

NOTICE LETTER



Division of Elementary and Secondary Education

Transforming Arkansas to lead the nation in student-focused education

Johnny Key
Secretary

June 16, 2022

Dr. Ivy Pfeffer
Deputy
Commissioner

Justin & Kayla Perry

Mr. Brian Golden, Superintendent
Malvern School District
1620 South Main St.
Malvern, AR 72104

Stacy Smith
Deputy
Commissioner

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

**State Board of
Education**

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

Ouida Newton
Poyen
Chair

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**.

Dr. Sarah Moore
Stuttgart
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.

Charisse Dean
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 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>.

Dr. Fitz Hill
Little Rock

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.

Kathy McFetridge
Springdale

Steve Sutton
Marion

Sincerely,

Adrienne Woods
Rogers

/s/Shastady Wagner

Dr. Beth Anne Rankin
Magnolia

Shastady Wagner
Staff Attorney
Division of Elementary and Secondary Education
shastady.wagner@ade.arkansas.gov

Randy Henderson
Blytheville

APPEAL

JUN 06 2022

State Board of Education
To whom it may concern,

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

This letter is in request of an appeal to the denial of our application for school choice for our son [REDACTED] who will be enrolling in kindergarten this upcoming Fall. We are trying to leave our Resident district of Malvern to attend the Non-Resident district of Glen Rose. [REDACTED] turned 5 on January 20, 2022 and we applied for school choice on February 23rd. We received notice that our application was denied on June 2, 2022.

[REDACTED] did not attend preschool this past year because we opted to prepare him for Kindergarten on our own and at home so that his sister and I (his mom) could enjoy another year with him. My husband and I have watched our son grow into an amazing, curious, and intelligent child. I know most parents say this about their children. But, that doesn't lessen the value of our words. While he is all those amazing things, he also gets overstimulated and overwhelmed with large groups and can become very anxious. We want to set our child up for success, not failure.

I have experienced both school districts in completely different ways. Glen Rose School District raised me and helped mold me into the person I am today. And Malvern School District is where I landed as a Secondary math teacher for 4.5 years upon graduating college. This brings me to our first point being the difference in the environments of the schools. At Glen Rose, the Preschool and Kindergarten are isolated away from all of the older kids and campuses. Malvern School District does not have this. As a first time student in a school setting, we feel that our son will be most receptive and able to adapt at Glen Rose. With the smaller environment and less students he can better cope with his anxiousness.

Secondly, my experience as an educator, allowed me to experience the detriments of having such a large student population and class size. And though Malvern offers several courses not yet available at Glen Rose, that doesn't mean that the quality of education is better. While employed at the district, there were educators in the high school classroom who were not certified because of teacher shortages. I am not sure how common this is in the younger grades, but I saw the issues it can cause first hand at the high school. We feel, while we will be giving up on a wider variety of courses and curriculars, we will be getting more quality education for him due to the smaller class size and the opportunities for one on one intervention this allows.

Our third reason we want our son to attend Glen Rose is for peace of mind and safety concerns with the setup of the Malvern School District. At Glen Rose, the schools are completely fenced in and isolated. Where Malvern, being within the city, doesn't have this. The Wilson building doesn't even have a fence around the playground where the children play and it is alongside many homes and the road. The high school has open campus lunch. Once again in today's ever changing and scary world, we want to know our children are not easily accessible to dangers while at school.

Growing up me and my husband both attended "smaller" schools. We knew everyone in our class. It was such a social advantage to know the people around you. We want this for [REDACTED] We want him to be able to always know his peers around him. We want him to get the love and support we know he will receive from his teachers through the smaller, more intimate class setting. We currently live on a road that is a divider for the districts. We are 6 minutes from the Glen Rose Kindergarten and 9 minutes from the Malvern Elementary School. Proximity isn't an issue for us, neither is providing transportation to and from school.

We are asking for the opportunity to choose the best path for [REDACTED] this year and our daughter next year. And for their futures. As his parents, we know our child. We know what [REDACTED] needs to thrive. We know where he will be able to grow into the best version of himself. We know that he will face challenges along the way, and we feel most confident facing those challenges in the Glen Rose School District. We are asking that a population cap meant to keep too many students from leaving a school district doesn't have the say on what is best for our child. He is not just a number in the student body population, he is ours. His well being is our responsibility.

Sincerely,
Parents of [REDACTED]


Justin Perry and Kayla Perry

June 2, 2022

contact # [REDACTED]



May 31, 2022

Kayla Perry
[REDACTED]

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your application for transfer to the Glen Rose School District for [REDACTED]. We appreciate your interest in our schools. We regret to inform you that we must deny your application for the 2022-23 school year. A copy of the Glen Rose School District's policy for acceptance and rejection of school choice non-resident student is enclosed for your review.

The Glen Rose School District is unable to accept your application for transfer at this time, as the Malvern School District has reached the maximum limit on school choice transfers for the school year. Your application will be given priority for a transfer in the first school year in which Malvern School District is no longer subject to this limitation.

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