

NOTICE LETTER



Division of Elementary and Secondary Education

Transforming Arkansas to lead the nation in student-focused education

June 28, 2021

Johnny Key
Secretary

Alyssa Benjamin

Dr. Joe Fisher, Superintendent
Guy-Perkins School District
492 Hwy 25
Guy, AR 72061

Dr. Ivy Pfeffer
Deputy
Commissioner

Dr. Scott Spainhour, Superintendent
Greenbrier School District
6275 Heber Springs Rd. West
Quitman, AR 72131

Stacy Smith
Deputy
Commissioner

Re: Appeal Under the Public School Choice Act

**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

Alyssa Benjamin

School admission appeal for Daniel Pierce Benjamin to attend Greenbrier Westside Elementary School.

I would like to appeal against the decision for my child to be denied a transfer from Guy Perkins school district to the nonresident school of Greenbrier Westside Elementary. Pierce completed his Kindergarten year at Westside, and it is our hope that he may continue there for the remainder of his schooling.

Pierce is a very sweet, shy, and anxious child who does not handle change well. Starting school was a huge transition for him, and it wasn't an easy one. Due to his timid nature, he was an easy target and quickly fell subject to bullying. The faculty at Greenbrier stepped up to the plate and provided him with guidance, support, love, and consistency that can't be matched. They kept us informed while working to remedy the problem. I'm proud to say that their hard work and attentiveness to his needs paved the way for him to finally make friends, even with those that originally were not so nice to him. He now has good friends that we hope he can grow with each year, and he has also formed valuable connections with several members of the Greenbrier Westside faculty. Starting all over somewhere new would be extremely hard on him mentally.

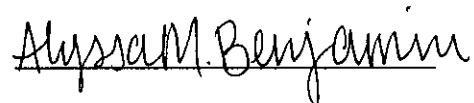
Greenbrier is not only the best choice for Pierce's mental health, but also for the convenience for our family. He unfortunately gets carsick easily and will not be able to ride the bus. My husband and I both work jobs in the opposite direction of Guy and pass through Greenbrier on our commute. We are able to drop him off/pick him up with little time to spare and I honestly don't know how we would make it all work with backtracking and driving the further distance to Guy. When I brought up this concern to the Guy Perkins staff, I was informed that there is before and after school care available where I believe they stated that high schoolers help watch the children. This is not an option that my family is comfortable with. On top of that, Pierce is very academically driven and Greenbrier provides the perfect environment for him to grow and achieve his goals.

When we found interest in purchasing this lot of land in 2018, we were aware that we had just missed the Greenbrier school zone by less than one mile. The previous owner settled our worries and told us that he had the same plans as us to build out here and that he spoke with the superintendent at Guy Perkins and was told that he would be able to send his children to Greenbrier through school choice and that it would not be denied. Our family is beyond stressed about this matter. It is unfortunate that we have poured so much love and hard work into this land, but that it doesn't work out with our child's school. Pierce's wellbeing and schooling is most important to us, so we are prepared to keep this land as our weekend and summer home while purchasing a permanent location in the proper school zone if needed, though we would like to avoid that option as it is our dream to live where we are. I was also wondering if there was a waitlist to be transferred from Guy Perkins to Greenbrier Westside? If we end up having to move could we possibly have the option to move back to our location on E Republican if we could get accepted for a transfer in the future?

The letter we received from Guy Perkins School District informing us of the denial states, "Ark. Code Ann. 6-18-1906(b) establishes a numerical net maximum limit on school choice transfers each school year from a school district of three percent (3%) of the enrollment of the school district as of October 15 of the immediately preceding school year. The attached document shows the total enrollment for each district and the number of students representing three percent (3%) of the enrollment." Yet, they did not provide any attached documents showing that the 3% has been met.

