



Arkansas Department of Education

Division of Elementary and Secondary Education

Jacob Oliva, Secretary

July 7, 2023

CONTACT: Kimberly Mundell

PHONE: (501) 683-4788

kimberly.mundell@ade.arkansas.gov

State Board of Education Takes Emergency Action to Save Marvell-Elaine School District

LITTLE ROCK – Due to a politically motivated lawsuit that is delaying enactment of the LEARNS Act, the State Board of Education had to take emergency action to save the Marvell-Elaine School District or risk further harming students and putting them behind their peers in the state.

The board voted to remove the district’s superintendent and limited authority board. As a result of the board’s actions, this allows Arkansas Department of Education Secretary Jacob Oliva to name a new superintendent and proceed with planning for an August 1 LEARNS enactment to keep the district open.

“At the April board meeting in Marvell, community members overwhelmingly expressed their desire for the district to remain open,” Oliva said. “It’s unfortunate that a frivolous, politically motivated lawsuit is interfering with the department’s efforts to carry out the wishes of the school and local community. Every day that passes that delays enactment, student learning is in jeopardy.”

At its meeting in April, the State Board rescinded its previous decision in November to consolidate the district into neighboring districts. The board instead voted to place the district under state authority, retain the superintendent through the 2022-2023 school year, and keep a limited authority board. The State Board also directed the district to enter a transformation contract with a third party to run the day-to-day operations of the district this fall.

The State Board considered multiple options during its meeting today, including reversing its decision in April and moving forward with consolidation of the district. In the interest of what is best for the community and students, the board voted to keep the district open. The secretary, acting in lieu of the board, will now name a superintendent to run the daily operations of the district.

Follow us on Twitter [@ArkansasEd](https://twitter.com/ArkansasEd).

Like us on Facebook at [Arkansas Department of Education](https://www.facebook.com/ArkansasDepartmentofEducation).

Follow us on Instagram at [arkansased](https://www.instagram.com/arkansased).

dese.ade.arkansas.gov

Four Capitol Mall • Little Rock, AR 72201 • 501-682-4475



[Manage](#) your preferences | [Opt Out](#) using TrueRemove™

Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.

View this email [online](#).

Four Capitol Mall | Little Rock, AR 72201 US

This email was sent to felecia.parker@ade.arkansas.gov.

To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.

emma'