

NOTICE LETTER



Division of Elementary and Secondary Education

Transforming Arkansas to lead the nation in student-focused education

June 28, 2021

Johnny Key
Secretary

Ms. Delbra Taylor

Mr. Kim Wilbanks, Superintendent
Jonesboro School District
2506 Southwest Square
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Dr. Ivy Pfeffer
Deputy
Commissioner

Dr. Karen Curtner, Superintendent
Nettleton School District
3300 One Place
Jonesboro, AR 72404

Stacy Smith
Deputy
Commissioner

Re: Appeal Under the Public School Choice Act-Justice Taylor

**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

To whom this may concern-

My choice application was denied for my daughter, Justice Taylor.

I'm writing this letter for an appeal. The reasons we wanted her to continue her education at JPS is because she's attended her whole life. From Pre-k until now. She also has a learning disability which the school system is aware of and the teachers of Annie Camp.

She is also on the VB team and BB team. She is a tremendous student and athlete. She will represent ~~JPS~~ to highest regard. Please. Please reconsider your decision. Her education is so important to us. Micro Society and Annie Camp counselors came together to help us figure out what her disability was. They have sculpted and helped her in so many ways. We don't want to lose that momentum and/or help for her.

Thank you,
Debra Taylor



Jonesboro Public Schools
2506 Southwest Square
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Office of the Superintendent
kim.wilbanks@jonesboroschools.net

870-933-5800
Fax: 870-933-5838

June 9, 2021

Delbra Taylor



Dear Parent,

I am sorry, but the CHOICE application you submitted for **Justice Taylor** has been rejected for the following reason:

Acceptance would cause the district to have to add additional staff and/or teachers.

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.

Respectfully,

Dr. Kim Wilbanks
Superintendent

OTHER DOCUMENTS



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2506 Southwest Square
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Office of the Superintendent
kim.wilbanks@jonesboroschools.net

870-933-5800
Fax: 870-933-5838

June 24, 2021

Ms. Delbra Taylor
[REDACTED]

Dear Ms. Taylor,

You applied in a timely manner for your daughter, Justice Taylor, to attend the district under the Arkansas School Choice laws. That application was presented to the Jonesboro School Board and was rejected because approval would have required the addition of additional staff. A letter to that effect was sent to you on June 9, 2021.

All actions under school choice are subject to continuing review in the event of new information or changed circumstances. The district has reviewed this decision in light of additional information about Justice's special education needs; in which the COVID pandemic hindered this process. Your choice application will be presented again to the school board at its July meeting. The administration believes that the district may be able to meet Justice's needs without the addition of additional personnel.

The Jonesboro School District is proud of its education program for all students and is pleased that its special education programs are seen as exceptional by so many parents. It is always distressing to have to deny an application. You will be notified of the decision of the school board after the July meeting. Thank you for your interest in the Jonesboro Public Schools. We look forward to the chance to welcome you and your child into our school family.

A copy of this letter is being sent to the Office of the Commissioner of the Arkansas Department of Education in order to suppl this new information. We will also notify the Commissioner's office of the result of the action of the Jonesboro School Board when it occurs.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kim Wilbanks
Superintendent

cc: Office of the Commissioner

Called
4/21/2007
A

APPLICATION FOR SCHOOL CHOICE TRANSFER

(Deadline for submission is May 1, unless the student is eligible for School Choice for Military Families)

TYPE OF SCHOOL CHOICE TRANSFER REQUESTED

Public School Choice Act of 2015 Opportunity School Choice Act

NOTE: Applications for the Public School Choice Act of 2015 must be sent to the resident and nonresident districts. Applications for the Opportunity School Choice Act must be sent to the resident district, the nonresident district, and the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education.

If you are unsure which type of school choice best applies, please review the FAQ following this form for information about the different types of school choice that may be available to your student.

SIBLING INFORMATION

If applying for a transfer under the Public School Choice Act, does the applicant have a sibling or step-sibling already attending the nonresident district listed in this application pursuant to the Public School Choice Act? If so, please list:

N/A

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Student Name: Justice N. Taylor Grade: 8th

Student Date of Birth: 8/8/07 Gender: Male Female

Is the applicant currently expelled? Yes No

MILITARY FAMILY INFORMATION

Does the applicant have a parent or guardian who is an active-duty member of the military who has been transferred to and resides on a military base? If so, please state the date of the parent's or guardian's arrival on the military base:

N/A

NOTE: In order to take advantage of school choice options available to military families who have recently transferred to a military base, you must submit military transfer orders and proof of residency on the military base to the resident and nonresident school districts.

RACE OR ETHNIC ORIGIN (CHECK ONE)

This information is collected for data reporting purposes only, pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. §6-18-227(f)(2)(B).

2 or More Races <input type="checkbox"/>	Asian <input type="checkbox"/>	African-American <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/>	Native American/ Native Alaskan <input type="checkbox"/>	Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/>
White <input type="checkbox"/>		

RESIDENT SCHOOL AND SCHOOL DISTRICT OF APPLICANT

District and School Name:

County Name:

~~Jonesboro/Annie Camp~~ ~~Craighead~~ Nettleton

Address:

~~3511 Rustic Cove~~ ~~2506~~ Southwest

Phone:

~~870-340-8085~~

NONRESIDENT SCHOOL/SCHOOL DISTRICT APPLICANT WISHES TO ATTEND

District and School Name:

County Name:

Jonesboro/Annie Camp Craighead

Address:

Southwest Square
2506 Nettleton Square

Phone:

PARENT OR GUARDIAN INFORMATION

Name:

Home Phone:

Delbra Taylor

870-340-8085

Address:

Work Phone:

[Redacted Address]

Delbra Taylor

870 316-4710

DISTRICT USE ONLY

Date and Time Received by Nonresident District:

4/7/21

8:04 am

Date and Time Received by Resident District:

Resident District LEA #:

1608

Nonresident District LEA#:

Student's State Identification #:

Application:

Accepted

Rejected

Reason for Rejection (If Applicable):

Date Notification Sent to Resident District and Parent/Guardian of Applicant:

06/21/2021