



LITTLE ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT



2020-2021 COMMUNITY REPORT LITTLE ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT



Building **STRONG SCHOOLS** and Even **STRONGER COMMUNITIES**

LRSD.org





LITTLE ROCK
SCHOOL DISTRICT

LEADERSHIP



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The Little Rock School District (LRSD) Board of Education is comprised of nine members, elected in December 2020. Six months after taking office – July 2021 - the Board joined administration, staff, students, and parents in welcoming the return of local control to LRSD. The District was released from Level 5 Intensive Support and the “guardrails” that the state had placed on the Board were removed. These significant developments boosted stakeholder confidence, so much so that in November 2021, voters approved a millage extension that will infuse \$300 million into the District for two new schools and much needed capital improvements across LRSD.

While the Board sets policy that governs the District, Superintendent Mike Poore implements the Board’s vision, making day-to-day decisions about educational programs, spending, staff, and facilities. Poore, who was named 2021 Arkansas Superintendent of the Year, is now in his sixth year at the helm of LRSD. He continues to work tirelessly to build bridges between the District and community.

Partnerships between school, home, and community are essential to the District’s success. Parents and community members are encouraged to remain engaged through active participation at schools, by watching/ attending meetings, as well as providing input.

LRSD hosts two regularly scheduled monthly meetings on the second and fourth Thursday at 5:30 p.m. Stakeholders may provide public comment during any meeting where action items are on the agenda. Three minutes are allotted for comments which are received via Zoom while meetings are still offered virtually.

The District also introduced Granicus last year, a new comprehensive board meeting solution, to better inform and engage stakeholders allowing them to quickly navigate through recorded online meetings with customized settings.

Watch Board/Public Meetings: www.LRSDLive.com
Public Comments: www.LRSD.org/lrdsdpubliccomments

Message from Superintendent Mike Poore



Dear LRSD Family,

We have a phrase we utilize in LRSD that I am very fond of, “The Power of Us.” This simple phrase has grown in its impact over the years as more and more of the LRSD family steps up to collaborate, engage, and support the students of this school district. This past year was some kind of challenge, but it was also some kind of year in accomplishments.

The year really began with our newly elected school board coming together to govern this school district. This is in many ways a thankless job, no remuneration and very little formal gratitude comes to any school board member. I hope you will all help me honor and recognize this group of nine. They had some simple, yet challenging goals as they sat in their seats. Get us local control back, find a way to support all of our employees with a raise, tackle our aging facilities, manage a pandemic, and move additional support forward for both the academic achievement and well-being of each child.

If we look at these targets, this District and this Board have done a great job! This past Summer, LRSD fully regained local control. This fall, we saw raises and a successful ballot issue approved! We can all be proud of how LRSD has handled the pandemic, as our school district is very rarely in the top 10 regarding COVID cases - even though we are the second largest school district in the state. Another important target is all about students. The Board, our staff, our parents and our community all want to see young people get a year’s worth of growth academically and we want each young person to be a confident, aware, and caring individual.

This last target is a work in progress. We aren’t there, but I believe this community can step up to make this a reality. Every student means every student and we have the talent and community support to achieve one year’s worth of growth for any child in LRSD. We also have the passion and will to make sure each child is cared for and that he/she feels supported by adults. As you read this community report, it should be clear what our targets are for the future, and we hope all view this report with a lens that leads to a mindset of “how can I help?”

We have much to be proud of in LRSD! We made it through one of the most challenging and unprecedented years in the history of our school system and our city. We did this from the perspective and approach of “The Power of Us.” Let’s not stop, let’s keep caring, let’s keep collaborating, and let’s keep the focus on kids. I hope all enjoy this report and I challenge you to share it with someone else.

Sincerely,

Michael Alan Poore
LRSD Superintendent
mike.poore@lrdsd.org

LRSD Gains a New Ally in Promoting Feet to the Seat Campaign

September was "Attendance Awareness Month" and LRSD launched its annual "Feet to the Seat"- Chronic Absenteeism Campaign, engaging some hometown star power to help promote school attendance. The kick-off for the annual event to combat chronic absenteeism was held in October, at J.A. Fair K-8 Preparatory Academy, and the District enlisted the support of NBA star and Hall alum Bobby Portis, to help with motivational video messaging.

Many parents and students don't realize how quickly early absences can add up to academic trouble. If children don't show up for school regularly, they miss out on fundamental reading and math skills and the chance to build a habit of good attendance that will carry them into college and careers. A national study also found that children who were chronically absent in kindergarten and 1st grade were far less likely to read proficiently at the end of 3rd grade.

This year's campaign also features several strategies to combat absenteeism and promote awareness about the importance of regular school attendance, including a webpage www.LRSD.org/feet-to-the-seat with teacher/parent resources, as well as a social media/video contest for students.

