

# **NOTICE LETTER**



# Division of Elementary and Secondary Education

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June 29, 2022

David and Stormy Swinson

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Mr. John Karnes, Superintendent  
West Fork School District  
359 School Ave.  
West Fork, AR 72774

Dr. Andrea Martin, Superintendent  
Greenland School District  
24 North Main  
Fayetteville, AR 72701

**Re: Appeal Under the Public School Choice Act-** [REDACTED]

Everyone:

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 14, 2022**. The action item is set for **10:00 a.m. in the Auditorium of the Arch Ford Education Building, Four Capitol Mall, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201**. Any additional materials any party chooses to submit should be provided to my office **no later than 12:00 noon on Friday, July 8, 2022**.

**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.**

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 Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Rules Governing the Public School Choice Act. You may find copies of these references on the DESE website at <https://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/Offices/legal/school-choice>.

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) 682-1958 should you require additional information.

Sincerely,

/s/Shastady Wagner

Shastady Wagner  
Staff Attorney  
Division of Elementary and Secondary Education  
[shastady.wagner@ade.arkansas.gov](mailto:shastady.wagner@ade.arkansas.gov)

APPEAL

6/20/22

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Stormy Swinson. My husband, David, and I are requesting an appeal to the school choice denial from Greenland School District. We received the denial letter on 6/13/22.

We submitted our school choice application to attend the West Fork School District based on the following reasons.

1. We are a bi-racially mixed family of adopted children. That is a well-known fact in the Greenland community as we have been here for more than 8 years. In the last few years, as our children have gotten older, we are having issues with classmates and even close friends making remarks like "your real mom didn't even want you". It has become so bad for our 10-yr old that it has become physical. In addition, my bi-racial/African American children deal with remarks such as "You probably don't wear that kind of shirt because it is not made of cotton". Our main problem with these incidences is that the district as a whole has not handled our concerns or assured us they will not happen again. It continues to happen and it seems no major repercussions have occurred for the offenders.

We understand that this sort of thing may not come to a halt at a new district, however we are much more hopeful that the WF district handles this sort of situation either better, or that is simply does not occur. This district has a family similar to ours, adopted and bi-racial, which has had suspension 2 games and oss for 2 days - proof of racial comment.

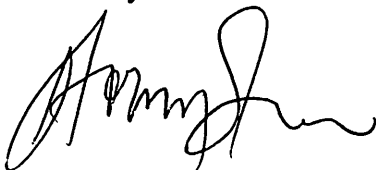
2. We are planning to move directly into the West Fork School District. We applied for school choice to give us a little more breathing room to find the right spot for our large family. Our youngest starts Kindergarten this school year and we had hopes of allowing her to start at the district she will attend until graduation.

We own property has be rezoned to light industrial/commercial and could potentially double in value so we are trying to wait that out, but also, our best bet to buy land and build a house to meet our family's needs and that would not be able to take place in time for the start of the 2022-23 school year. School Choice approval would give us a little breathing room instead of having to make a rushed decision that could cost us hundreds of thousands of dollars.

In summary, we just feel like our family needs a fresh start or clean slate as soon as possible and we hate to wait until next school year to try again for school choice if our house/land hunting takes a turn and ends up being months and months instead of weeks and weeks.

We appreciate your time. Thank you for the consideration.

Stormy Swinson

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stormy Swinson', with a stylized, flowing script.

# Greenland School District

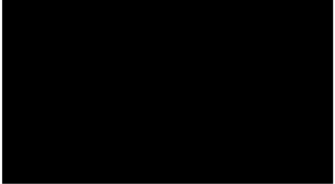
PO Box 57, Greenland, Arkansas 72737  
479.521.2366 (Voice) 479.521.1480 (Fax)

June 2, 2022

David & Stormy Swinson  


Dear Mr & Mrs Swinson,

This letter is to inform you that your School Choice Application for the student(s) listed below to a nonresident district under the "Arkansas Public School Choice Act of 2015" was not approved due to the resident district reaching its limitation cap for allowable choice transfers.



If you need assistance with enrollment or additional information, please let us know.

Sincerely,



Dr. Andrea Martin  
Superintendent

Dr. Andrea Martin, Superintendent

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ALL means ALL - Every Child. Every Chance. Every Day.



Home of the Tigers

West Fork School District  
359 School Avenue  
West Fork, Arkansas 72774  
Phone: 479-839-2231 Fax: 479-839-8412  
[www.westforkschools.org](http://www.westforkschools.org)



Mr. John D. Karnes  
Superintendent

May 25, 2022

Dear Stormy Swinson:

We are pleased to inform you that the school choice application you submitted for [REDACTED] to attend the West Fork School District has been provisionally accepted pending a determination that the resident district's three percent (3%) cap has not been met. We look forward to welcoming your child as a part of the West Fork School District. If your child will be new to the West Fork School District, he/she will need to be enrolled by Friday, July 1st. If your child finished the 2021-22 school year as a West Fork student, it will not be necessary to re-enroll your child for the upcoming school year. Failure to enroll your child by July 1st may void and nullify this letter of acceptance.

Once your child has enrolled in school with us this coming school-year, he/she will be eligible to continue enrollment in the district until completing high school or is beyond the legal age of enrollment provided the student meets the applicable statutory and District policy requirements all other District students must meet (with the exception of residency in the District) to continue District enrollment. This information is contained in the student handbook

**Please Note:** The West Fork School District has no control over when a student's resident district might reach its statutory limit on allowable transfers out of its district. There is always the possibility that we could be forced to withdraw this acceptance if the resident district determines it reached its statutory cap for transfers out of its district prior to your student's application date to our District. You will be notified immediately should that rescission of acceptance become necessary. We apologize for this unavoidable uncertainty.

Respectfully,

*John Karnes*

John Karnes  
Superintendent

***"Learning for Life"***

# OTHER DOCUMENTS

**Subject:** Swinson

**Date:** Tuesday, July 5, 2022 at 12:56:21 PM Central Daylight Time

**From:** Dr. Andrea Martin

**To:** Shastady Wagner (ADE)

**Caution:** This is an external email and may contain a suspicious subject or content. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments. When in doubt, contact [ADE IT Services](#).

I have spoken with Stormy Swinson and offered her a board to board transfer however she was concerned that a transfer approval at our next Board meeting (July 21) wouldn't allow her children to participate in sports, she mentioned calling the AAA to be sure. We went over the items in her appeal and her concerns regarding disciplinary matters and she assured me that she didn't feel the District was wrong or that we hadn't addressed concerns mentioned; she just felt they needed a fresh start and wanted them in West Fork. I again offered her a transfer based on policy provisions and told her I would be notifying you of such information and she said ok.

Thank you,

**Dr. Andrea Martin, Superintendent**  
**Greenland School District**  
479-521-2366 Voice  
479-521-1480 Fax  
**#HoistTheColors #ALLmeansALL**