

NOTICE LETTER



Division of Elementary and Secondary Education

Transforming Arkansas to lead the nation in student-focused education

Johnny Key
Secretary

June 25, 2020

Joseph Fisher, Superintendent
Guy-Perkins School District
492 Highway 25 North
Guy, AR 72061
joe.fisher@gptbirds.org

Kayla Dollar



State Board of Education

Diane Zook
Melbourne Chair

Dennis Truxler, Superintendent
Quitman School District
6275 Heber Springs Rd. W
Quitman, AR 72131
truxlerd@quitman.k12.ar.us

Charisse Dean
Little Rock Vice Chair

Re: School Choice Appeal: Noah Dollar

Susan Chambers
Bella Vista

Everyone:

Dr. Fitz Hill
Little Rock

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**.

Kathy McFetridge
Springdale

Dr. Sarah Moore
Stuttgart

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.

Ouida Newton
Poyen

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."

R. Brett Williamson
El Dorado

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

An Equal Opportunity Employer

APPEAL

June 5, 2020

State Board of Education
Office of the Commissioner
4 Capitol Mall
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Members of the State Board of Education,

My name is Kayla Dollar and I am writing this letter as an appeal regarding the decision of the Guy-Perkins School District to reject my 5-year-old son's school choice transfer to the Quitman School District. In this letter I will state my primary reasons for appealing this decision in order of importance. I am open to a hearing with your board to further discuss these reasons if needed.

My main reasons deal with safety of my son going to Quitman Public school. In 2018, Quitman Public School installed dual purpose safety shelters in every classroom, cafeteria, and gymnasium. These safety shelters have been built and tested to withstand the forces of an EF-5 tornado. Living in Arkansas all my life, I have seen firsthand the destruction and heartache that a tornado can cause. Knowing my son would be better protected than going out into a hallway eases my mind. These same shelters are comprised of Ballistic level III steel. This means these shelters are bulletproof to the point where they would not be penetrated by multiple types of gunfire. I cannot stress enough the peace of mind that these safety shelters that Quitman Schools have implemented give me. Last year my son attended the school based Pre-K program at Quitman. When the rumors circulated about a possible school shooting occurring in

**RECEIVED
LEGAL SERVICES**

JUN 9 2020

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION**

Arkansas, I felt so much better that my son would be safe in a shelter like these, as well as go to school with an on campus school resource officer.

That leads me to my next safety point, and reason for requesting the transfer to Quitman School. For the past eight years, Quitman Public school has had a school resource officer on campus to protect the students/faculty. The current school resource officer that is there has fifteen years' experience in that particular role, and five of those years at Quitman. She is specially trained to deal with situations that are specific for public schools. As to date, Guy public school does not have a resource officer. Instead they use city police officers who may or may not already be on duty off campus. This means they have to travel to the school from their current location, not to mention be possibly tied up with something else. In the event of a school shooter time would be of the essence.

My final reason for this appeal deals with the hardship it would cause my husband and I if Noah has to attend Guy. I work in Fairfield Bay which is an hour away from Guy schools. My husband works all over Arkansas with an unset schedule. Being able to drop off and pick up our son at Guy school is impossible. My mother works right across from Quitman Public School and she is able to leave work for a short time and pick him up where she can care for him until my husband and I get off of work at five that afternoon. We currently live six minutes from Quitman School, opposed to longer to get to Guy Schools.

As you can read, my main reasons deal with safety when choosing Quitman School district over Guy School district. I firmly believe that in the world we live in today, that if my son goes to school in a place where he has better chance at being safe from an unfortunate event,

then it's obvious why I chose Quitman School District. I look forward to hearing from you all and more than willing to meet with you if needed.

Thank you again,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kayla M Dollar". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kayla M Dollar



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

Home of the Thunderbirds

May 27, 2020

Quitman Public School
6275 Heber Springs Rd W
Quitman, AR 72131

Please find below, a list of students that have filed school choice papers to your district. These students will not be able to attend choice district in accordance with Ark. Code, also found below.