Please consider reversing the decision for Pierce's school transfer. Thank you for your time,

Alyssa M. Benjamin



To whom it may concern:

I am Pierce Benjamin's Kindergarten teacher and I am writing this letter because I believe that it is in his best interest to remain a student at Westside Elementary in Greenbrier, Arkansas. This little boy is so bright and kind. He, like all of our students, has had to overcome so many obstacles during this year, due to the challenges that the Covid-19 Pandemic has caused. In spite of these challenges, his academic growth has been nothing short of amazing. His end-of-year state testing scores show that he is in the 99th percentile for mathematical achievement AND growth. Additionally, he scored in the 99th percentile for literacy achievement as well as growth. This means that he is achieving at high levels, but also growing at an amazing rate. Furthermore, he is growing even though his teacher had to wear a mask most of the year and his classmates were spread to all corners of the room (which brings many challenges that most people are not readily aware of). Despite all of these hardships, Pierce is absolutely thriving in Greenbrier, academically. Perhaps more importantly though, he has had to work hard to make connections and friendships since we were all spread out and most students were wearing masks. Now that we are beginning to see a glimpse of normalcy, I would hate to see him have to start over making new friends and getting to know new teachers and administrators.

In Greenbrier our vision is "Whatever it takes," to help our students succeed. There is no doubt in my heart that Pierce is succeeding and that his next teacher in Greenbrier will continue the work that we have begun. I hope that you will take this into consideration when reviewing his appeal to stay at Westside Elementary.

Sincerely,

Madison Hoffmann

Daniel P. Benjamin

Grade: K | ID: 230395323

MATHEMATICS

Standard Error: ± 3.2
Possible range: 194-200
4/22/2021 - 34 minutes

Rapid-Guessing %: N/A
Est. impact of Rapid-Guessing % on RII: N/A
Growth: Math K-2 AR 2016

Spring 2020-21

197

4/23/2021 10:00 AM

197 (2020-21) 197 (2020-21)

197 (2020-21) 197 (2020-21)

GROWTH & ACHIEVEMENT MEASURES

Norms Percentile



187

Measurement and Data

Because of the student's grade level, there are no terms left to set a goal.

191 (2020-21) 191 (2020-21)

191

Geometry

There are no previous goals for this student.