"Having a campaign that creates awareness and encourages regular school attendance is one of the most powerful ways we can help prepare our students for success," said LRSD Superintendent Mike Poore.

Be sure to visit the webpage www.LRSD.org/feet-to-the-seat for more great information!



Bobby Portis, LRSD Graduate



Giving Students the Start They Need to Succeed - Early Childhood Education (Pre-K)



The foundation of a child's education is vitally important. The LRSD offers a free preschool education of exceptional quality so your child will have a great start to his/her education. The goal of the LRSD Early Childhood program is to offer quality early childhood education opportunities for preschool children in the district through a school-based setting. Having access to nurturing, supportive educational experiences will prepare our children to enter kindergarten with the necessary cognitive, physical, social, emotional and early language and literacy skills for success in school.

Pre-Kindergarten classes are located throughout the district in both elementary schools and early childhood centers. Chicot ECC, Geyer Springs ECC, and Romine ECC offer three- and four-year-old classes. Fair Park ECC offers four-year-old classes only. Rockefeller offers a program for children six-weeks to four-years; there is a monthly charge for children six weeks to two years (vouchers are accepted). There is NO fee for three or four-year-old children.

Did You Know? • LRSD is the state's largest provider of public preschool • Students who attend LRSD preschools have historically outperformed students who did not use LRSD pre-K in every skill level • LRSD's pre-K program provides a certified teacher in every classroom, Credentialed Assistant Teachers, and age-appropriate learning activities • Breakfast, lunch and snacks are provided to pre-K students

Enroll your student today: www.LRSD.org/Pre-K



Finding Your Student's Fit in Digital Learning

LRSD's newest educational offering, Ignite Digital Academy, is a K-12 model that reaches students where they are, allowing for student voice and choice. Thanks to innovative curriculum, technology, instruction and support, students enrolled in Ignite have flexible learning options and enriching learning experiences.

Ignite was developed in response to the need to provide virtual instruction as an option for families with the District creating K-6th, and 7-12th grade academies.

Ignite teachers provide instruction through live-streaming and pre-designed digital coursework and computer-based platforms. Students attend school online and work with LRSD teachers to complete learning activities, both teacher-guided and independently, that hold the same standards, concepts/skill, and mastery requirements as students in a traditional classroom.

Additionally, students attending Ignite are also allowed to participate in and attend extracurricular activities.

Want to learn more? See: www.LRSD.org/ignite

CONTACTS

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Karen Heatherly, Principal
Secondary (7 - 12) Digital Academy
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501-447-8600



Get Connected – Stay Connected

Never miss a call or message from the District, again. **Simply download the free Blackboard App for Little Rock School District in iTunes and Google Play and it will store incoming messages to your Smartphone/device.** The other great perks connected to Blackboard and the ParentLink notification system used by the District to keep you in the loop – you get to select how, when and where you want to receive your messages: phone, text, email or a combination. Blackboard will only override those settings in cases of emergency.

Moved or Changed your Phone Number?

Inclement weather can hit at any time. Be sure to keep your contact info updated so the District may contact you. If a decision is made to close schools, we'll notify you the following ways:

- ParentLink (call, email, text and App)
- Website
- Social Media
- LRSD Now Blog
- Traditional Media (television, radio and print news)

Schools Closed, What's Next?

Don't forget to brush up on your student's AMI / Ready For Learning plan! With the Alternate Method of Instruction, learning continues no matter the weather. You should have received information from your child's school about class assignments on inclement weather days or any other day school may be closed during an unforeseen emergency. Now is a good time to familiarize yourself the with the plan, visit LRSD.org, click on Parents, then on the tab that says "AMI."

Clean and Healthy School Environments



LRSD continues its commitment to maintain school environments that are safe, clean, healthy, and conducive to learning.

At the onset of the pandemic, LRSD put into place a number of measures to safeguard the health and well-being of students and staff and to prevent the potential spread of COVID-19. Many of these efforts are still underway:

- Continued requirement to wear masks inside LRSD schools/buildings

- Implemented rapid COVID testing
- Encouraged vaccination of students and staff — provided onsite clinics for students and staff (ages 5-and-up)
- Continued to keep buildings clean with disinfection protocols
- Coordinated quarantine and notification efforts between LRSD and Arkansas Department of Health (ADH)

- Provided daily/weekly release of public information COVID-19 status for students/staff
- Moved to virtual learning when number of impacted students/staff dictated that approach