Noah Dollar

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.

Thank you!

Deneé Acre
Accounts Payable
Admin Assistant
denee.acre@gptbirds.org



Quitman
Public Schools

6275 Heber Springs Road West
Quitman, AR. 72131
501-589-3156

June 2, 2020

Ms. Dollar,

Enclosed is a letter we received from the Guy-Perkins School District denying your Freedom of Choice of your child Noah Dollar.

The letter is self-explanatory but if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dennis Truxler". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dennis Truxler
Superintendent

7:50 AM
1/14/20

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

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Student Name: Noah Dollar

Student Date of Birth: [REDACTED] Gender Male Female

Grade: Kindergarten 2020

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

RESIDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT OF APPLICANT

not enrolled

District Name: Guy-Perkins County Name: Faulkner

Address: 492 Guy Ln Guy, AR

Phone: 501-679-3507

NONRESIDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT APPLICANT WISHES TO ATTEND

District Name: Quitman County Name: ~~Faulkner~~ Cleburne

Address: 6275 Heber Springs Rd W Quitman AR 72131

Phone: 501-589-2554

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? no

Just a different street number
for student's address

PARENT OR GUARDIAN INFORMATION

Name: *Kayla Doller*

Home Phone: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

Work Phone: [REDACTED]

Quitman, AR 72131

Parent/Guardian Signature

Kayla Doller

Date:

1-14-2020

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:

1/14/20 7:50 AM

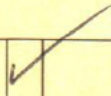
Resident District LEA #:

Nonresident District LEA#:

Student's State Identification #:

Application

Accepted



Rejected

Reason for Rejection (If Applicable):

Date Notification Sent to Parent/Guardian of Applicant:

2/20/20

Date Notification Sent to Resident District :

2/20/20

RESPONSE



Guy-Perkins School District

492 Highway 25 North

Guy, Arkansas 72061

501-679-7224

www.gptbirds.org

June 16, 2020

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

RE: School Choice Application – Noah Dollar

Dear Arkansas State Board of Education:

The Guy-Perkins School District has received a copy of the Dollar family school-choice appeal, based on the district reaching its 3% cap. Enclosed is a copy of their school choice application and the worksheet used by the Guy-Perkins School District to determine the 3% cap. If you need additional information, please contact Denee' Acre at 501-679-7224, or denee.acre@gptbirds.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Joe Fisher', is written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Dr. Joe Fisher
Superintendent

SCHOOL CHOICE 2020-21

3% cap for 20-21 is **10**

IN

Student Name	grade	resident school	received date and time	
1. [REDACTED]		Greenbrier	03-13-2020	1:45 PM
2. [REDACTED]	10	Greenbrier	04-03-2020	2:45 PM

OUT

Student Name	grade	choice school	rcv'd by GP	rcv'd by non res	
1. [REDACTED]	K (sibling)	Greenbrier	01-10-2020	07-31-2019	2:35
2. [REDACTED]	K (siblings)	Greenbrier	02-05-2020	02-04-2020	3:30
3. [REDACTED]	K (siblings)	Quitman	02-12-2020	02-12-2020	11:15
4. [REDACTED]	K (sibling)	Greenbrier	03-09-2020	03-09-2020	1:31
5. [REDACTED]	1st	Quitman	01-13-2020	10-18-2019	8:00
6. [REDACTED]	7th	Greenbrier	01-10-2020	11-22-2019	1:30
7. [REDACTED]	8th	Greenbrier	01-10-2020	11-22-2019	1:31
8. [REDACTED]	7th	Southside	12-20-2019	12-20-2019	
9. [REDACTED]	10th	Greenbrier	01-10-2020	01-07-2020	9:52
10. [REDACTED]	8th	Greenbrier	01-10-2020	01-07-2020	9:52
11. [REDACTED]	6th	Greenbrier	01-10-2020	01-07-2020	9:52
12. [REDACTED]	2nd	Greenbrier	01-10-2020	01-07-2020	9:52

