

BEFORE THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

On April 14, 2016, during a regular meeting of the Arkansas State Board of Education, pursuant to the legal authority and jurisdiction vested in the Board by the Arkansas Fiscal Assessment and Accountability Program, Ark. Code Ann. § 6-20-1901 *et seq.*, and the Arkansas Department of Education Rules Identifying and Governing the Arkansas Fiscal Assessment and Accountability Program (effective August 2014), the Board considered whether to classify the Dollarway School District as being in fiscal distress.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. In a letter dated March 7, 2016, the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) notified the Dollarway School District pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-20-1905 that ADE had identified the District as a school district in fiscal distress due to: (1) a declining balance determined to jeopardize the fiscal integrity of the school district, and (2) material audit exceptions or violations.

2. In its March 7, 2016 letter, the ADE also notified the Dollarway School District that the ADE would request that the State Board of Education classify the District as being in fiscal distress at the Board's meeting on April 14 and 15, 2016.

3. The deadline for an appeal of the fiscal distress identification was April 9, 2016. The Dollarway School District did not appeal.

4. During the State Board of Education's April 14, 2016 meeting, the Board considered documents and other evidence presented to it by ADE.

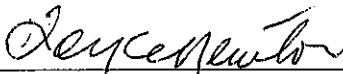
CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

5. Upon consideration of the evidence presented by the ADE, the Board concludes that the Dollarway School District meets two criteria necessary to be identified as a school district in fiscal distress; specifically, a declining fund balance determined to jeopardize the fiscal integrity of a school district, and material audit exceptions or violations. *See* Ark. Code Ann. § 6-20-1904(a)(1)(A) and § 6-20-1904(a)(2)(D).

ORDER

6. For the above reasons, the Dollarway School District is classified as a school district in fiscal distress as of April 14, 2016.

Signed this 15th day of April, 2016.



Toyce Newton, Chair
Arkansas State Board of Education