



## Public School Waiver Request

<b>District:</b>	<b>Guy-Perkins School District</b>
<b>LEA Number:</b>	2304000
<b>Superintendent:</b>	Dr. Joe Fisher
<b>Email:</b>	joe.fisher@gptbirds.org
<b>Contact for Waiver:</b>	Dr. Joe Fisher
<b>Contact Email:</b>	joe.fisher@gptbirds.org
<b>Contact Phone:</b>	501-679-7224
<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

<b>Topic:</b>	School Start Date
<b>Standards/Statutes/Rules:</b>	A.C.A. 6-10-106
<b>Duration Requested:</b>	5 Year
<b>Name of Open-Enrollment Charter Holding the Waiver</b>	Arkansas Virtual Academy
<b>Schools, Grades or Classes the Wavier Will Apply To</b>	K-12
<b>PURPOSE OF THE WAIVER (Must check at least one)</b>	<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 Guy-Perkins School District requests 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. This specific waiver seeks to allow the Guy-Perkins School District to set its first day of classes for the 2024-2025 school year as Tuesday, August 13, 2024, and subsequently for the next four (4) school years.

**The reasons for requesting this waiver include:**

- Starting school earlier in August will allow for more days of instruction prior to the ATLAS testing in the spring;
- Starting school earlier in August will balance the amount of instructional days each semester;
- Having more instructional time prior to testing will result in higher student-achievement scores;
- Ending the school year in May, rather than in June, will allow the district to offer Summer Services/OVERTIME during the entire month of June for selected students needing additional learning opportunities.

The approval of this waiver does not affect any other law, rule, or procedure. It simply allows the Guy-Perkins School District to continue with a school calendar in 2024-25 that has similar start dates to the current school calendar of 2023-24.

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

- There will not be a loss of services for students under this waiver.

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

The Guy-Perkins School District will monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the waiver by:

- Conducting Surveys with stakeholders (staff, students, parents, Board, and community members);
- Reviewing student and teacher attendance data across the school year; and
- Disaggregating student-performance data (ATLAS, NWEA, CFA, etc.) across the school year.

# Guy-Perkins School District

## Resolution

In Support of a Waiver Request Affecting the Allowable First Day of School - A.C.A 6-10-106

**WHEREAS** Arkansas law, A.C.A 6-10-106, provides for the school year to begin no earlier than the Monday of the week containing August 19; and

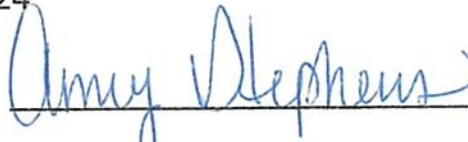
**WHEREAS** under this law, A.C.A 6-10-106, the start of school varies from year to year, beginning some years as early as August 14, or as late as August 20; and

**WHEREAS** under this law, A.C.A 6-10-106, the earliest school can begin is August 19; and

WHEREAS a late start to the school year creates unbalanced semesters, reduces the preparation time for state testing, and limits flexibility in scheduling inclement weather make-up days;

**THEREFORE** be it resolved that the Guy-Perkins Board of Education endorses the Superintendent's waiver request affecting the allowable first day of school on August 12, and recommends its approval by the Arkansas State Board of Education.

Adopted this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of February, 2024



Amy Stephens  
President, Board of Education

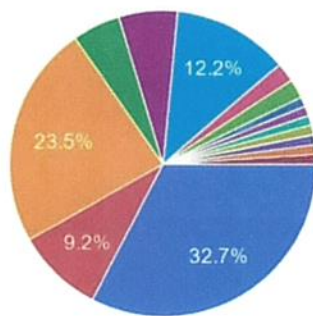


Dan Michael  
Secretary, Board of Education

## Guy-Perkins School District 2024-25 School Calendar Survey

Which group do you represent?

98 responses

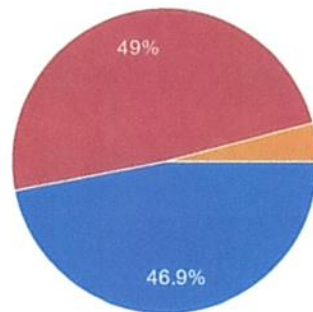


- Elementary School Student
- Elementary School Teacher/Para
- Elementary School Parent/Guardian
- High School Student
- High School Teacher/Paraprofessional
- High School Parent/Guardian
- School/District Administrator
- Support Staff Member

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A new Arkansas law requires schools to start no earlier than August 19, 2024 each year. However, school districts may request a "waiver" from the State Board of Education to start earlier than August 19. Which would you prefer?

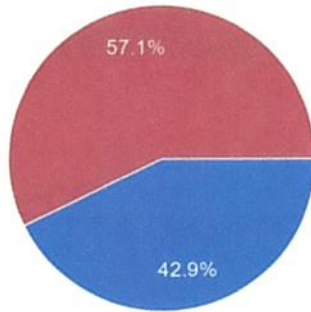
98 responses



- Start school the week of August 19, 2024 (Tuesday, August 20). This is a week later than this year's calendar start. School would end during the third week of August.
- Request a waiver from the State Board of Education to start earlier (Tuesday, August 13). This is the same week as this year's calendar start. School would end during the second week of August.
- Request a waiver from the State Board of Education to start earlier (Tuesday, August 13). This is the same week as this year's calendar start. School would end during the second week of August.

Currently, Parent/Teacher Conferences are held Thursday (following a full school day) during the first and third nine-weeks of school from 4:30-7:30 PM. Which would you prefer?

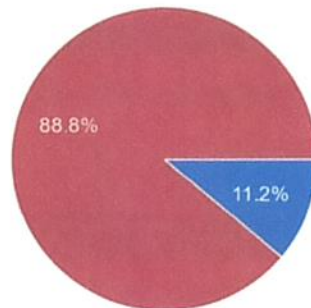
98 responses



- No change to the current Parent/Teacher Conference day/time?
- Move Parent/Teacher Conferences to a Monday (non-school day) to allow more conference time.

December 20, 2024 will be the last Friday before Christmas (the following Wednesday). Which would you prefer?

98 responses



- Start the holiday break December 19 (Thursday) or 20 (Friday) and return to class January 2 (Thursday) or 3 (Friday)
- Start the holiday break December 21 (Saturday) and return to class January 7 (Tuesday)