currently offering this program to students.
 - Year 3: Their program is offering a Level 3 course along with the Level 2 and Survey of Ag Systems to have one complete Program of Study.
 - The Level 3 course could be the virtual course: Razorback AgCademy: Foundation of Ag Education
 - Year 4: They are back to having full offerings for 2 complete programs of study and having a full time Agricultural Education Instructor on a 240 day contract.
 - One program could continue to be Ag Business Systems

Augusta High School is a very small, rural school district with approximately 330 students in grades K-12. The anticipated enrollment in grades 10-12 for the 2021-2022 school year is: 12 students in 12th grade; 18 students in 11th grade; and 18 students in 10th grade for a total of 48 total students. Twenty-six (26) students graduated in May 2021. Beginning in the 9th grade, the class sizes begin to increase which may help elective class enrollment. In the 2020-2021 school year, only 14 total students enrolled in agriculture classes. Due to lack of students enrolled in the full day schedule in agri classes, the agri teacher who has a Master's Degree in Special Education, was placed as an additional teacher in the SPED classroom. The Agriculture teacher was paid a 240-day contract for the 2020-2021 school year for having less than a full day of agriculture classes. A 240-day contract for an agriculture teacher who does not teach a full schedule of agriculture classes nor has programs available for students during the summer is not a fiscally sound practice with a school with 330 students. The Special Education Teacher is retiring at the end of the 2020-2021 school year and the teacher who needs to fill this position is the Agriculture teacher due to lower class enrollment. Having the ability to follow the ACTE recommendations for conditional approval will allow the agri teacher to teach 5 periods of Special

Education and 1 period of agri beginning in 2021-2022 and also meet the DESE requirement for Special Education, the ACTE proposed plan, and the demands of the students. A Special Education teacher does not require a 240-day contract.

Augusta High School will meet the Standards for Accreditation requirements for Career and Technical Education classes without the Agricultural Pathway of Study but Augusta was one of the founding members of FFA in Arkansas and Augusta is an agricultural community. Having a part-time agriculture teacher would allow students who are interested in agriculture to attend classes offered while Augusta High School increases student enrollment in grades 10-12.

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

To meet the ACTE proposed conditionally approved plan, an agri class will be added to the master schedule for the 2021-2022 school year. Students who have already taken this intro class will have the option to enroll in virtual classes with APSRC, the Dale Bumpers AgCademy, or concurrent agri classes. Students in grades 11-12 will be given the opportunity to attend East Arkansas Community College for training and certification in Diesel Mechanics and Welding.

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

This waiver will be monitored with student enrollment in agri classes and the academic effectiveness of the Agri teacher in the Special Education classroom.

Waiver Request #2

Topic:	
Standards/Statutes/Rules:	
Duration Requested:	
Name of Open-Enrollment Charter Holding the Waiver	

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Name of Open-Enrollment Charter Holding the Waiver	
Schools, Grades or Classes the Wavier Will Apply To	

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.

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

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

Waiver Request #6

Topic:	
Standards/Statutes/Rules:	

Duration Requested:	
Name of Open-Enrollment Charter Holding the Waiver	
Schools, Grades or Classes the Wavier Will Apply To	

- 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.**

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

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