

Possible Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) Recommendation
(If Requested by State Board)

Desegregation

Any order of the State Board regarding the administrative consolidation of the Stephens School District should be approved by the State Board pending further approval by the presiding federal judge in the case of *Runyan v. McNeil School District, et al.* The State Board should direct its legal counsel, in conjunction with the Office of the Arkansas Attorney General, to seek such approval.

Territory of the Stephens School District

It is the ADE's recommendation to the Arkansas State Board of Education (State Board) that the Stephens School District be consolidated with the Camden Fairview, Magnolia and Nevada school districts as follows:

- That part of the Stephens School District which is located in Ouachita County should be consolidated with the Camden Fairview School District;
- That part of the Stephens School District which is located in Columbia County should be consolidated with the Magnolia School District; and
- That part of the Stephens School District which is located in Nevada County should be consolidated with the Nevada School District.

Effective Date

The proposed consolidation should be effective on July 1, 2014. As of that date, the Stephens School District would be dissolved and the following school districts would be established:

- Camden-Fairview School District;
- Magnolia School District; and
- Nevada School District.

Superintendents

The resulting Camden Fairview, Magnolia and Nevada school districts would have no more than one (1) superintendent each.

Tax Rate

In the resulting Camden Fairview, Magnolia and Nevada school districts, the ad valorem tax rate would be determined as set forth in Ark. Code Ann. § 6-13-1409.

Assets and Liabilities of the Stephens School District

The assets and liabilities of the Stephens School District shall be assigned as set forth in Ark. Code Ann. § 6-13-1407. Specifically, the real property of the Stephens School District shall be distributed as follows:

- That part of the Stephens School District's real property which is located in Ouachita County should become the real property of the Camden Fairview School District;
- That part of the Stephens School District's real property which is located in Columbia County should become the real property of the Magnolia School District; and
- That part of the Stephens School District's real property which is located in Nevada County should become the real property of the Nevada School District.

The personal property and equipment belonging to the Stephens School District shall become the personal property of the Camden Fairview, Magnolia and Nevada school districts subject to the further agreement of those three (3) districts as to the ultimate disposition of the personal property.

Interim School Boards of Directors

Pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-13-1603(k) and Ark. Code Ann. § 6-13-1415(d)(2), the following interim boards of directors should be established:

- The existing board of directors of the Camden Fairview School District should serve as the interim school board for the existing Camden Fairview School District and for that part of the Stephens School District which is located in Ouachita County;
- The existing board of directors of the Magnolia School District should serve as the interim school board for the existing Magnolia School District and for that part of the Stephens School District which is located in Columbia County;
- The existing board of directors of the Nevada School District should serve as the interim school board for the existing Nevada School District and for that part of the Stephens School District which is located in Nevada County.

Permanent School Boards of Directors

The resulting Camden Fairview, Magnolia and Nevada school districts should form permanent boards of directors pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-13-1603(k) and Ark. Code Ann. § 6-13-1417.