

NOTICE LETTER



Division of Elementary and Secondary Education

Transforming Arkansas to lead the nation in student-focused education

June 16, 2022

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Megan Hillman

Mr. Ronnie Kissire, Superintendent
Poyen School District
14296 Hwy 270 West
Poyen, AR 72128

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

Re: Appeal Under the Public School Choice Act-

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**.

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.

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>.

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.

Sincerely,

/s/Shastady Wagner

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

APPEAL

Megan Hillman



6th June 2022

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

Office of the Commissioner

Attn: Arkansas Public School Choice Act Appeal
Four Capitol Mall
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Office of the Commissioner,

My name is Megan Hillman, and I am the mother of [REDACTED] Malvern School District has recently denied us school choice upon this coming school year. It would mean a lot to me if [REDACTED] could get approved to go to Poyen Elementary School. I graduated from Poyen High School, and my daughter just got accepted into Poyen Preschool.

Being said my son currently has the opportunity to attend Kindergarten in Poyen School District. Malvern is currently 41 minutes away, and Poyen is just 24 minutes away from my address. I would feel more safe for my child to go to Poyen because it is closer. [REDACTED] already has some friends who currently attend Poyen. Transportation is no issue. We also have family and friends in the area who are reliable in case of an emergency. Feel free to reach out to me for any questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Megan Hillman

Megan Hillman



MALVERN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Home of Leopards

"Where PASSION, PRIDE, & EXCELLENCE are expected."

1620 SOUTH MAIN STREET
MALVERN, ARKANSAS 72104
501-332-7500, FAX: 501-332-7501

Brian Golden
Superintendent of Schools
Jace Roberts
Chief of Staff

Lillian Harper
Assistant Superintendent
Gerald Hatley
Assistant Superintendent

May 31, 2022

Megan Hillman
[REDACTED]

Re: School Choice Cap Student(s): [REDACTED]

Dear Parent,

I am writing to inform you that your child(ren) listed above have been denied school choice for the 2022-23 school year due to the Malvern School District reaching its transfer cap under Arkansas Code Annotated 6-18-1906. Each year there is a cap on the number of transfers allowed under Arkansas Law based upon the enrollment numbers of each school. Applications are approved on a first come basis in the order they are received from the non-resident school district. Per Arkansas law, your child(ren) will receive priority for a transfer in the first school year in which the district has enough space under the cap.

Should you have any questions, please contact our office at the contact information listed above.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Golden".

Brian Golden
Superintendent