199

Operations and Algebraic Thinking

209

Number and Operations

✦ *Relative Strength*

Quadrant Chart

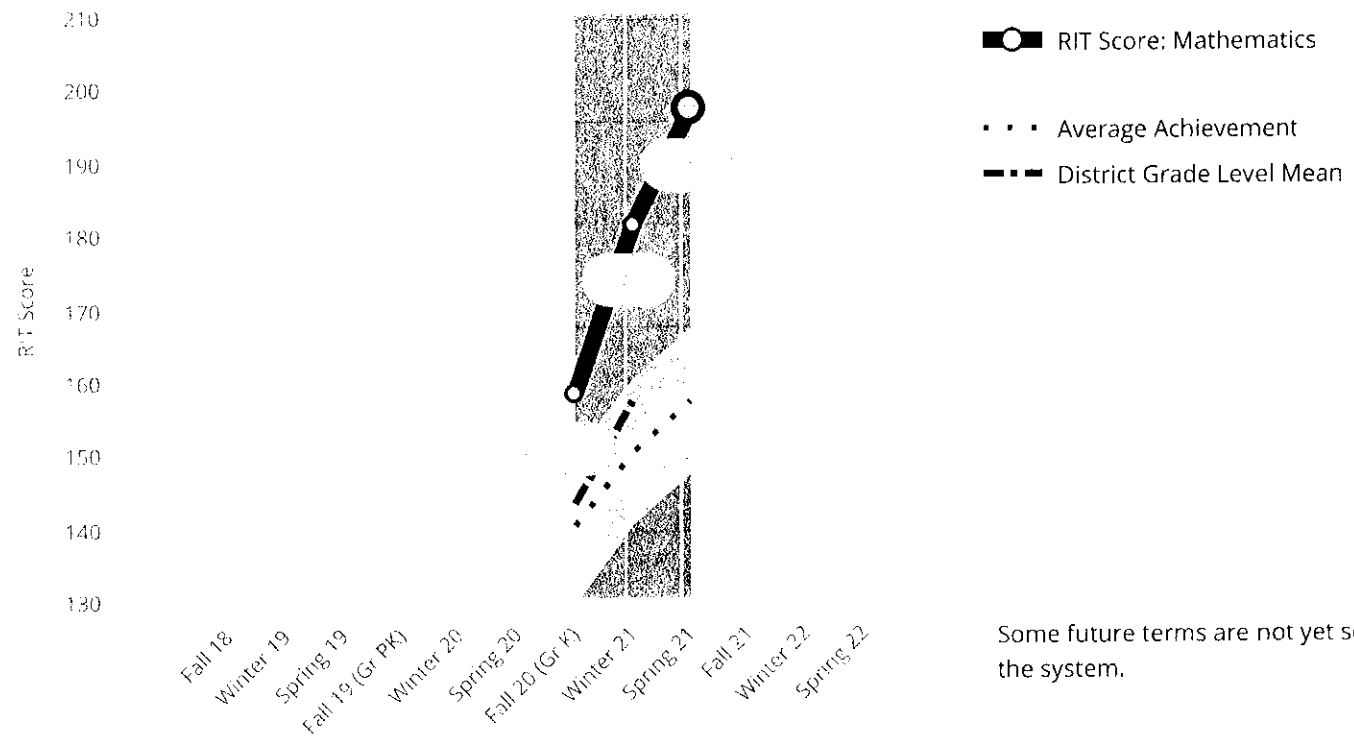
High Growth / High Achievement

PROJECTIONS

QUANTILE MEASURES

Quantile*
370Q - 470Q

GROWTH OVER TIME



Some future terms are not yet setup in the system.

Percentile Bands 1-20

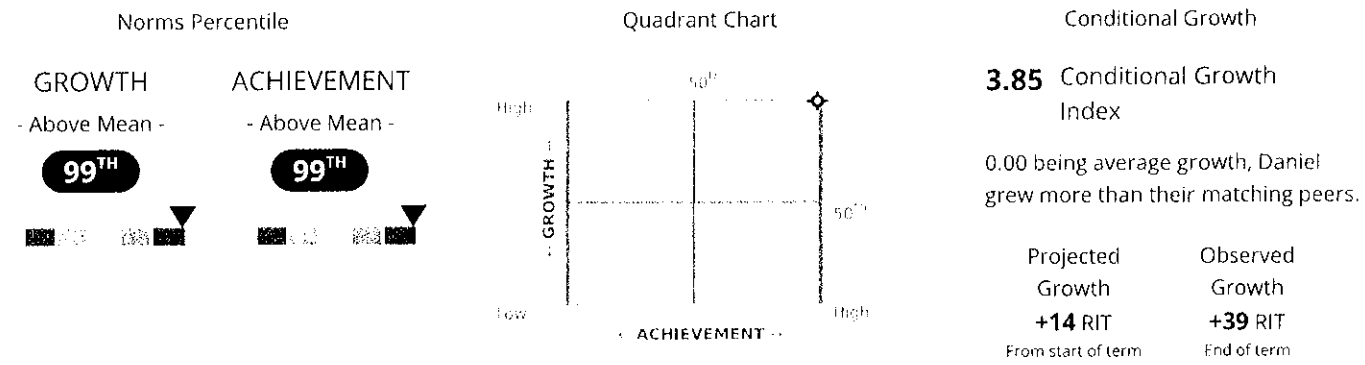
no data

COMPARISONS

GROWTH & ACHIEVEMENT MEASURES

Comparison Period: Fall 2020 - Spring 2021

Daniel is in the **99th percentile for Growth** and the **99th percentile for Achievement**. This places them in the **High Growth, High Achievement** quadrant.



PROJECTIONS

QUANTILE MEASURES

Quantile measures help match students to their "optimal" challenge. For optimal learning and growth, Daniel should practice mathematics within a Quantile range of 50Q above and 50Q below their Quantile measure.

QUANTILE*
370Q - 470Q

Student Profile

Exported by hoffmannm@greenbrierschools.org
on 6/3/2021

Daniel P. Benjamin

Grade: K | ID: 230395323

READING

Standard Error: +/- 3.3
Possible range: 182-188
4/19/2021 - 44 minutes

Rapid-Guessing %: N/A
Est. Impact of Rapid-Guessing % on RIT: N/A
Growth: Reading K-2 AR 2016

Spring 2020-21

185

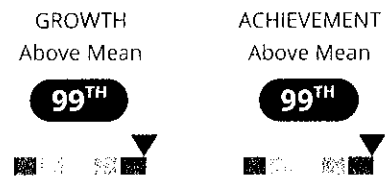
COMPARISONS

INSTRUCTIONAL AREAS

GROWTH GOALS

GROWTH & ACHIEVEMENT MEASURES

Norms Percentile



Quadrant Chart

High Growth / High Achievement

175

Literature and Informational

✦ Suggested Area of Focus

187

Language and Writing

189

Vocabulary Use and Functions

191

Foundational Skills

Because of the student's grade level, there are no terms left to set a goal.

