

NOTICE LETTER



Division of Elementary and Secondary Education

Transforming Arkansas to lead the nation in student-focused education

June 28, 2021

Johnny Key
Secretary

Masa Williams

M. Mary Ann Spears, Superintendent
Lincoln School District
107 E School Street
Lincoln, AR 72744

Dr. Ivy Pfeffer
Deputy
Commissioner

M. Jon Laffoon, Superintendent
Farmington School District
42 South Double Springs Rd.
Farmington, AR 72744

Stacy Smith
Deputy
Commissioner

Re: Appeal Under the Public School Choice Act-Rowan Williams

**State Board of
Education**

Everyone:

Charisse Dean
Little Rock
Chair

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 8, 2021**. 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.**

Ouida Newton
Poyen
Vice Chair

Any additional materials any party chooses to submit should be provided to my office **no later than 12:00 noon on Friday, July 2, 2021.**

Susan Chambers
Bella Vista

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.

Dr. Fitz Hill
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 Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing the Public School Choice Act. You may find copies of these references on the Arkansas Department of Education Website.

Kathy McFetridge
Springdale

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) 682-4585 should you require additional information.

Dr. Sarah Moore
Stuttgart

Steve Sutton
Marion

Sincerely,

/s/Taylor Dugan

Adrienne Woods
Rogers

Taylor Dugan
Staff Attorney

Dr. Beth Anne Rankin
Magnolia

Division of Elementary and Secondary Education
taylor.dugan@ade.arkansas.gov

APPEAL

June 10, 2021

Arkansas Department of Education
Four Capital Mall
Room 301 A
Attention: Taylor Dugan
Little Rock, AR 72201

Re: Rowan Williams School Choice Appeal

To whom it may concern:

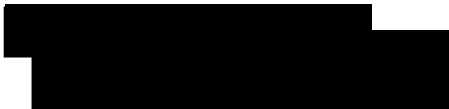
I am writing this appeal on behalf of my daughter, Rowan Williams. I am appealing the Lincoln School District's denial for school choice. Rowan attended kindergarten for the 2020-21 school year at Jerry Pop Williams Elementary in Farmington, AR. There we have established connections with faculty, her peers, and special education support team for the services she receives for speech therapy. While Farmington School District accepted Rowan's school choice application, Lincoln School District denied the application due to meeting the 3% transfer out of district cap.

Changing schools and districts after her first year would be detrimental to Rowan for the following reasons: consistency of academic performance as evidenced by the state provided school report cards, lack of continuity in established peer and mentor relationships vital to social and emotional growth, and lack of continuity of support established for her speech and language disability. For these reasons I am asking the State Board of Education to overturn the denial of school choice and to allow Rowan to attend Farmington School District in the fall and for the rest of her academic career.

Kind regards,



Masa Williams, PhD



OTHER DOCUMENTS

Taylor Dugan (ADE)

From: Brooke W <bwing@farmcards.org>
Sent: Friday, June 18, 2021 9:19 AM
To: Taylor Dugan (ADE)
Cc: Rowan Williams
Subject: ATTN: Arkansas Public School Choice Act Appeals

Office of the Commissioner

ATTN: Taylor Dugan

Four [Capitol Mall](#)

[Little Rock, Arkansas 72201](#)

RE: Rowan Williams School Choice Appeal

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this appeal on behalf of my student Rowan Williams, in response to Lincoln Consolidated School Districts denial for school choice. Rowan attended Kindergarten at Jerry "Pop" Williams Elementary School for the 2020-2021 school year and it would be imperative that she continue her education at Farmington Public Schools.

During her time at Williams Elementary we established Rowan's support team. This team is made up of her Classroom Teacher (myself), Speech & Language Pathologist, Instructional Facilitator, and Teaching Assistants, all with whom she has well-established relationships with. Rowan is quiet, shy and timid. Her family has worked to be her biggest advocates, by communicating frequently with her teacher, allowing her to attend the summer reading program at Williams Elementary and building relationships with other students outside of school through playdates. These relationships took time to build and it would be detrimental to the progress she has made academically and socially to deny her an education with Farmington Public Schools at Williams Elementary.

The academic progress she has made this past school year was not easy for her, but as a team we have all been determined to help her be successful in making that progress. For the 2021-2022 School Year we have taken data from the end of the 2020-2021 school year and will take data from the summer reading program to quickly identify where to begin in continuing her academic progress.

I strongly believe that we will continue to see Rowan progress academically and socially if she continues her education at Farmington Public Schools, this is because of the team that was established for Rowan at Williams Elementary and the relationships she has made.

Sincerely,

Brooke Wing

Kindergarten Teacher



Lincoln Consolidated School District

107 E. School St. Lincoln AR 72744
<https://www.lincolncsd.com>

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Phone: 479-824-7305
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mspears@lincolncsd.com

Learning Services Director
Jana Claybrook
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Fax: 479-824-3045
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June 21, 2021

Office of the Commissioner
ATTN: Arkansas Public School Choice Act Appeals
Four Capitol Mall
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

RE: School Choice Appeal –Rowan Williams

Dear Commissioner Key:

The Lincoln School District denied this school choice applications for the Rowan Williams due to our district exceeding the net maximum 3% limit for school transfers for the 2021-2022 school year. All school choice applications were logged as they were submitted to our district. We accepted all applications until we reached the net maximum and then the remining applications were denied.

The district has complied with the Public School Choice Act in reviewing all school choice applications.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mary Ann Spears
Superintendent