

NOTICE LETTER



Division of Elementary and Secondary Education

Transforming Arkansas to lead the nation in student-focused education

June 28, 2021

Johnny Key
Secretary

Cynthia Stroud

Dr. Brian Golden, Superintendent
Malvern School District
1620 South Main Street
Malvern, AR, 72104

Dr. Ivy Pfeffer
Deputy
Commissioner

Mr. Tim Holicer, Superintendent
Glen Rose School District
14334 Highway 67
Malvern, AR 72104

Stacy Smith
Deputy
Commissioner

Re: Appeal Under the Public School Choice Act-Luna Marin

**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

June 21, 2021

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

Re: Appeal school choice decision for Luna Marin

My child was denied school choice for the 2021-2022 school year due to the Malvern School District reaching its cap. For the following reasons, I would like to appeal this decision.

My child was due to start kindergarten in the fall of 2020. I attempted to apply for school choice on line for the 20-21 school year, however, everything was grayed out. I assumed due to Covid-19 and the fact that school was not currently in session on campus. I enrolled my child in the Glen Rose School District for 2020-2021 school year and she was accepted. She attended Glen Rose for the first three weeks of school before we were notified since we live in the Malvern School District that she would have to enroll in Malvern the following Monday. She finished out her Kindergarten year at Malvern. Once school choice applications were re-opened, I applied for and received a letter from Glen Rose School District dated May 10, 2021 accepting my child, but then I received a letter dated June 14, 2021 from Malvern School District stating my child was denied school choice due to Malvern School District reaching its transfer cap.

I work for the Division of Children and Family Services in Garland County. Transportation to and from school are sometimes problematic due to the hours that I work and so I heavily rely on my family to assist with that. All of my grandchildren attend Glen Rose, grades 2-11, so transportation would be covered as well as our after school care. Luna is familiar with the school and student body due to all of her cousins attending and greatly wishes to attend Glen Rose with her family members and friends.

Other than the reasons mentioned above, we believe that educationally Glen Rose would be the best fit for her. Glen Rose is a much smaller school than Malvern, having an approximate 412 Pre-Kindergarten through 4th grade students, as compared to 890 in Malvern. Luna will greatly benefit from the smaller class sizes, familiarity of her friends/relatives and having a regular routine with transportation and afterschool care.

We believe that this transfer would be in her best interest sociologically, psychologically and educationally and pray that the board sees it as well. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



Cynthia Stroud and Luna Marin

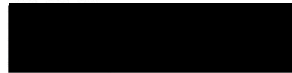
Cc: Tim Holicer, Glen Rose School District Superintendent
Brian Golden, Malvern Special School District Superintendent

OTHER DOCUMENTS



May 10, 2021

Cynthia Stroud



Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your application for school choice to the Glen Rose School District for Luna Marin. We appreciate your interest in our schools. We are pleased to inform you that we have accepted your application for the 2021-2022 school year. If the student was enrolled in the Glen Rose School District, no further action is needed. If the student was not enrolled in the Glen Rose School District, please enroll the student by August 1, 2021.

Since your child/children have been accepted through school choice, they will be eligible to continue enrollment in the district until completing high school provided that the student meets the policy requirements all other district students must meet (with the exception of residency in the district). This information is contained in the student handbook.

You are responsible for transportation to and from the Glen Rose School District.

Please note: The Glen Rose School District has no control over when a student's resident district might reach its statutory limit on allowable transfers out of its district. While we consider it unlikely, there is always the possibility that we could be forced to withdraw this acceptance if the resident district reaches its limit. If that happens, you will be notified immediately once we receive the notification from the resident district. We apologize for this unavoidable uncertainty.

Should you have any questions or need any additional information, please feel free to contact myself or Amber Wiggins at 501-332-3694 ext 6.

Sincerely,

Tim Holicer
Superintendent



MALVERN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Home of Leopards

“Where PASSION, PRIDE, & EXCELLENCE are expected.”

Brian Golden
Superintendent of Schools
Jace Roberts
Chief of Staff

1620 SOUTH MAIN STREET
MALVERN, ARKANSAS 72104
501-332-7500, FAX: 501-332-7501

Lillian Harper
Assistant Superintendent
Gerald Hatley
Assistant Superintendent

June 14, 2021

Cynthia Stroud



Re: School Choice Cap: Luna Marin

Dear Parent,

I am writing to inform you that your child(ren) listed above have been denied school choice for the 2021-22 school year due to the Malvern School District reaching its transfer cap under Arkansas Code Annotated 6-18-1906. Each year there is a cap on the number of transfers allowed under Arkansas Law based upon the enrollment numbers of each school. Applications are approved on a first come basis in the order they are received from the non-resident school district. Per Arkansas law, your child(ren) will receive priority for a transfer in the first school year in which the district has enough space under the cap.

Should you have any questions, please contact our office at the contact information listed above.

Respectfully,

Brian Golden
Superintendent