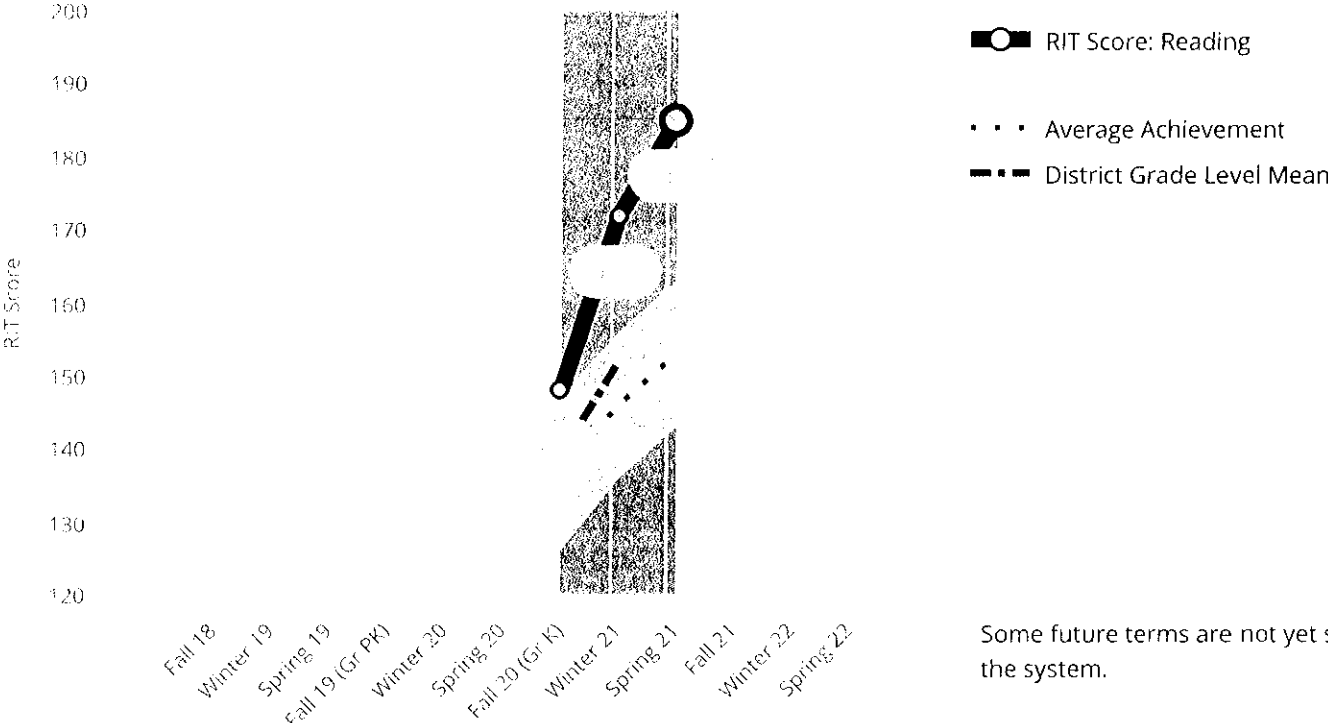
There are no previous goals for this student.

PROJECTIONS

READABILITY MEASURES

Lexile*
300L - 450L

GROWTH OVER TIME



Some future terms are not yet setup in the system.

