

NOTICE LETTER



Division of Elementary and Secondary Education

Transforming Arkansas to lead the nation in student-focused education

Johnny Key
Secretary

June 23, 2020

Jon Estes, Superintendent
Palestine-Wheatley School District
P.O. Box 790
Palestine, AR 72372
jestes@pwsd.k12.ar.us

Jennifer Mayfield, Parent

**State Board
of Education**

Diane Zook
*Melbourne
Chair*

Willie Murdock, Superintendent
Lee County School District
214 S. Alabama Street
Marianna, AR 72360
willie.murdock@lesdtrojans.net

Charisse Dean
*Little Rock
Vice Chair*

Susan Chambers
Bella Vista

Re: School Choice Appeal: Natalee Mayfield

Dr. Fitz Hill
Little Rock

Everyone:

Kathy McPetridge
Springdale

This letter is to notify you that the Arkansas State Board of Education is scheduled to hear the above-referenced appeal on **July 9, 2020**. 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. Any additional materials any party chooses to submit should be provided to my office **no later than 12:00 noon on Monday, June 29, 2019**.

Dr. Sarah Moore
Stuttgart

Ouida Newton
Poyen

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.

R. Brett Williamson
El Dorado

The above-referenced appeal will be conducted pursuant to the legal authority and jurisdiction vested in the State Board by the Public School Choice Act and corresponding Rules. You may find a copy of the Rules on the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education's website by visiting the "Current Rules" page and clicking the link for "Public School Choice."

Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 501-683-0960 if you have any questions.

Warmly,

Mary Claire Hyatt
Staff Attorney
Division of Elementary and Secondary Education
Four Capitol Mall, Room 301-A
Little Rock, AR 72201
maryclaire.hyatt@arkansas.gov

Four Capitol Mall
Little Rock, AR
72201-1019
(501) 682-4475
ArkansasEd.gov

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Subject: School Choice Appeal-- Hearing Notice
Date: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 at 3:25:30 PM Central Daylight Time
From: Mary Claire Hyatt (ADE)
CC: Mary Claire Hyatt (ADE)
BCC: Jennifer Mayfield, Jon Estes, willie.murdock@lcsdtrojans.net
Attachments: Mayfield, Cason Hearing Notice Signed.pdf, Mayfield, Natalee Hearing Notice Signed.pdf

Good afternoon,

Attached you will find the hearing notice letters for the school choice appeals for Natalee and Cason Mayfield. I put copies of these letters in the mail this afternoon. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Mary Claire

Mary Claire Hyatt
Attorney Specialist
Arkansas Department of Education
Division of Elementary and Secondary Education
Legal Services
Four Capitol Mall, 301-A
Little Rock, AR 72201
P: (501) 683-0960

APPEAL

To Whom It May Concern,

My Name is Jennifer Mayfield and I filled out a school choice application for my Daughter Natalee Mayfield to attend the Palestine School district.

I received a letter saying she was rejected. I had also filled out two more applications for my other two children as well.

My son Cason Mayfield's application was rejected and I have sent in his appeal. My other child [REDACTED] Mayfield was accepted to the Palestine School district. I had planned on moving to Brickys Ar. after I knew ~~that~~ my child would be able to attend the Palestine School district. Due to unforeseen circumstances we had no choice but to move early.

As a parent I looked into all the surrounding school districts and without hesitation I chose the Palestine school district. I felt it was the best school to place my child in. Natalee has never been to another school district and I feel Palestine school will continue to help her learn and grow considering she only has 3 more years of school left. Natalee does have a IEP and with the little extra help she receives she is doing amazing in her studies. I do not want her falling behind. After all the research I have done I know Palestine School will help her continue to meet her goals. With one of my children being accepted and my other two being rejected I cannot drive to

multiple schools for my children to attend. I do hope Natalie gets accepted in the Palestine school district. If I have to move my family to Palestine just for my children to attend the school district as a parent I will do what's best for my children. I hope after filling this appeal my Daughter will be able to attend the Palestine school district. I look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you for your
time and consideration,
Jennifer Mayfield

Cell - [REDACTED]

Email - [REDACTED]

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MAY 14 2020

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

Palestine-Wheatley School District

Home Of The Mighty Patriots

May 5, 2020

Dear Parent,

I am sorry, but the application you submitted for Natalee Mayfield has been rejected for the following reason.

_____ Your child's resident district has declared itself exempt from the provisions of the School Choice Law due to it being under a desegregation order.

_____ Your child's resident district has reached its limitation cap for allowable transfers and we cannot accept any additional school choice transfers from that district.

Lack of capacity, teachers, staff or classrooms

As noted in your original application, you have 10 days from receipt of this notice in which to appeal this decision to the State Department of Education.

