

NOTICE LETTER



Division of Elementary and Secondary Education

Transforming Arkansas to lead the nation in student-focused education

June 28, 2021

Johnny Key
Secretary

Dennis and Jessica Holt

Dr. Joe Fisher, Superintendent
Guy-Perkins School District
492 Hwy 25
Guy, AR 72061

Dr. Ivy Pfeffer
Deputy
Commissioner

Mr. Dennis Truxler, Superintendent
Quitman School District
6275 Heber Springs Rd. West
Quitman, AR 72131

Stacy Smith
Deputy
Commissioner

Re: Appeal Under the Public School Choice Act-Asia Holt

**State Board of
Education**

Everyone:

Charisse Dean
Little Rock
Chair

This letter is to notify you that the Arkansas State Board of Education is scheduled to hear the above-referenced appeal(s) on **Thursday, July 8, 2021**. The action item is set for the **10:00 a.m. agenda in the Auditorium of the Arch Ford Education Building, Four Capitol Mall, Little Rock, Arkansas.**

Ouida Newton
Poyen
Vice Chair

Any additional materials any party chooses to submit should be provided to my office **no later than 12:00 noon on Friday, July 2, 2021.**

Susan Chambers
Bella Vista

The Arkansas State Board of Education has requested the parent, the non-resident district, and the resident district attend this meeting and be available for questions.

Dr. Fitz Hill
Little Rock

The above-referenced appeal(s) will be conducted pursuant to the legal authority and jurisdiction vested in the State Board by the Public School Choice Act and the Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing the Public School Choice Act. You may find copies of these references on the Arkansas Department of Education Website.

Kathy McFetridge
Springdale

Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact the Arkansas Department of Education’s Legal Services Division at (501) 682-4585 should you require additional information.

Dr. Sarah Moore
Stuttgart

Steve Sutton
Marion

Sincerely,

/s/Taylor Dugan

Adrienne Woods
Rogers

Taylor Dugan
Staff Attorney

Dr. Beth Anne Rankin
Magnolia

Division of Elementary and Secondary Education
taylor.dugan@ade.arkansas.gov

APPEAL

June 2, 2021

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you for my daughter, Asia Holt. She is currently attending Guy Perkins School. Which we would like to request an appeal from the decision on the denial, from Guy, for her to attend Quitman High School.

We put in the request for Asia to attend Quitman for several reasons.

1. Those SRO Shelters are in every classroom. Which living in Arkansas we do get tornadoes. She will have the safety even in the event of a shooting.
2. The education in Quitman is so much more than Guy offers. She can also get a Trade on campus. As well as a sport if she wanted to play. They are just putting in a new track.
3. Family. She has her cousin that will be going into the 1st grade. Our granddaughter that will be going into Kindergarten. Which my niece does have a car if my daughter needed a ride. As well as our sister-in-law and brother own a

bakery across from the school.
So if at anytime of an emergency
They can be there quicker.

We would really appreciate the
Chance for her to go to Quitman.

Thank you for
your time.
Thank you
Dennis and Jessica
Holt.



Guy-Perkins School District
492 Hwy 25 N. * Guy, AR 72061
501-679-7224 fax: 501-679-3508

Home of the Thunderbirds

May 25, 2021

Dennis & Jessica Holt



In accordance with Ark. Code, found below, the application for transfer to a nonresident district (school choice) for your child, Asia Holt has been denied.

Guy-Perkins would love the opportunity to show you around our school and discuss the merits of our educational services. Please call 501-679-7224 with questions or to arrange a visit.

As noted in your original application, you have ten (10) days from receipt of this notice in which to submit a written Appeal of this decision to the State Board of Education.

Sincerely,

Dr. Joe Fisher
Superintendent

Ark. Code Ann. §6-18-1906(b) establishes a numerical net maximum limit on school choice transfers each school year from a school district of three percent (3%) of the enrollment of the school district as of October 15 of the immediately preceding school year. The attached document shows the total enrollment for each district and the number of students representing three percent (3%) of total enrollment.