Percentile Bands 1-20

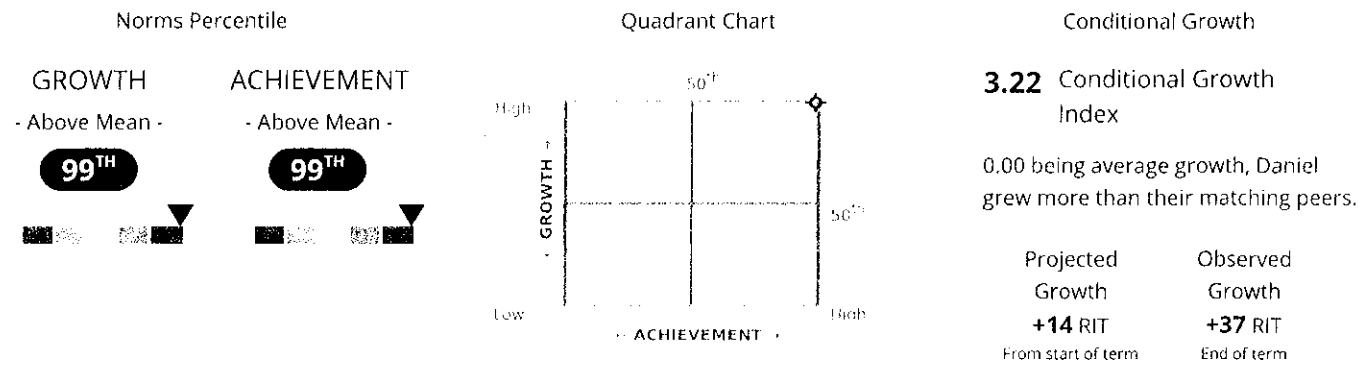
no data

COMPARISONS

GROWTH & ACHIEVEMENT MEASURES

Comparison Period: Fall 2020 - Spring 2021

Daniel is in the **99th percentile for Growth** and the **99th percentile for Achievement**. This places them in the **High Growth, High Achievement** quadrant.



PROJECTIONS

READABILITY MEASURES

These are measures of reading material text complexity. Consider Daniel's age and interests when using these measures to select books for Daniel to read.

Lexile*
300L - 450L

OTHER DOCUMENTS



Guy-Perkins School District

492 Highway 25 North

Guy, Arkansas 72061

501-679-7224

www.gptbirds.org

June 10, 2021

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

RE: School Choice Appeal – Daniel Pierce Benjamin

Dear Commissioner of Education:

The Guy-Perkins School District received a copy of the Vickers family school-choice appeal by email on June 7, 2021. Enclosed is a copy of the worksheet used by the Guy-Perkins School District to determine the 3% school-choice cap. Additionally, a response by Dr. Joe Fisher, Superintendent, to the appeal letter provided by the Post family is enclosed.

If you need additional information, please contact me at 501-679-7224, or by email at denee.acre@gptbirds.org.

Sincerely,

Denee' Acre, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent



Guy-Perkins School District

492 Highway 25 North

Guy, Arkansas 72061

501-679-7224

www.gptbirds.org

June 10, 2021

Arkansas State Board of Education
4 Capitol Mall
Little Rock, AR 72201

RE: School Choice Appeal – Daniel Pierce Benjamin

Dear Arkansas State Board of Education:

My name is Dr. Joe Fisher and I have been the Superintendent of Guy-Perkins Schools since July 2020. The Guy-Perkins Elementary School has worked diligently over the past two (2) year to identify areas for improvement by setting goals and tracking performance data to help increase student achievement and create a more safe and successful learning environment. This is evidenced by the following:

- The Faulkner County Sheriff's Office assigned Deputy Stephen Ferguson as a full-time School Resource Officer for the Guy-Perkins and Mt. Vernon-Enola School Districts in 2020-21. Deputy Ferguson works daily to help educate our students, faculty, and parents/families on the issues of making good choices in society and provides safety and protection during a crisis. As a result, our student discipline rate has decreased in 2021-22 and parents have expressed a better sense of safety and security within the district.
- Guy-Perkins Elementary School was selected by DESE to participate in the application process for becoming a designated "Schools of Innovation" in Arkansas. During this past year of application and program development, teachers and administrators have worked to create specialized learning pathways for each of our students in grades K-6. Guy-Perkins Elementary School anticipates being designated as a "School of Innovation" in Arkansas by the end of the 2021-22 school year.
- Guy-Perkins Elementary School was recently selected by DESE to participate in the PLC Regional Project from 2021-2024. This work is similar to the process that Quitman worked through in Cohort 2, but will require less oversight from DESE/Solution Tree due to the district's capacity to continue its current PLC work. Guy-Perkins Elementary

School has been using the PLC process and examining student performance data regularly for the past two (2) years.

