

# **NOTICE LETTER**

---



# Division of Elementary and Secondary Education

*Transforming Arkansas to lead the nation in student-focused education*

Johnny Key  
Secretary

June 23, 2020

Jon Estes, Superintendent  
Palestine-Wheatley School District  
P.O. Box 790  
Palestine, AR 72372  
[jestes@pwsd.k12.ar.us](mailto:jestes@pwsd.k12.ar.us)

Jennifer Mayfield, Parent

State Board  
of Education

Diane Zook  
Melbourne  
Chair

Willie Murdock, Superintendent  
Lee County School District  
214 S. Alabama Street  
Marianna, AR 72360  
[willie.murdock@lcsdtrojans.net](mailto:willie.murdock@lcsdtrojans.net)

Charisse Dean  
Little Rock  
Vice Chair

Susan Chambers  
Bella Vista

**Re: School Choice Appeal: Cason Mayfield**

Dr. Fitz Hill  
Little Rock

Everyone:

Kathy McFetridge  
Springdale

This letter is to notify you that the Arkansas State Board of Education is scheduled to hear the above-referenced appeal on **July 9, 2020**. 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 Monday, June 29, 2019**.

Dr. Sarah Moore  
Stuttgart

Ouida Newton  
Poyen

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.

R. Brett Williamson  
El Dorado

The above-referenced appeal will be conducted pursuant to the legal authority and jurisdiction vested in the State Board by the Public School Choice Act and corresponding Rules. You may find a copy of the Rules on the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education's website by visiting the "Current Rules" page and clicking the link for "Public School Choice."

Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 501-683-0960 if you have any questions.

Warmly,

Mary Claire Hyatt  
Staff Attorney  
Division of Elementary and Secondary Education  
Four Capitol Mall, Room 301-A  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
[maryclaire.hyatt@arkansas.gov](mailto:maryclaire.hyatt@arkansas.gov)

Four Capitol Mall  
Little Rock, AR  
72201-1019  
(501) 682-4475  
[ArkansasEd.gov](http://ArkansasEd.gov)

An Equal  
Opportunity  
Employer

# APPEAL

---

To whom it may Concern,

My name is Jennifer Mayfield and I filled out a school choice Application for My Son Cason Mayfield to go to the Palestine School district. I received a letter in the mail saying he was rejected. I had planned on moving my family to Briceys Arkansas after I knew for sure my son would be able to attend the Palestine School district. Due to unforeseen circumstances we ~~had~~ no choice but to move early. I looked at all surrounding schools and I chose Palestine because as a parent I felt it was the best school to place my child in. I want nothing but the best for my son. He has never been to a different school and I do not want him falling behind in his studies. I believe Palestine schools will help him continue to learn and grow and I feel he will do great at the Palestine school district. If I have to move my family to Palestine just for my child to attend school then thats what I will do. I do hope and pray this appeal will help my son be able to attend the Palestine school district. I look forward to hearing from you.

Cell -

[REDACTED]

Email -

[REDACTED]

Thank you for your  
time and consideration.

Jennifer Mayfield

# Palestine-Wheatley School District

Home Of The Mighty Patriots

April 24, 2020

Dear Parent,

I am sorry, but the application you submitted for Cason Mayfield has been rejected for the following reason.

\_\_\_\_\_ Your child's resident district has declared itself exempt from the provisions of the School Choice Law due to it being under a desegregation order.

\_\_\_\_\_ Your child's resident district has reached it's limitation cap for allowable transfers and we cannot accept any additional school choice transfers from that district.

Lack of capacity, teachers, staff or classrooms

As noted in your original application, you have 10 days from receipt of this notice in which to appeal this decision to the State Department of Education.

Respectfully,



Jon Estes  
Superintendent  
Palestine-Wheatley School District

**APPLICATION FOR TRANSFER TO A NONRESIDENT DISTRICT**  
**"ARKANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE ACT OF 2015"**  
**(Must Be Submitted to Non-Resident District)**

**APPLICANT INFORMATION**

Student Name: Cason Mayfield

Student Name:

Student Date of Birth: [REDACTED]

Gender

Male

Female

Grade: [REDACTED]

ENTERING 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Does the applicant require special needs or programs? Yes  No

Is applicant currently under expulsion? Yes  No

**ETHNIC ORIGIN (CHECK ONE)**

(For data reporting purposes only)

2 or More Races

Asian

African-American

Hispanic

Native American/  
Native Alaskan

Native Hawaiian/  
Pacific Islander

White

**RESIDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT OF APPLICANT**

District Name:

Lee

County Name:

Address:

Phone:

**NONRESIDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT APPLICANT WISHES TO ATTEND**

District Name:

Palestine

County Name:

Address:

Phone:

Does the applicant already have a sibling or step-sibling in attendance in this district pursuant to the Public School Choice Act of 2013 or the Public School Choice Act of 2015?

no

Tuesday, June 30, 2020 at 11:38:43 AM Central Daylight Time

---

**Subject:** School Choice Appeal - Palestine Wheatley SD  
**Date:** Friday, May 8, 2020 at 9:15:52 AM Central Daylight Time  
**From:** Sallie Robert (ADE)  
**To:** Mary Claire Hyatt (ADE)  
**Attachments:** Appeal Mayfield, Jennifer 05 08 20.pdf

Happy Friday Mary Claire!!

I'm attaching an appeal for you.

Take care!! Have a good weekend.

Sallie

Sallie Robert  
Arkansas Department of Education  
Division of Elementary & Secondary Education  
Legal Services – Room 301-A  
501-682-4227 or 501-683-0087

# **RESPONSE**

---



# **ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS**

---

Tuesday, June 30, 2020 at 11:47:55 AM Central Daylight Time

---

**Subject:** Fw: Cason Mayfield

**Date:** Wednesday, June 24, 2020 at 2:30:06 PM Central Daylight Time

**From:** Jennifer Mayfield

**To:** Mary Claire Hyatt (ADE)

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** Cynthia Harp [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] June 23, 2020, 06:38:13 PM CDT

**Subject:** Cason Mayfield

To Whom It May Concern:

I had the opportunity to teach Cason Mayfield's during 19-20 school year. This was his second grade year of school.. Cason is a very sweet and well mannered young - boy. He was our class ambassador during the school year. Cason was always willing to help his classmates and me.

Sincerely,

Cynthia D. Harp

[REDACTED]