



Submission #: 50

Is More Than One Person Making This Submission? No

Name:

1. Name: Gary Newton

Other Names on Submission:

2. Name:
3. Name:
4. Name:
5. Name:

Role(s):

Community Member

What is your Proposal Summary?

Meet Demand with Supply

Detailed Proposal:

- Rebrand and unify as “Little Rock,” jettisoning the acronym, which no other districts or schools use.
- Consolidate Little Rock West School of Innovation into Hall STEAM Magnet. LRSD has more high schools — 5 — than any other district, and yet, it is the second (soon to be third) largest district. PCSSD has four, but that’s because of geography. Larger Springdale and slightly smaller Bentonville only have two each.

Or,

- Close Hall and move Pulaski Heights Middle to its campus, freeing space for Pulaski Heights Elementary.

Or,

- Transition and unify Forest Heights STEM Academy (PreK-6) and Hall STEM Academy (7-12), absorbing High School of Innovation.
- Reduce non-classroom certified staff.
- Create smart, unified transportation system with Rock Region Metro, PCSSD, open-enrollment charters, independent schools
- Create joint purchasing agreements for goods and service with PCSSD, NLRSD, JNPSD, open-enrollment charters, independent schools. Leverage volume for savings.
- Open Pre-K in West Little Rock, which will attract new students, growing current and future revenue.
- Build new school or add to existing elementary seats in West Little Rock.

Financial Impact to LRSD

Positive, in that all proposals will attract, retain enrollment.

Other Considerations (Optional)



LITTLE ROCK
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Submission #: 57

Is More Than One Person Making This Submission? No

Name:

1. Name: Brittney Mills

Other Names on Submission:

2. Name:
3. Name:
4. Name:
5. Name:

Role(s):

LRSD Parent

Employee

Community Member

What is your Proposal Summary?

Close Western Hills/Hall & create the state's first public Literacy Lab(s), a Central Arkansas literacy equity anchor, which would provide access to highly skilled literacy teachers/professionals, services and resources for all families.

Detailed Proposal:

- LRSD has an opportunity to take a bold step with all eyes in the state on student literacy. Since the Literacy Lab would be inside a public school system, we could ensure

LRSD's most at-risk students gain more access to services and resources to help them become literate successful adults.

- This Literacy Lab could create broader and bigger non-profit, faith-based, philanthropic and business community partners (both financial invested and volunteer invested).

- This Literacy Lab could create opportunities to reach new Little Rock families to increase student enrollment. Private, charter and homeschool families could experience high-quality literacy consultations, assessments, tutoring and resources. The new LEARNS law gives families \$500 per year for tutoring.

- The Literacy Lab could bring in more Certified Academic Language Therapist or Therapist in Training into LRSD which would give even more highly qualified literacy instruction to LRSD students (Refer to ACT 1016). For example, the Literacy Lab could create more tutoring opportunities for LRSD high school students to receive JET, a one-year dyslexia program that ADE is piloting. The Literacy Lab could be used before or after the high school student's school day. This pilot requires Certified Academic Language Therapist to provide this program. Let our LRSD students benefit from this opportunity.

- LRSD still lacks the instructional time and staff to address the literacy gaps during the school day. The Literacy Lab could create more time - either before school or after school for literacy intervention. The Literacy Lab could attract more staff by providing opportunities for new community partners and new high quality literacy professionals. There are plenty of community members that left the classroom who might volunteer in some capacity in the Literacy Lab.

- The Literacy Lab could facilitate professional development and trainings with on-site tutoring/small group observations to sharpen instructional skills of current LRSD teachers and other Central Arkansas teacher training or college literacy teacher programs.

- Finally, the Literacy Lab could collaborate with foster families for consultations and assessment of foster kids reading levels and tutoring. I know organizations like Immerse would love to partner with us.

Financial Impact to LRSD

Funding sources:

- grants

- state funding
- federal funding
- business, non-profit, philanthropic, faith-based donations
- \$500 tutoring grant from LEARNS Act
- Arkansas High Impact Tutoring Pilot from LEARNS Act
- money from families with ability to pay for private tutoring
- TEFRA or Medicaid

Other Considerations (Optional)

- Daily before-school & after-school tutoring utilizing CALTS, CALTS in Training, community members, UALR/UCA/Arkansas Baptist/Philander education majors and some LRSD staff. The Literacy Lab could have as many tutoring groups as there were classrooms.
- Possible entry points for new potential LRSD families (homeschool, charter, private) - consultations, assessment, tutoring and training for homeschool families. These services could happen during the school day and utilize CALTs and CALTS in training. There would have to be some kind of fee for these or get a grant, state or federal funding or donations.
- Professional development with real-time tutoring observations



Submission #: 64

Is More Than One Person Making This Submission? No

Name:

1. Name: Chris Burks

Other Names on Submission:

2. Name:
3. Name:
4. Name:
5. Name:

Role(s):

LRSD Parent

What is your Proposal Summary?