Finally, the Guy-Perkins School District has continued to work with our district stakeholders to help overcome much malicious misinformation being shared by others about our school district. We now tell our own story through our website – www.gptbirds.org; our Facebook page - www.facebook.com/guyperkinsschool; and Twitter - <https://twitter.com/GuyPerkinsSD>. Most importantly, we let the data tell our academic story at Guy-Perkins Elementary School. Here are the results of the last ESSA rating for Guy-Perkins Elementary School and area small districts:

<i>Guy-Perkins Elementary School (2018-19)</i>		<i>Quitman Elementary School (2018-19)</i>	
Indicator	Score	Indicator	Score
Overall ESSA Score	70.22	Overall ESSA Score	69.93
Weighted Achievement Score	57.62	Weighted Achievement Score	63.37
Value-Added Growth Score	81.22	Value-Added Growth Score	79.16
School Quality and Student Success Score	62.95	School Quality and Student Success Score	54.45

South Side (Bee Branch) Elementary School (2018-19)

Indicator	Score
Overall ESSA Score	69.82
Weighted Achievement Score	60.67
Value-Added Growth Score	77.88
School Quality and Student Success Score	64.32

Thank you for your continued support! We encourage you to follow Guy-Perkins School District as we continue to make “great things happen” for students in 2021-22.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dr. Joe Fisher, Superintendent

SCHOOL CHOICE 2021-22

3% cap for 21-22 is **9**

IN

Student Name	grade	resident school	date and time rcvd at GPSD	
1 [REDACTED]	10	Greenbrier	04-06-21	11:25 am
2 [REDACTED]	11	Quitman	04-29-21	2:26 pm

OUT

Student Name	grade	choice school	rcv'd by GP	rcv'd by non res
[REDACTED]	K (sibling)	Greenbrier	02-26-21	08-24-20 9:00 am
[REDACTED]	K (sibling)	Greenbrier	01-29-21	01-25-21
[REDACTED]	K (sibling)	Quitman	02-25-21	02-22-21 2:50 pm
[REDACTED]	K (sibling)	Greenbrier	03-01-21	
[REDACTED]	K (sibling)	Greenbrier	03-31-21	
[REDACTED]	7	Quitman	02-25-21	9-25-20 7:45 am
[REDACTED]	7	Quitman	02-25-21	9-25-20 7:45 am
[REDACTED]	K	Greenbrier	02-26-21	11-06-20 10:30 am
[REDACTED]	11	Quitman	02-25-21	01-05-21 8:50 am
[REDACTED]	4	Quitman	02-25-21	01-05-21 8:50 am
[REDACTED]	9	Quitman	02-25-21	01-07-21 12:44 pm
[REDACTED]	7	Quitman	02-25-21	01-07-21 12:44 pm
[REDACTED]	6	Quitman	02-25-21	01-07-21 12:44 pm

*** 9 CAP plus 2 students in is 11. #11 has two siblings, that get to go with 11. Making our # out 13.

DENIED OVER 3% CAP ↓

NET 9 is our cap

[REDACTED]	8	Conway	02-02-21	02-02-21 8:20 am
[REDACTED]	8	Conway	02-02-21	02-02-21 8:20 am
[REDACTED]	10	Conway	02-04-21	02-04-21 1:14pm
[REDACTED]	2	Greenbrier	02-26-21	02-08-21 11:52 pm
[REDACTED]	K	Greenbrier	02-26-21	02-08-21 11:52 am
[REDACTED]	K	Southside	03-04-21	
[REDACTED]	2	Quitman	03-29-21	03-01-21 5:43 pm
[REDACTED]	4	Quitman	03-29-21	03-01-21 5:43 pm
[REDACTED]	6	Quitman	03-29-21	03-01-21 5:43 pm
[REDACTED]	1	Greenbrier	03-19-21	03-19-21 12:48 pm
[REDACTED]	K	Greenbrier	03-30-21	03-30-21 1:27 pm
[REDACTED]	K	Quitman	04-09-21	04-09-21 9:46 am
[REDACTED]	K	Greenbrier	04-13-21	04-12-21 12:51 pm
[REDACTED]	9	Quitman	04-26-21	04-14-21 1:38 pm
[REDACTED]	12	Greenbrier	04-19-21	04-19-21 2:21 pm
[REDACTED]	10	Greenbrier	04-19-21	04-19-21 2:21 pm
[REDACTED]	7	Greenbrier	04-19-21	04-19-21 2:21 pm
[REDACTED]	5	Greenbrier	04-19-21	04-19-21 2:21 pm
[REDACTED]	4	Greenbrier	04-26-21	04-26-21 8:45 am
[REDACTED]	K	Greenbrier	04-30-21	04-30-21 12:36 pm

APPLICATION FOR SCHOOL CHOICE TRANSFER

(Deadline for submission is May 1, unless the student is eligible for School Choice for Military Families)

TYPE OF SCHOOL CHOICE TRANSFER REQUESTED

Public School Choice Act of 2015

Opportunity School Choice Act

NOTE: Applications for the Public School Choice Act of 2015 must be sent to the resident and nonresident districts. Applications for the Opportunity School Choice Act must be sent to the resident district, the nonresident district, and the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education.

