

**BEFORE THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

On July 12, 2019, 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 2015 (codified at Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-1901 *et seq.*) and the Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing the Public School Choice Act of 2015. Before the Board was the appeal of the Laymon family ("Petitioner") challenging the decision of the Quitman School District ("Respondent") denying their application for a transfer of their child under the Public School Choice Act of 2015 due to untimeliness.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. The Petitioner resides in the Heber Springs School District.
2. The Petitioner submitted an Arkansas Public School Choice application to the Quitman School District on behalf of their child on May 2, 2019.
3. The Respondent denied the Petitioner's application based on the assertion that the application was submitted to the district on May 2, 2019, after the deadline of May 1 set forth in Ark. Code Ann. §6-18-1905.
4. On or about June 18, 2019, pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-1907(b)(1), the Petitioner requested a hearing before the State Board to appeal the decision of the Respondent to deny the school choice application.
5. The Petitioner was sent notice of the hearing by regular and certified mail on July 2, 2019. The Division confirmed Petitioner's receipt of the certified letter.
6. The Petitioner did not appear at the hearing.

**CONCLUSION OF LAW**

7. The Arkansas Public School Choice Act of 2015 requires a student's parent to submit an application to the nonresident district no later than May 1, as set forth in Ark. Code Ann. §6-18-1905.

**ORDER**

8. Based on the information presented, the Petitioner's school choice appeal is hereby denied as untimely.

Signed this 12 day of July, 2019

  
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Diane Zook, Chair  
Arkansas State Board of Education