

# **NOTICE LETTER**



# Division of Elementary and Secondary Education

*Transforming Arkansas to lead the nation in student-focused education*

**Johnny Key**  
Secretary

June 16, 2022

**Dr. Ivy Pfeffer**  
Deputy  
Commissioner

Holly Tullos

Mr. Brian Golden, Superintendent  
Malvern School District  
1620 South Main St.  
Malvern, AR 72104

**Stacy Smith**  
Deputy  
Commissioner

Mr. Ronnie Kissire, Superintendent  
Poyen School District  
14296 Hwy 270 West  
Poyen, AR 72128

**State Board of  
Education**

**Re: Appeal Under the Public School Choice Act-**

**Ouida Newton**  
Poyen  
Chair

Everyone:

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 14, 2022**. The action item is set for **10:00 a.m. in the Auditorium of the Arch Ford Education Building, Four Capitol Mall, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201**. Any additional materials any party chooses to submit should be provided to my office **no later than 12:00 noon on Friday, July 8, 2022**.

**Dr. Sarah Moore**  
Stuttgart  
Vice Chair

**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.**

**Charisse Dean**  
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 Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Rules Governing the Public School Choice Act. You may find copies of these references on the DESE website at <https://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/Offices/legal/school-choice>.

**Dr. Fitz Hill**  
Little Rock

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) 682-1958 should you require additional information.

**Kathy McFetridge**  
Springdale

**Steve Sutton**  
Marion

Sincerely,

**Adrienne Woods**  
Rogers

/s/Shastady Wagner

**Dr. Beth Anne Rankin**  
Magnolia

Shastady Wagner  
Staff Attorney  
Division of Elementary and Secondary Education  
[shastady.wagner@ade.arkansas.gov](mailto:shastady.wagner@ade.arkansas.gov)

**Randy Henderson**  
Blytheville

APPEAL

June 1, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Holly Tullos, and I recently moved to Lono with my two children. My son is in 10<sup>th</sup> grade and my daughter is in 3<sup>rd</sup>. They have previously attended school in both the Warren and Hermitage School Districts. The purpose of this letter is to request that you reconsider their applications and allow them to attend school in the Poyen School District this fall.

There are many reasons the children and I feel this is the best choice for us, but I will name the top three. Firstly, their grandmother is a teacher at Poyen High School and this would be convenient for our family since they could ride to and from school with her, as well as the fact that she can help with transportation for after school activities. Not to mention that they would be more comfortable changing schools knowing she will be there. In addition, their dad works in Sheridan and would be closer should anything happen during the school day that requires a parent's attention. Secondly, as stated before, my children have attended both Warren and Hermitage Schools. They flourished, both academically and socially, in the smaller school setting at Hermitage. Finally, the four-day school week is very appealing to our family, as I work four days a week and it would allow for more time with my children.

In closing, I would appreciate your reconsideration of their applications to attend Poyen School District in the fall. You may contact me at [REDACTED] at your earliest convenience. Thank you for time.

Sincerely,



Holly Tullos

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LEGAL SERVICES

JUN 06 2022

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION



**MALVERN SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Home of Leopards

"Where PASSION, PRIDE, & EXCELLENCE are expected."

Brian Golden  
Superintendent of Schools  
Jace Roberts  
Chief of Staff

1620 SOUTH MAIN STREET  
MALVERN, ARKANSAS 72104  
501-332-7500, FAX: 501-332-7501

Lillian Harper  
Assistant Superintendent  
Gerald Hatley  
Assistant Superintendent

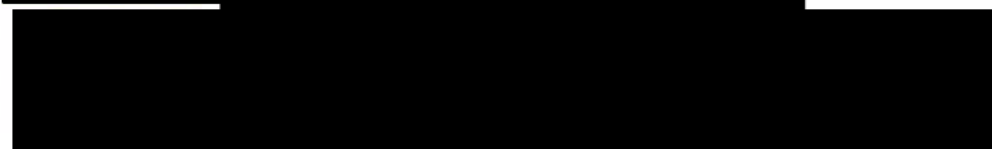
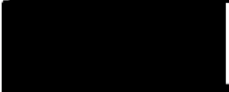
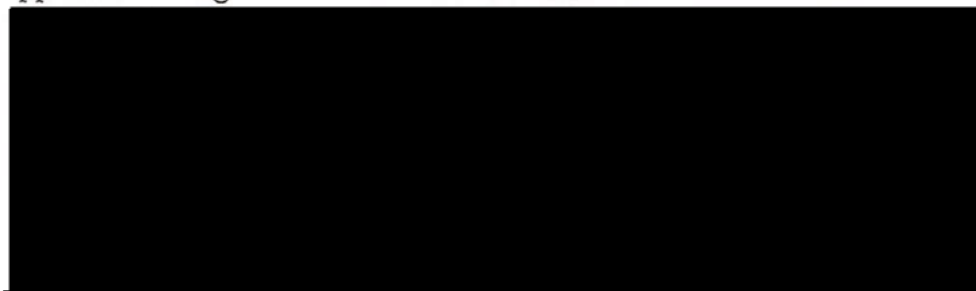
May 27, 2022

Ronnie Kissire, Superintendent  
Poyen School District  
P.O. Box 209  
14296 Hwy 270  
Poyen, AR 72128

The following students have been approved to transfer to your district via the Public School Choice Law:

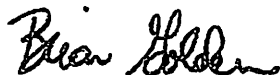


The following students were rejected for Public School Choice for the 2022-23 school year due to the applications being received after the Malvern School District had met the 3% transfer limit requirement:



After conferring with the Arkansas Department of Education, it is my understanding that is your responsibility, to inform the students who were accepted via school choice and the resident district's responsibility to inform the students where were not eligible due to the school choice cap. Should you have any questions, please contact our office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Golden". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and a long, sweeping underline.

Brian Golden  
Superintendent