If you are unsure which type of school choice best applies, please review the FAQ following this form for information about the different types of school choice that may be available to your student.

SIBLING INFORMATION

If applying for a transfer under the Public School Choice Act, does the applicant have a sibling or step-sibling already attending the nonresident district listed in this application pursuant to the Public School Choice Act?

If so, please list:



APPLICANT INFORMATION

Student Name:

Daniel Pierce Benjamin

Grade:

K (will be 1st grade 2021-2022 year)

Student Date of Birth:

11-4-2014

Gender: Male

Female

Is the applicant currently expelled?

Yes

No

MILITARY FAMILY INFORMATION

Does the applicant have a parent or guardian who is an active-duty member of the military who has been transferred to and resides on a military base? If so, please state the date of the parent's or guardian's arrival on the military base:

NOTE: In order to take advantage of school choice options available to military families who have recently transferred to a military base, you must submit military transfer orders and proof of residency on the military base to the resident and nonresident school districts.

RACE OR ETHNIC ORIGIN (CHECK ONE)

This information is collected for data reporting purposes only, pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. §6-18-227(f)(2)(B).

2 or More Races

Asian

African-American

Hispanic

Native American/
Native Alaskan

Native Hawaiian/
Pacific Islander

White

RESIDENT SCHOOL AND SCHOOL DISTRICT OF APPLICANT

District and School Name:

County Name:

Guy-Perkins Schools

Faulkner

Address:

492 AR-25 Guy, AR 72061

Phone:

501-679-7224

NONRESIDENT SCHOOL/SCHOOL DISTRICT APPLICANT WISHES TO ATTEND

District and School Name:

County Name:

Greenbrier Westside Elementary

Faulkner

current
student
here

Address:

65 Garrett Rd. Greenbrier, AR 72058

Phone:

501-679-1029

PARENT OR GUARDIAN INFORMATION

Name:

Home Phone:

Alyssa Benjamin

Address:

Work Phone:

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date:

Alyssa Benjamin

3/18/21

DISTRICT USE ONLY

Date and Time Received by Nonresident District:

Date and Time Received by Resident District:

3/19/2021 11:06 AM

Resident District LEA #:

Nonresident District LEA#:

Student's State Identification #:

Application:

Accepted

Rejected

Reason for Rejection (If Applicable):

Date Notification Sent to Resident District and Parent/Guardian of Applicant:

* Did school choice for 20/21 from Conway 1840² Mileston Dr. Conway AR 72034

RESIDENT SCHOOL AND SCHOOL DISTRICT OF APPLICANT	
District and School Name: Guy-Perkins Schools	County Name: Faulkner
Address: 492 AR-25 GUY, AR 72061	
Phone: 501-679-7224	
NONRESIDENT SCHOOL/SCHOOL DISTRICT APPLICANT WISHES TO ATTEND	
District and School Name: Greenbrier Westside Elementary	County Name: Faulkner
Address: 65 Garrett Rd Greenbrier, AR 72058	
Phone: 501-679-1029	
<div style="text-align: right;"> current student * → here </div>	
PARENT OR GUARDIAN INFORMATION	
Name: Alyssa Benjamin	Home Phone: [REDACTED]
Address: [REDACTED]	Work Phone:
Parent/Guardian Signature Alyssa Benjamin	Date: 3/18/21
DISTRICT USE ONLY	
Date and Time Received by Nonresident District:	RECEIVED MAR 19 2021 1248 pm
Date and Time Received by Resident District:	
Resident District LEA #:	
Nonresident District LEA#:	2303000
Student's State Identification #:	
Application:	Accepted <input type="checkbox"/> Rejected <input type="checkbox"/>
Reason for Rejection (If Applicable):	
Date Notification Sent to Resident District and Parent/Guardian of Applicant:	

* Did school choice for 2020/2021 from Conway
 1840 Milestone Drive
 Conway Ar 72034 ²

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Grade:

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African-American

Hispanic

Native American/
Native Alaskan

Native Hawaiian/
Pacific Islander

White