OTHER DOCUMENTS



Guy-Perkins School District

492 Highway 25 North

Guy, Arkansas 72061

501-679-7224

www.gptbirds.org

June 14, 2021

Office of the Commissioner
ATTN: Arkansas Public School Choice Act Appeals
4 Capitol Mall
Little Rock AR 72201

RE: School Choice Appeal – Asia Holt

Dear Commissioner of Education:

The Guy-Perkins School District received a copy of the Holt family school-choice appeal by email on June 14, 2021. Enclosed is a copy of the worksheet used by the Guy-Perkins School District to determine the 3% school-choice cap. Additionally, a response by Dr. Joe Fisher, Superintendent, to the appeal letter provided by the Post family is enclosed.

If you need additional information, please contact me at 501-679-7224, or by email at denee.acre@gptbirds.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Denee Acre', written in a cursive style.

Denee' Acre, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent



Guy-Perkins School District

492 Highway 25 North

Guy, Arkansas 72061

501-679-7224

www.gptbirds.org

June 14, 2021

Arkansas State Board of Education
4 Capitol Mall
Little Rock, AR 72201

RE: School Choice Appeal – Asia Holt

Dear Arkansas State Board of Education:

My name is Dr. Joe Fisher and I have been the Superintendent of Guy-Perkins Schools since July 2020. The Guy-Perkins Elementary School has worked diligently over the past two (2) year to identify areas for improvement by setting goals and tracking performance data to help increase student achievement and create a more safe and successful learning environment. This is evidenced by the following:

- The Faulkner County Sheriff's Office assigned Deputy Stephen Ferguson as a full-time School Resource Officer for the Guy-Perkins and Mt. Vernon-Enola School Districts in 2020-21. Deputy Ferguson works daily to help educate our students, faculty, and parents/families on the issues of making good choices in society and provides safety and protection during a crisis. As a result, our student discipline rate has decreased in 2021-22 and parents have expressed a better sense of safety and security within the district.
- Guy-Perkins Elementary School was built in 2009 with a built-in tornado/safety shelter in the center of the building. The Guy Community and City Hall uses this shelter during times of inclement weather.
- Guy-Perkins Elementary School was selected by DESE to participate in the application process for becoming a designated "Schools of Innovation" in Arkansas. During this past year of application and program development, teachers and administrators have worked to create specialized learning pathways for each of our students in grades K-6. Guy-Perkins Elementary School anticipates being designated as a "School of Innovation" in Arkansas by the end of the 2021-22 school year.

- Guy-Perkins Elementary School was recently selected by DESE to participate in the PLC Regional Project from 2021-2024. This work is similar to the process that Quitman worked through in Cohort 2, but will require less oversight from DESE/Solution Tree due to the district's capacity to continue its current PLC work. Guy-Perkins Elementary School has been using the PLC process and examining student performance data regularly for the past two (2) years.

Finally, the Guy-Perkins School District has continued to work with our district stakeholders to help overcome much malicious misinformation being shared by others about our school district. We now tell our own story through our website – www.gptbirds.org; our Facebook page - www.facebook.com/guyperkinsschool; and Twitter - <https://twitter.com/GuyPerkinsSD>. Most importantly, we let the data tell our academic story at Guy-Perkins Elementary School. Here are the results of the last ESSA rating for Guy-Perkins Elementary School and area small districts:

<i>Guy-Perkins Elementary School (2018-19)</i>		<i>Quitman Elementary School (2018-19)</i>	
Indicator	Score	Indicator	Score
Overall ESSA Score	70.22	Overall ESSA Score	69.93
Weighted Achievement Score	57.62	Weighted Achievement Score	63.37
Value-Added Growth Score	81.22	Value-Added Growth Score	79.16
School Quality and Student Success Score	62.95	School Quality and Student Success Score	54.45

South Side (Bee Branch) Elementary School (2018-19)

Indicator	Score
Overall ESSA Score	69.82
Weighted Achievement Score	60.67
Value-Added Growth Score	77.88
School Quality and Student Success Score	64.32

Thank you for your continued support! We encourage you to follow Guy-Perkins School District as we continue to make “great things happen” for students in 2021-22.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dr. Joe Fisher, Superintendent