

BEFORE THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

IN THE MATTER OF:

Closure of the Bruno-Pyatt Campus in the
Ozark Mountain School District

ORDER NO. 2025-002

REQUEST FOR ORDER TO CLOSE ISOLATE SCHOOL

On October 9, 2025, during a regular meeting of the Arkansas State Board of Education (“State Board”), a hearing was conducted pursuant to the legal authority and jurisdiction vested in the State Board by Arkansas Code Annotated § 6-20-602, and the Arkansas Department of Education’s Rules Governing the Closure of Isolated Schools, codified as 6 CAR § 233-101, et seq. The State Board considered a petition of the Ozark Mountain School District (“Petitioner”) to close its Bruno-Pyatt campus, and to transfer the students attending school at the Bruno-Pyatt campus to other campuses located within the school district.

FINDINGS OF FACT

From the evidence introduced at said hearing, the State Board finds that:

1. The Ozark Mountain School District school district is located in Searcy, Marion, and Newton Counties, Arkansas.
2. There are three campuses at which students located within the school district attend school: Bruno-Pyatt, Western Grove, and St. Joe.
3. For the current school year, there are only 14 students in grades first through fourth who attend school at the Bruno-Pyatt campus.
4. High School students in Bruno-Pyatt already attend grades seven through twelve at either the Western Grove or St. Joe campuses.

5. For the current school year, there are only two certified teachers employed at the Bruno-Pyatt campus.

6. On August 6, 2025, by majority vote (6-1), Petitioner's Board of Directors voted to close the Bruno-Pyatt campus and to relocate the students who attend school at the Bruno-Pyatt campus to the Western Grove and St. Joe campuses.

7. The cost of operating the Bruno-Pyatt campus is projected to be \$630,378.26 for the current school year which is approximately \$45,027.02 per pupil, well over the per pupil state analysis.

8. Norman Hill, a well-respected financial advisor to school districts, prepared a financial analysis based on 17 students enrolled in the district, that shows substantial financial loss for the current school year.

9. Petitioner plans to transfer ten students to the St. Joe campus, located 17 miles away from the Bruno-Pyatt campus, and four students to the Western Grove campus, located 12 miles away from the Bruno-Pyatt campus.

10. Petitioner stated that it will ensure that siblings will remain together if requested.

11. Petitioner plans to transfer the two certified teachers employed at the Bruno-Pyatt campus to another campus in the district.

12. Petitioner has a transportation plan for the students who currently attend school at the Bruno-Pyatt campus.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

13. The Bruno-Pyatt Campus is an “isolated school” as defined by Ark. Code Ann. § 6-20-601.

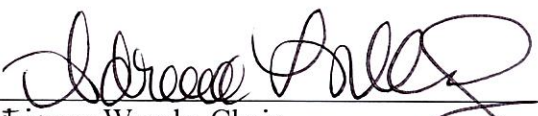
14. Because a majority of Petitioner’s Board of Directors voted to close its Bruno-Pyatt Campus, but that vote was not unanimous, Ark. Code Ann. § 6-20-602(b) requires approval of the State Board for the closure of the Bruno-Pyatt campus.

15. Pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-20-602(b)(2)(C), the State Board finds that the closure Bruno-Pyatt Campus is in the best interest of the students in the school district as a whole, and that the closure would have no negative impact on desegregation efforts or violate a valid court order.

ORDER

Based on the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law above, the State Board hereby **GRANTS** Petitioner’s request to close the Bruno-Pyatt campus and to transfer the students attending school at the Bruno-Pyatt campus to other campuses located within the school district. This Order shall be effective from and after October 14, 2025.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



Adrienne Woods, Chair
Arkansas State Board of Education