

NOTICE LETTER



Division of Elementary and Secondary Education

Transforming Arkansas to lead the nation in student-focused education

July 22, 2021

Johnny Key
Secretary

Alicia Cunningham

Mr. Doug Dorris, Superintendent
White Hall School District
1020 West Holland Avenue
White Hall, AR 71602

Dr. Ivy Pfeffer
Deputy
Commissioner

Ms. Barbara Warren, Superintendent
Pine Bluff School District
1215 W Pullen Street
Pine Bluff, AR 71601

Stacy Smith
Deputy
Commissioner

**State Board of
Education**

Re: School Choice Appeal-Felicity Brantley

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 on **Thursday, August 12, 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**. Any additional materials any party chooses to submit should be provided to my office **no later than 12:00 noon on Friday, August 6, 2021**.

Ouida Newton
Poyen
Vice Chair

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.

Susan Chambers
Bella Vista

The above-referenced appeal(s) will be conducted pursuant to the legal authority and jurisdiction vested in the State Board by the the Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing the Opportunity School Choice Act. You may find copies of these references on the Arkansas Department of Education Website.

Dr. Fitz Hill
Little Rock

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. Finally, my last day with the Division is Friday, July 23, 2021, so please follow up with Ms. Lori Freno for any concerns.

Dr. Sarah Moore
Stuttgart

Steve Sutton
Marion

Sincerely,

Adrienne Woods
Rogers

/s/Taylor Dugan

Dr. Beth Anne Rankin
Magnolia

Taylor Dugan
Staff Attorney
Division of Elementary and Secondary Education
taylor.dugan@ade.arkansas.gov

APPEAL

To Whom it may concern,

06/24/2021

I Alicia Cunningham am requesting to appeal the decision of White Hall School District regarding my daughter Felicity Brantley and their decision to reject her enrollment by school choice for the school year of 2021-2022 for the 8th grade. Felicity has attended White Hall School district since 2015. I unenrolled her for online learning during the pandemic. During this we moved, I filled out the school choice forms the first week open enrollment began for her and her sister. Her sister Dayvinie Brantley was accepted into White Hall School District; however, Felicity was rejected. I am requesting for a second look to be given in this decision as the resident school for my address is struggling academically. Felicity is an excellent student and I feel as though they are not going to be able to challenge her accordingly academically. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Alicia Cunningham

Contact:

Address: [REDACTED]

Pine Bluff, Ar 71601

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]@gmail.com

**OTHER
DOCUMENTS**

WHITE HALL SCHOOL DISTRICT



1020 West Holland Avenue
White Hall, Arkansas 71602-9632
Phone: 870.247.2002 ~ Fax: 870.247.3707
www.whitehallsd.org

Doug Dorris, Superintendent

~ Debbie Jones, Director of Curriculum & Federal Programs

~ Cedric Hawkins, Assistant Superintendent

July 15, 2021

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

School Choice appeal: Felicity Brantley

To Whom it may concern:

The White Hall School District received a "Public School Choice Act of 2015" application for Felicity Brantley on March 23, 2021.

The White Hall School District sent a denial letter to Ms. Cunningham, because we had reached our 90% cap for eighth grade.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Doug Dorris".

Doug Dorris
Superintendent
White Hall School District

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:

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Student Name: Felicity Brantley

Grade: 8

This is the grade your child will be in next school year. 2021-2022.

Student Date of Birth: [REDACTED]

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:

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

Asian

African-American

Hispanic

Native American/
Native Alaskan

Native Hawaiian/
Pacific Islander

White

Applicant Name: Felicity Brantley

RESIDENT SCHOOL AND SCHOOL DISTRICT OF APPLICANT

District and School Name: PBSD County Name: Jefferson
Arkansas Connections Academy

Address:
1009 Beau Terre Dr building o, Bentonville, Ar, 72712

Phone:
5013863419

NONRESIDENT SCHOOL/SCHOOL DISTRICT APPLICANT WISHES TO ATTEND

District and School Name: White Hall School District County Name: Jefferson

Address:
1020 West Holland / White Hall, Arkansas 71602

Phone:
870-247-2002

PARENT OR GUARDIAN INFORMATION

Name: Alicia Cunningham Home Phone: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED] Pine Bluff, Ar, 71601 Work Phone:

Parent/Guardian Signature: [Signature] Date: 03/23/2021

DISTRICT USE ONLY

Date and Time Received by Nonresident District: MAR 23 2021

Date and Time Received by Resident District: 6:45 pm

Resident District LEA #:

Nonresident District LEA#: 3510

Student's State Identification #:

Application: Accepted Rejected

Reason for Rejection (If Applicable):

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

WHITE HALL SCHOOL DISTRICT
1020 West Holland Avenue
White Hall, AR 71602
870-247-2002

June 14, 2021

RE: Request for School Choice

Alicia Cunningham

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

71601

Dear Alicia Cunningham,

I am sorry to inform you the School Choice application you submitted for Felicity Brantley has been rejected for the following reason:

- The non-resident district (White Hall) is over capacity for Grade 8.

Respectfully,



Doug Dorris
Superintendent