

Please review the **Example Form** found on the [Charter School Office website](#) prior to working on your request form. *Also, edit the footer on this form to display your school's name.*

Charter School Office Waiver Request Form For Requests Submitted during the 2025 - 2026 School Year

Section 1: Administrative Data

District/ School/ Applicant Name	Sheridan School District / Jacket Academy
Superintendent/ Point Of Contact	Superintendent Chad Pitts/Point of Contact Dr. Leann Pinkerton
Email Address	chadpitts@sheridanschools.org/leannpinkerton@sheridanschools.org
Phone Number	870-942-3135
District/ School LEA (if assigned)	2705000
Date of Waiver Request Submission	5-29-26

Section 2: Waiver Requests - *Total of 5 Requests*

Request # 1	Waiver Topic: Instructional Day/Clock Hours		
	Arkansas Code Annotated:	6-16-102(a)(5)	At least forty (40) minutes of instructional time per school day shall be used for recess during the day for students attending public elementary schools.
	Standard for Accreditation:	6 CAR § 61-202(b), 6 CAR § 61-202 (d) (4), 6 CAR § 157-106	A high school unit of credit shall be awarded for a course which meets for a minimum of 120 clock hours unless the public school district awards units of credit based on subject matter competency in compliance with the public school district's approved plan under Arkansas Code § 6-15-216. (S/P) 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. (S/P)
	DESE Rules Governing:	N/A	
	Rationale:	Students in the virtual and hybrid model will work at the pace needed to complete coursework and demonstrate mastery of standards. Individual student needs can be met through flexible pacing, asynchronous learning opportunities, evening/weekend access, and competency-based progression. Students may participate in instruction both on campus and remotely through Sheridan School District and Arkansas River Educational Service Cooperative (ARESC) staff. ARES and Jacket Academy staff will monitor student progress weekly to ensure students remain on track toward academic goals. This waiver supports flexibility in scheduling and allows Jacket Academy to provide personalized learning pathways for all students. Sheridan School District operates under an Alternate Calendar.	



		Students in the virtual model will have flexibility in what activities constitute “recess time.”
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Request # 2	Waiver Topic: Class Size and Teaching Load	
Arkansas Code Annotated:	6-17-812(a)(2)	A teacher shall not exceed the maximum class size permitted under the Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts.
Standard for Accreditation:	6 CAR § 61-202(e), 6 CAR § 61-202(f)	Each public school district shall comply with Arkansas law and division rules regarding class size based on enrollment as of October 1 of each school year. (D/P) Each public school district shall comply with Arkansas law and division rules regarding teaching load. (D/P)
DESE Rules Governing:	6 CAR Part 62. Rules Governing Class Size and Teaching Load	
Rationale:	The virtual and hybrid academy will utilize digital learning platforms, synchronous instruction, and shared instructional staffing models through Sheridan School District and ARESC. Through personalized learning and online instructional methods, teachers may effectively provide instruction to a larger number of students than in a traditional classroom setting. This waiver will allow flexibility in staffing hard-to-fill courses, advanced coursework, and regional shared-service instruction while maintaining high-quality support for students.	

Request # 3	Waiver Topic: Licensure	
Arkansas Code Annotated:	6-15-1004 except for (c), 6-17-309, 6-17-401, 6-17-418, 6-17-902, 6-17-908, 6-17-919	Arkansas teachers shall demonstrate competency in subject matter content and knowledge of teaching methods that are appropriate to their teaching area in order to be granted a license to teach in the state under rules promulgated by the State Board of Education. A class of students shall not be under the instruction of a teacher who is not licensed to teach the grade level or subject matter of the class for more than sixty (60) consecutive school days in the same class during a school year. Except as permitted under § 6-17-309 and § 6-17-2601 et seq., no teacher shall be employed in any public school of the state who is not licensed to teach in the State of Arkansas by a license issued by the State Board of Education.
Standard for Accreditation:	6 CAR § 61-505	Each public school district shall employ classroom teachers that meet the licensure requirements pursuant to Arkansas law or Division of Elementary and Secondary



			Education rules or are teaching under a licensure exception pursuant to Arkansas law or division rules. (D/C)
	Rationale:	Jacket Academy intends to employ Arkansas licensed teachers whenever possible. Flexibility is needed for specialized online courses, concurrent credit opportunities, shared-service staffing through ARES, or difficult-to-fill positions. All teachers will meet applicable Arkansas Qualified Teacher requirements and complete required background checks. Special education services will continue to be provided by appropriately licensed personnel. This waiver allows Jacket Academy to provide a broad catalog of courses and high-quality instruction while meeting the unique staffing demands of a virtual and hybrid learning environment.	

Request # 4	Waiver Topic: Library Media Services		
	Arkansas Code Annotated:	6-25-103, 6-25-104	<p>A "library media services program" means a program of information and media services in schools delivered by a library media specialist whose job includes duties as: (1) An information specialist whose primary job function is to: (A) Provide resources available to patrons through a systematically developed collection within the school and through access to resources outside the school;(B) Provide assistance to patrons in identifying, locating, and interpreting information housed in and outside the library media center; (C) Provide learning opportunities related to new technologies, use, and production of a variety of media formats; and (D) (i) Provide instruction in the use of the library media center. (ii) Elementary class sessions for a library media specialist shall be limited as provided under subdivision (b)(1) of this section;</p> <p>Only trained and certified library media services program personnel shall be assigned to carry out duties of the library media specialist.</p>
	Standard for Accreditation:	4-F.2	Public schools with fewer than three hundred (300) students shall employ at least one half-time library media specialist. Public schools with three hundred (300) or more students shall employ at least one full-time library media specialist. Schools enrolling fifteen hundred (1,500) or more students shall employ at least two full-time library media specialists. (S/P)
	DESE Rules Governing:	N/A	
	Rationale:	Students enrolled in the academy will have access to digital library resources, eBooks, online databases, research tools, and district library services. Students may also access physical library resources during onsite activities and scheduled support sessions. English Language Arts (ELA) skills taught by a Library Media Specialist will be covered in ELA	



		digital coursework. This waiver requests exemption from employing a Jacket Academy Library Media Specialist.
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Request # 5	Waiver Topic: Gifted and Talented Services		
	Arkansas Code Annotated:	6-20-2208 (c)(6) 6-42-109	Expend state and local revenues on gifted and talented programs: Each school district shall report annually to the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education at a prescribed due date, the extent to which it is providing educational opportunities specifically designed to meet the educational needs of gifted and talented children.
	Standard for Accreditation:	2-G.1 4-F.1	Each public school district shall provide gifted and talented services pursuant to Arkansas law or Division of Elementary and Secondary Education rules. (D/C)
	DESE Rules Governing:	Gifted and Talented	
	Rationale:	Jacket Academy requests flexibility in the delivery and scheduling method of Gifted and Talented services, as well as flexibility to operate in a virtual or blended environment and licensure/shared-service flexibility if needed.	

