

BEFORE THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

**In the Matter of Strong-Huttig School District's Petition for Waiver of
Minimum School District Size**

On October 13, 2016, during a regular meeting of the Arkansas State Board of Education, pursuant to the legal authority and jurisdiction vested in the Board by Ark. Code Ann. § 6-13-1613 (minimum school district waiver size), the Board considered the Petition for Waiver filed by the Strong-Huttig School District.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On August 2, 2016, the Arkansas Department of Education published lists in accordance with Ark. Code Ann. § 6-13-1612. The Strong-Huttig School District appeared on the § 6-13-1602(2) consolidation list because the District had fewer than three hundred fifty (350) students according to the District's average daily membership in each of the two school years immediately preceding the 2016-17 school year.

2. Arkansas Code Annotated § 6-13-1603 requires that a school district appearing on the consolidation list be administratively annexed to or consolidated with one or more school districts by the next school year unless the school district is granted a waiver of minimum school district size under Ark. Code Ann. § 6-13-1613 by the State Board of Education.

3. On September 1, 2016, the District filed a timely petition with the State Board that contained all necessary documentation and statements of assurance required by Ark. Code Ann. § 6-13-1613.

4. On October 13, 2016, a hearing was held before the State Board in which the District provided additional evidence in support of its petition.

5. The District is not in academic distress (although the District's high school is in academic distress), facilities distress, or fiscal distress. The District is not on probationary status for a violation of the Standards for Accreditation.

6. The academic facilities owned and operated by the District are adequate as evidenced by the school district's facilities master plan.

7. The District's board of directors assured in a resolution that it is in the best interest of the students in the school district to keep the District open due to the length of potential time that would be spent on the bus by a student traveling to and from school should the District be administratively reorganized.

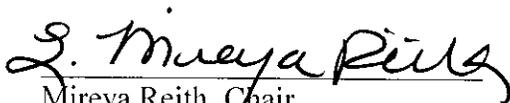
CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

8. Upon consideration of the District's petition and evidence presented at the hearing, the State Board concludes that the District produced the evidence required by Ark. Code Ann. § 6-13-1613 to justify a minimum school size waiver.

ORDER

For the above reasons, the Strong-Huttig School District's petition for a minimum school district size waiver is granted.

Signed this 14th day of October, 2016.


Mireya Reith, Chair
Arkansas State Board of Education