

Public School Choice Act of 2015

- The public school choice act of 2015 enables students in kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12) to attend a school in a nonresident district, subject to the limitations prescribed in Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-1906.
- To apply for school choice, the parent/guardian or child (18 yrs. or older) must submit an application no earlier than January 1 and no later than May 1 to the resident and nonresident school districts.
- **Limitations** on public school choice:
 - 3% Cap
 - There is a numerical *net* maximum limit on school choice transfers each school year from a school district of three percent (3%) of the enrollment that exists in the school district as of October 1 of the immediately preceding school year.
 - Capacity
 - A lack of capacity may be claimed only if the school district has reached ninety-percent (90%) of the maximum authorized student population in a program, class, grade level, or school building.
 - Federal Court Order
- When accepting or rejecting school choice application, the nonresident district shall not discriminate on the basis of gender, national origin, race, ethnicity, religion, or disability.
- If an application is denied, the parent may appeal that denial to the State Board of Education within ten days of receiving the rejection.
- On appeal, the State Board will consider, based upon the totality of evidence presented, whether the transfer would be in the best educational, social, or psychological interest of the student.