



## Guy-Perkins School District

492 Highway 25 North

Guy, Arkansas 72061

501-679-7224

[www.gptbirds.org](http://www.gptbirds.org)

October 16, 2023

Hope Worsham, Assistant Commissioner  
Department of Elementary and Secondary Education  
Office of Public School Accountability  
Four Capitol Mall, Box 26  
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Ms. Worsham,

The Guy-Perkins School District is requesting a "Standards for Accreditation Waiver" for one year (2023-24) at Guy-Perkins Elementary School for the following Arkansas state standard:

- **1-A.5 Class Size, which requires that "Each public school district shall comply with the laws of the State of Arkansas and the rules of the Division regarding class size and teaching load."**

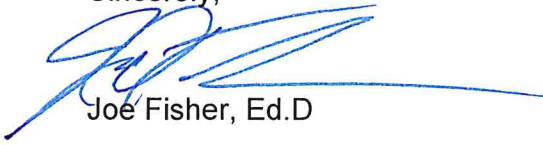
The district is seeking this waiver under Ark. Code Ann. 6-15-202(b)(2)(A).

For years, our district has averaged anywhere from 18-20 students per classroom at the elementary school level. This year when our district transitioned to a "4-day week" schedule, our elementary classrooms grew anywhere from 1-6 students well after the first day of school. This unexpected growth in numbers has placed the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classroom (one room) over the 25-student limit and the 1<sup>st</sup> grade classroom (one room) one student away from reaching the maximum limit of 25.

These classroom sizes are so close to the limit that it does not warrant the district to hire additional teachers at this time. For this reason, we are requesting a "Class Size" waiver for the 2023-24 school year until we can see if our enrollment continues to grow. If the waiver is approved, the district plans to employ an additional paraprofessional to assist elementary school teachers until we can do a thorough search for good teaching candidates in the spring 2024.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you have any questions, please contact me at [joe.fisher@gptbirds.org](mailto:joe.fisher@gptbirds.org), or at 501-679-7224.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Joe Fisher', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joe Fisher, Ed.D

Cc Dr. Matthew Sutherlin