DENIED OVER 3% CAP ↓

NET 10 is our cap

1. [REDACTED]	3rd	Greenbrier	01-10-2020	01-07-2020	1:09
2. [REDACTED]	6th	Quitman	01-13-2020	01-08-2020	10:45
3. [REDACTED]	8th	Greenbrier	01-13-2020	01-13-2020	9:06
4. Noah Dollar	K	Quitman	01-14-2020	01-01-2020	7:50
5. [REDACTED]	K	Greenbrier	01-29-2020	01-29-2020	1:42
6. [REDACTED]	11 th	Quitman	02-18-2020	02-18-2020	9:52
7. [REDACTED]	2nd	Greenbrier	03-09-2020	03-09-2020	11:03
8. [REDACTED]	5 th	Greenbrier	04-13-2020	04-13-2020	2:06
9. [REDACTED]	8th	Greenbrier	04-22-2020		
10. [REDACTED]	4th	Greenbrier	04-22-2020		
11. [REDACTED]	1st	Greenbrier	04-22-2020		

7:50 AM
1/14/20

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

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Student Name: Noah Dollar

Student Date of Birth: [REDACTED] Gender Male Female

Grade: Kindergarten 2020

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

not enrolled

District Name: Guy-Perkins County Name: Faulkner

Address: 492 Guy Ln Guy, AR

Phone: 501-679-3507

NONRESIDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT APPLICANT WISHES TO ATTEND

District Name: Quitman County Name: Faulkner Cleburne

Address: 6275 Heber Springs Rd W Quitman AR 72131

Phone: 501-589-2554

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? no

Just a different street number
for student's address
(¹ maybe 24)

RECEIVED
JAN 14 REC'D
BY: [Signature]

2020
1:19

PARENT OR GUARDIAN INFORMATION

Name: <i>Kayla Doller</i>	Home Phone: [REDACTED]
Address: [REDACTED]	Work Phone: [REDACTED]
<i>Quitman, AR 72131</i>	

Parent/Guardian Signature <i>Kayla Doller</i>	Date: <i>1-14-2020</i>
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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: <i>1-14-2020 1:19 PM</i>	Date and Time Received by Nonresident District: <i>1/14/20 7:50 AM</i>	
Resident District LEA #: <i>2304</i>	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 :		

Subject: Re: School Choice Appeal-- Dollar

Date: Thursday, June 11, 2020 at 2:31:14 PM Central Daylight Time

From: Dennis Truxler

To: Mary Claire Hyatt (ADE)

In response to your email, the Quitman School District would be happy to enroll Noah Dollar in their Kindergarten program. The reason for my letter to Ms. Dollar was solely based on the fact that the Guy-Perkins School District denied their request due to the 3% rule.

I will have my Secretary send you a copy of the original application.

Thank You!
Dennis Truxler
QSD Superintendent

On Thu, Jun 11, 2020 at 2:08 PM Mary Claire Hyatt (ADE) <MaryClaire.Hyatt@arkansas.gov> wrote:

Good afternoon,

Please see attached a school choice appeal filed with the Department. The family appeals the Guy-Perkins School District's decision to deny school choice based on reaching its 3% cap. Because the law now allows students to retain priority for transfer until July 1 when they are denied due to the 3% cap, I will wait to schedule these appeals until July 1.

The applicable ADE rules state that districts must file any response to the appeal within ten (10) days of receipt of the appeal. You can send me any response via e-mail, or by mail to:

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

ADE staff will send all parties a formal notification letter once any response is received (or if the ten-day time period passes without a response from the nonresident district). Will one of you please include in your response a copy of the application? Please let me know if you have any questions.

Warmly,

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

ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS