

**BEFORE THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

On August 14, 2014, during a regular meeting of the Arkansas State Board of Education, a hearing was conducted pursuant to the legal authority and jurisdiction vested in the Board by the Public School Choice Act of 2013 (codified at Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-1901 et seq.) and the Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing the Public School Choice Act of 2013. Before the Board was the appeal of the Coleman family (“Petitioner”) challenging the decision of the Trumann School District (“Respondent”) denying their application for transfer of their child under the Public School Choice Act of 2013.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. The Petitioner family resides in the Harrisburg School District.
2. On or about May 13, 2014, Petitioner submitted an application to transfer one child to Respondent Trumann School District pursuant to the Public School Choice Act of 2013.
3. On or about June 11, 2014, Respondent denied the application because certain court-imposed restrictions on the student’s attendance would require the Trumann School District to hire additional personnel in order to accommodate the transfer.
4. On or about June 18, 2014, the Petitioner appealed Respondent’s denial to the Arkansas State Board of Education.

**CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

5. Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-1903(c) states that the Public School Choice Act of 2013 “does not require a school district to add teachers, staff, or classrooms, or in any way to exceed the requirements and standards established by existing law.”

6. According to testimony and documentation provided to the State Board during its hearing, the court-imposed restrictions on the student's attendance remain in place. Those court-imposed restrictions include a restriction that the student must not have any unsupervised contact with females under the age of eighteen (18). These restrictions would require the Trumann School District to hire additional staff in order to accommodate the requested transfer.

**ORDER**

7. The Petitioner's school choice appeal is hereby denied.

Signed this 27<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2014

  
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Sam Ledbetter, Chair  
Arkansas State Board of Education