



P.O. BOX 220, 301 COLLEGE STREET, CALICO ROCK, AR 72519
PHONE: (870) 297-8339 FAX: (870) 297-4233

August 22, 2023

Dear Ms. Hope Worsham and Mr. Matthew Southerlin,

The Calico Rock School District is seeking a waiver for Standard for Accreditation 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 will be seeking a waiver under Ark. Code Ann. 6-15-202(b) (2) (A)

The circumstances driving the need for the waiver is an increase in students this year and the teacher shortage. We tried to find a certified teacher, however, time after time we heard the same thing, "I'm sorry but I already accepted a position in another district." We currently have 25 students in third grade and 29 students in fourth grade. We are one over the maximum in fourth grade and 3 under the maximum in third grade. In our opinion, 4 students doesn't justify hiring a fulltime teacher. Therefore, we are seeking a class size waiver for these grade levels.

I have full confidence in this set-up because last year the same fourth grade teacher produced amazing test scores. For example, her fourth grade class out scored 16 other schools in our Co-op in Reading, Science and ELA making us #1 in our Co-op in all three areas. Additionally, we were #2 in Reading in the entire state of Arkansas.

Yours in education,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerry Skidmore". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Jerry Skidmore, Superintendent
Calico Rock School District