1. Invest in Pre-K at existing elementary buildings, as opposed to expanding Pre-K centers. 2. Close Hall and Western Hills. 3. Reorganize staff at middle schools 4. Continue changing the culture to one of growth.

Detailed Proposal:

Thanks and in my opinion, the best short-term choices to stabilize enrollment, programming, and facilities are to: 1. Invest in Pre-K at existing elementary buildings, as opposed to expanding Pre-K centers. 2. Close Hall and Western Hills. 3. Reorganize staff at middle schools 4. Continue changing the culture to one of growth.

1) By invest in Pre-K at the existing elementary locations, I mean have Pre-K classrooms filled (and built if necessary) at current schools, as opposed to expanding Pre-K centers. The data shows that in 2018/19 there were 1,766 Pre-K students, and yet only 1,321 in 2022/23. We retain Pre-K students well, and more total students enroll in Kindergarten. Free Pre-K is one of LRSD's best assets to attracting students, yet the district has closed Pre-K at Jefferson and limits its imagination by not investing enough in one of its biggest successes. Parents are incredibly hungry for high quality, free Pre-K close to home in our existing schools.

(2) While the proliferation of charter schools is beyond our control, the fact that they exist mean we need to make hard choices, including closing Hall and Western Hills. Efforts at both schools are admirable, but the surrounding neighborhoods seem to be resilient enough to survive as compared to other options. LRSD simply cannot afford as many buildings as it has at its size in my view.

(3) By restructure all middle schools, I mean re-evaluate all staff positions in a positive and competitive process that incentives staff to want to work at one of our middle schools. We should advertise and recruit for leadership positions at these schools locally, regionally and nationally, and a common fresh start will help with retention. We have to admit that while so much positive is happening, what we are doing at middle school is losing to other choices, and make drastic changes.

(4) By continue changing the culture, I mean build on the current district leadership approach. For too long not only have we been limited by our prejudices, but also by the lack of our collective imagination and provincial, narrow mindset

Financial Impact to LRSD

Closing Hall and Western Hills will save on infrastructure and staff costs. Hiring more Pre-K middle school staff will increase costs but less than the savings from closing Hall and Western Hills

Other Considerations (Optional)

While in my opinion the best short-term choices to stabilize enrollment, programming, and facilities are to: 1. Invest in Pre-K at existing elementary buildings, as opposed to expanding Pre-K centers. 2. Close Hall and Western Hills. 3. Reorganize staff at middle schools 4. Continue changing the culture to one of growth, there are many more long term challenges. In my view, setting up a process to explore merging with the PCSSD is

the best long-term choice to set up all LRSD students for success. Further, our diversity is our strength, and we have to better focus on our greatest strengths



Submission #: 65

Is More Than One Person Making This Submission? No

Name:

1. Name: Clay Bemberg

Other Names on Submission:

2. Name:
3. Name:
4. Name:
5. Name:

Role(s):

Parent (Child does not attend LRSD)

Employee

What is your Proposal Summary?

Springdale has 30 campuses and we have 38. We need to close significantly under capacity buildings and increase enrollment in buildings that are below capacity. This would generate significant cost savings.

Detailed Proposal:

Looking at the provided data, I would consider closing the following campuses: Hall, West, Terry or McDermott, and Western Hills. I would move forward with the suggestion to close West and move students to Hall until construction is complete.

There then needs to be a plan for high schools when the new school opens - How many high school campuses do we need? Do we have Central, West, and Southwest and keep one magnet school, combining the current West, Hall and Parkview at one campus? We cannot support 5 high schools in this district.

Looking at Terry and McDermott - I would look at moving students from one of those campuses to several of the surrounding campuses - McDermott or Terry, Fulbright, Jefferson, Williams, Brady, Forest Heights, Forest Park and Roberts. I would repurpose the closed campus as a PreK center to serve that area of town.

With Western Hills, it will lose students the next year when the new school opens, so we either close that campus or another campus and move students to Western Hills.

I would also explore these possibilities due to enrollment numbers:

combine Mann and Dunbar in to one middle school - build a new campus for them at one of the current locations.

Make PH a K-8 school with one principal. They already share facilities, could it be run like Forest Heights, Fair and Lacey?

Financial Impact to LRSD

All of these proposed closures would save money on building operations and personnel. The district, however, does need to keep up the positive trend of building new campuses and improving campuses. With less campuses, it becomes less expensive to maintain and we can spend more money and focus on the campuses that need attention.

Other Considerations (Optional)