Respectfully,



Jon Estes
Superintendent
Palestine-Wheatley School District

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MAY 14 2020

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

**APPLICATION FOR TRANSFER TO A NONRESIDENT DISTRICT
"ARKANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE ACT OF 2015"
(Must Be Submitted to Non-Resident District)**

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Natalee Mayfield

Student Name:

Student Date of Birth:

Gender Male

Female

Grade:

10th

ENTERING 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Does the applicant require special needs or programs? Yes No

Is applicant currently under expulsion? Yes No

ETHNIC ORIGIN (CHECK ONE)

(For data reporting purposes only)

2 or More Races

Asian

African-American

Hispanic

Native American/
Native Alaskan

Native Hawaiian/
Pacific Islander

White

RESIDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT OF APPLICANT

District Name:

Lee County

County Name:

Address:

Phone:

NONRESIDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT APPLICANT WISHES TO ATTEND

District Name:

Palestine

County Name:

Address:

Phone:

Does the applicant already have a sibling or step-sibling in attendance in this district pursuant to the Public School Choice Act of 2013 or the Public School Choice Act of 2015?

PARENT OR GUARDIAN INFORMATION

Name: Jennifer Mayfield

Home Phone: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

Work Phone:

Parent/Guardian Signature

Jennifer Mayfield

Date:

2-3-2020

Pursuant to standards adopted by a nonresident school board a nonresident district may reserve the right to accept and reject applicants based on capacity of programs, class, grade level, or school building. Likewise, a nonresident district's standards may provide for the rejection of an applicant based upon the submission of false or misleading information to the above listed request for information when that information directly impacts the legal qualifications of an applicant to transfer pursuant to the School Choice Act. However, a nonresident district's standards shall not include an applicant's previous academic achievement, athletic or other extracurricular ability, handicapping conditions, English proficiency level, or previous disciplinary proceedings, except that an expulsion from another district may be included pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-510. Priority will be given to applicants with siblings or step-siblings attending the district. The nonresident district shall accept credits toward graduation that were awarded by another district and award a diploma to a nonresident applicant if the applicant meets the nonresident district's graduation requirements. This application must be filed in the nonresident district or postmarked no later than May 1 of the year in which the applicant would begin the fall semester at the nonresident district. A student whose application for transfer is rejected by the nonresident district may request a hearing before the State Board of Education to reconsider the transfer by filing such a request in writing with the Commissioner of Education no later than ten (10) days after the student or student's parent receives a notice of rejection. (Consult Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-1905 and the Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing the Public School Choice Act of 2015 for specific procedures on how to file such an appeal).

DISTRICT USE ONLY

Date and Time Received by Resident District:

Date and Time Received by Nonresident District:

Resident District LEA #:

Nonresident District LEA#:

Student's State Identification #:

Application

Accepted

Rejected

Reason for Rejection (If Applicable):

Date Notification Sent to Parent/Guardian of Applicant:

Date Notification Sent to Resident District :

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MAY 3 4 2020

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

RESPONSE

ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

Tuesday, June 30, 2020 at 12:09:06 PM Central Daylight Time

Subject: Fw: Natalee's letter
Date: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 at 2:30:24 PM Central Daylight Time
From: Jennifer Mayfield
To: Mary Claire Hyatt (ADE)
Attachments: N. Mayfield Letter.docx

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Tara Treat <taratreat@sheridanschools.org>
To: "jennifer_mayfield87@yahoo.com" <jennifer_mayfield87@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2020, 01:06:00 PM CDT
Subject: Natalee's letter

Jennifer,

I have attached Natalee's letter you asked me to write for her. I hope this helps her get into that district. let me know if you need anything else from me.

Good luck with everything. I sure will miss seeing her face.

Thanks,

Coach Tara Treat
9th Grade Science and Civics Teacher/11th grade Science Teacher
High School Assistant Volleyball Coach/Boy's Soccer Coach
Work #: 870-942-3137
taratreat@sheridanschools.org

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Tara Treat
Sheridan High School
700 West Vine St
Sheridan, AR 72150
870-942-3137

June 24, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Tara Treat (Coach Treat) and I am writing on behalf of Natalee Mayfield. She has been a student of mine, with the Sheridan School District, for the last two years from junior high to high school. For the 2019-2020 school year I was in charge of all her IEP paperwork and folder to make sure all accommodations were met in all her classes. Natalee is a four core resource student, and does extremely well in all her special education resource classes and general education classes. She is an exemplary student, and a leader in the classroom. She participates in class, is on time to all her classes, and she works extremely hard to keep her grades up. She works well with her peers and is a team player at all times. She has always gone above and beyond, and I could not be more proud of her and her efforts.

During the COVID-19 crisis that caused school to close, Natalee always met the expectations and requirements needed to complete her work in not only my classes but also in her other general education classes. She attended her google meets consistently, she asked questions when she didn't understand the assignment, and she turned in her work on time. She is the type of student you would want to be in your classroom.

A lot of the information that I have provided today is also noted on her IEP, and was also discussed during her annual review meeting. Having Natalee a part of your district would be a great opportunity for not only her but for you as well. It's important that you understand her needs and recognize the type of student that you would be getting in Natalee. I cannot say enough about her with words. Her actions and effort will speak volumes for her, and I hope you consider her as part of your family.

If you have any questions please feel free to email me at taratreat@sheridanschools.org, and I will gladly respond. Thank you for your time in reading this and considering Natalee for your district.

Sincerely,

Tara Treat

Tara Treat
taratreat@sheridanschools.org
870-942-3137