



Division of Elementary and Secondary Education

Transforming Arkansas to lead the nation in student-focused education

Jacob Oliva
Secretary

September 20, 2023

Stacy Smith
Deputy
Commissioner

Superintendent Wilson:

**State Board of
Education**

Dr. Sarah Moore
Stuttgart
Chair

The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Standards and Systems Support Unit and the Office of Coordinated Support and Service conducted a site visit to monitor and assist the Watson Chapel School District from September 7th to September 11th, 2023. During the visit, it was discovered that there were problems with student schedules, which led to inaccurate attendance records. Furthermore, the district was found to be in violation of multiple Standards for Accreditation. Of particular concern were the incorrect student schedules and the presence of students not enrolled in courses necessary to fulfill graduation requirements.

Kathy Rollins
Springdale
Vice-Chair

Steve Sutton
Marion

Recommendation of Accredited-Probation

Adrienne Woods
Rogers

Standard 2-B.2 Each public school district shall maintain accurate student attendance records in a format prescribed by the Division (D/P)

Randy Henderson
Blytheville

Standard 1-C.2 Each public school district shall adopt graduation requirements in accordance with the laws of the State of Arkansas and the rules of the Division and include the graduation requirements in the student handbook (D/P)

Lisa Hunter
White Hall

Standard 1-C.2.1 Each public school district shall maintain accurate student records including graduation requirements (D/P)

Jeff Wood
Little Rock

This letter is to inform the administration that the district will be placed on the October 13, 2023, State Board Agenda with a recommendation of Accredited-Probation. The identification will remain in place for the 23-24 school year. Please see the [DESE Rules Governing the Standards for Accreditation](#) for more information.

Ken Bragg
Sheridan

Leigh Keener
Little Rock

The district may file a written appeal with the Secretary of Education if the district believes the Division's determination to be incorrect. If filed, an appeal will be held in an open hearing before the State Board of Education. An appeal must be filed within fifteen (15) days of the district receiving this letter. You may find the appeal procedures in Section 10.00 of the Standards for Accreditation.

The Standards and Systems Support Unit will continue to monitor the district throughout the course of the year. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have questions or need assistance.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew Sutherlin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M" and a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

Matthew Sutherlin, Ph.D.
Coordinator of Standards and Systems Support/Charter
Division of Elementary and Secondary Education
Arkansas Department of Education