

NOTICE LETTER



Division of Elementary and Secondary Education

Transforming Arkansas to lead the nation in student-focused education

June 28, 2021

Johnny Key
Secretary

Robert Heflin
Via Email

Ms. Lori Edgin, Superintendent
Atkins School District
307 N. Church Street
Atkins, AR 72823

Dr. Ivy Pfeffer
Deputy
Commissioner

Mr. Mark Taylor, Superintendent
Hector School District

Stacy Smith
Deputy
Commissioner

11520 AR 27
Hector, AR 72843

Re: Appeal Under the Public School Choice Act-Heflin

**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

Ladies and Gentleman,

This letter serves as my written request for appeal for the denial of the Atkins Schools administration for my request to exercise school choice for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year. I was advised that the school district is only allotted a total number of 28 students to leave the district with school choice and that number has been reached. We have requested a transfer to Hector Public Schools due to the transition of Atkins to a 4 day school week and lengthened hours during the day. I feel that the administration of the Atkins District and my values as a parent are no longer in agreement. I respectfully ask that we be afforded the exemption necessary to make the district change to Hector Public Schools.

There are multiple apparent reasons that the parents with children in the district have chosen to also seek the school choice option. It is unfortunate that there is a limit of the number of students that are permitted to leave a district based on enrollment in October of the previous year. When a district and parents of students' values no longer are aligned then a course of action must be in place.

While I value the option of a public education for the purpose of social interaction, team curriculum, and a structured environment to learn. My only recourse in this case if the appeal is not granted will be to revert to a home study course through home-school efforts.

Respectfully,

Robert Heflin

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Heflin', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.