



Act 1240 District Waiver Request Extension

District:	Mena School District
LEA Number:	5703
Superintendent:	Dr. Lee Smith
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Contact for Waiver:	Bridget Buckley
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Contact Phone:	479-394-1710
Date Received by DESE:	

The following documents must be submitted with the waiver request:

- 1. School Board Resolution approving the waiver request**
- 2. Evidence of stakeholder involvement, including teachers and student families**

Waiver Extension Request #1

Topic:	Instructional Time
Standards/Statutes/Rules:	A.C.A §§ 6-16-102 and Standard for Accreditation 1-A.4.2 [Except (a)(5)]
Duration Requested:	2021-2026
Name of Open-Enrollment Charter Holding the Waiver	Arkansas Virtual Academy
Schools, Grades or Classes the Waiver Will Apply To	Mena High School Grade 9-12 Alternative Education Students

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 Mena High School Alternative Education HUB program has been working with students since 2016 to increase graduation rates and effectively address individual markers of at risk students. Through the HUB program, students have the opportunity to focus on those areas that may be causing them to risk their graduation opportunities such as financial obligations, health issues, work opportunities and social emotional well-being. By waiving instructional time, students are able to focus on those areas that are required for graduation, ensuring they will complete their academic requirements. With this waiver, students who need less graduation requirements than instructional time of 30 hours per week could complete those academic courses working closely with their instructors and increase their learning opportunities. A student who may struggle with seven courses due to family or personal struggles, would have relief that could allow them to work with the program facilitators and interventionists to determine next steps in their college, career, or military future. Students in the program are exposed to a myriad of job opportunities, college preparation workshops, and career focus information and exposure that they would otherwise not have the direction to complete. Students in the program must meet the alternative education criteria for the state of Arkansas and will receive one-on-one focused intervention and have a Student Success Plan in place. Students also have access to concurrent courses, career center opportunities, JAG program opportunities as well as traditional programming options that they may be interested in. Students who would be receiving the waiver are those who have indicators as at risk to achieve on-time graduation without an adjustment to their focus and responsibilities.

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

Any student instructional time that is waived will be replaced with community service opportunities, intervention services, counseling, work opportunities, and preparation for post-secondary activities. These services will be provided by the Alternative Education department and will focus on identified student needs. Instructional opportunities needed for students to achieve on-time graduation will not be waived. Each student will have an individualized student action plan as well as a student success plan that will be monitored by the behavior interventionist and AE facilitators. Each student will be assigned an individual facilitator who will work with them on their individual needs.

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

Students who are allowed to participate in the HUB program and receive the student instructional time waiver will be monitored by the Alternative Education Director and the program facilitators. Students will set individual goals and have specific plans for achieving those goals. Monitoring of goals and adjustment to any time or scheduling will be provided at midterm for each quarter, the end of each quarter, and at semester. Students not maintaining or progressing toward their goals will be allowed the opportunity to adjust and change prior to being moved from the HUB program; however, all students will be aware from their start in the program that they must progress to continue to receive instructional time waivers. Program monitoring will occur continuously throughout the school year and at the end of each school year to ensure that the program is enhancing the educational opportunities for those students who are most at risk rather than increasing their risk after graduation. Students will also be monitored for a minimum of one school year following graduation with facilitators offering college and career information and advice as well as advising for social emotional wellbeing when needed.

4. Describe how the waiver has ensured success in the school or district over the past five years. Provide data or evidence to support your answer.

In 2017 and 2018, the district AE program was revamped and the instructional waiver was implemented with only a few onsite senior level students who had high at risk indicators. These students were allowed to only complete the courses required for graduation and student action plans were monitored by the onsite faculty and interventionist. All students in these two years graduated. In 2019, the program was advanced and provided more onsite support with a full time facilitator who managed the students and added in additional career and college focus as well as community service avenues for the enrolled students. The number of students in the program increased and all identified students graduated. In 2020 and 2021, student indicators were addressed to identify those students who needed more intensive support and those who needed more focused support in specific areas. By doing this, the program added fifth year seniors who had not been successful in the traditional program the previous year to attempt to intervene and assist in graduation. The program was successful, again due to the ability to focus on limited academic requirements while using the remaining time and opportunities to address individual student needs.

Waiver Extension Request #2

Topic:	
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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.**

4. **Describe how the waiver has ensured success in the school or district over the past five years. Provide data or evidence to support your answer.**

Waiver Extension Request #3

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.**

4. **Describe how the waiver has ensured success in the school or district over the past five years. Provide data or evidence to support your answer.**

Waiver Extension Request #5

Topic:	
Standards/Statutes/Rules:	
Duration Requested:	

