



Division of Elementary and Secondary Education

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Johnny Key
Secretary

December 23, 2019

Via Email and Regular U.S. Mail

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Ms. Melissa Spears, Superintendent
Jessieville School District
7900 N. Highway 7
Jessieville, AR 71949
melissa.spears@jsdlions.net

Re: *Jessieville School District Claim of Conflict with the Public School Choice Act of 2015, Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-1901 et seq.*

Dear Superintendent Spears:

The Arkansas Department of Education, Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, has reviewed the documentation submitted by the Jessieville School District in support of the District's claim that provisions of an enforceable desegregation court order or a court-approved desegregation plan bars the District from participating in school choice under the Public School Choice Act of 2015. Specifically, the District provided documents concerning a lawsuit filed in the United States District Court for the Western District of Arkansas captioned *Davis, et al., v. Hot Springs School District, et al.*, Case No. 89-6088.

Based on the documentation provided, the Division has determined that the Jessieville School District is not required to participate in school choice under the Act, as participation would conflict with the terms of a federal court order. If you have any questions or require further information, I invite you and your attorney to call me at (501) 682-4234.

Respectfully,

Lori Freno
General Counsel
Arkansas Department of Education
Division of Elementary and Secondary Education

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cc: (via email transmission only)
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