

Public School Choice Act of 2015

- The public school choice act of 2015 enables students in kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12) to attend a school in a nonresident district, subject to the limitations prescribed in Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-1906.
- To apply for school choice, the parent/guardian or child (18 yrs. or older) must submit an application no earlier than January 1 and no later than May 1 to the resident and nonresident school districts pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-1905.
- **Limitations** on public school choice:
 - o Capacity
 - Pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-1903(d)(2)(B) a lack of capacity may be claimed if the school district has reached ninety-percent (90%) of the maximum authorized student population in a program, class, grade level, or school building.
 - o Federal Court Order
- When accepting or rejecting school choice application, the nonresident district shall not discriminate on the basis of gender, national origin, race, ethnicity, religion, or disability.
- If an application is denied, the parent may appeal that denial to the State Board of Education postmarked within ten days of receiving the rejection pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-1907.
- Upon appeal, the parent may submit supporting documentation to the State Board of Education that the transfer would be in the best educational, social, or psychological interest of the student as set forth in Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-1907(b)(2)(B).