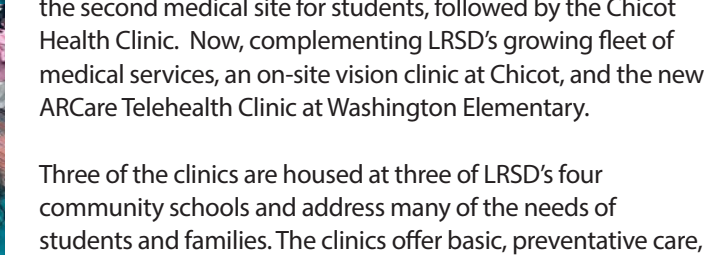
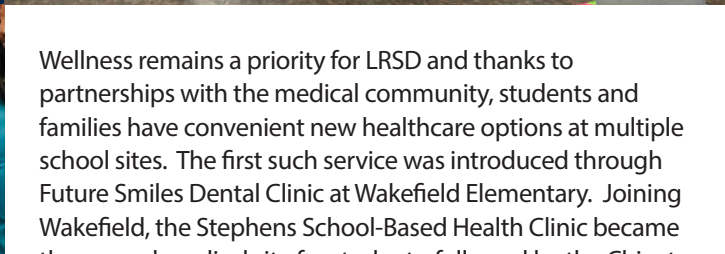
LRSD is proud of the ongoing collaboration used to plan in-person and virtual instruction, developing COVID security measures and working through individual problems of family, staff and school. The District has hosted several vaccine clinics this past year and most recently joined efforts with the City of Little Rock, and ADH for a White House team visit to highlight joint work to combat the pandemic.

Additional vaccine clinics are planned this school year to help in the fight against COVID. See www.lrsd.org for more info about upcoming clinics.

LRSD Excited to Introduce New School-Based Health Clinics



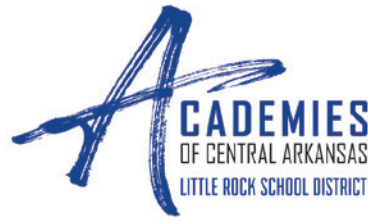
**CHICOT
VISION CLINIC**



Wellness remains a priority for LRSD and thanks to partnerships with the medical community, students and families have convenient new healthcare options at multiple school sites. The first such service was introduced through Future Smiles Dental Clinic at Wakefield Elementary. Joining Wakefield, the Stephens School-Based Health Clinic became the second medical site for students, followed by the Chicot Health Clinic. Now, complementing LRSD's growing fleet of medical services, an on-site vision clinic at Chicot, and the new ARCARE Telehealth Clinic at Washington Elementary.

Three of the clinics are housed at three of LRSD's four community schools and address many of the needs of students and families. The clinics offer basic, preventative care, helping students stay at school and parents stay at work.





Career Academies and Pathways

In 2019, LRSD launched its partnership with the three Pulaski County school districts to transform the high school experience through career interest-themed academies under the umbrella "Academies of Central Arkansas."

Having completed the master planning stage of the transformation, LRSD and the participating districts were officially designated as Ford Next Generation Learning Districts in October and now add to a growing network of over 40 communities across the globe. Ford NGL provides a model for the academies and is a collaborative community-driven approach that infuses high expectations and academic rigor with real-world relevance and Career and Technical Education (CTE).

During the freshman year, students select an Academy, which becomes a small learning community within the high school. Core academics are taught through the lens of the academy. LRSD will offer multiple pathways so that every student can choose a program that fits a personal interest. This integrated approach will help students connect with core academics, find their career interests, and create a plan to pursue their academic and career goals.

LRSD will be phasing in Academies over the next few years as we transition from our current high school structures to the Academies structure.

Academies Selection + Pathway

In Freshman Seminar, students explore careers and personal strengths and interests, and participate in a Career Exposure Fair. They will also explore the specific academies and pathways offered at LRSD.

**9th
GRADE**

- Join Freshman Academy (small learning community)
- Take Freshman Seminar Course
- Attend Career Fair Event
- Select an Academy and Pathway

**10th
GRADE**

- Enter selected Academy
- Take Level 1 Course(s) in Pathway*
- Have one opportunity to reevaluate and adjust Academy & Pathway selection

**11th
GRADE**

- Continue in selected Academy
- Take Level 2 Course(s) in Pathway

**12th
GRADE**

- Continue in selected Academy
- Take Level 3 Course(s) in Pathway
- Complete a Senior CAPSTONE

All students must complete at least six units in an approved Career Focus Program for graduation. Units earned in pathway courses count toward the six required units.

PORTRAIT OF AN ACADEMY GRADUATE:

+ Creative Problem Solving & Conflict Resolution

Academies of Central Arkansas students will have the ability to solve a variety of problems in both conventional and innovative ways, including systems thinking.

- Ask significant questions that clarify various points of view
- Think critically and use various forms of reasoning in a variety of situations
- Analyze and evaluate evidence, arguments, claims and beliefs

+ Communication, Collaboration & Leadership

Academies of Central Arkansas students will graduate with the ability to communicate, collaborate and lead.

- Learn from and work collaboratively with others
- Understand and respect diverse cultures, religions and lifestyles
- Communicate in a spirit of mutual respect and open dialogue in personal, work and community contexts

+ Career Ready & College Ready

Academies of Central Arkansas students will graduate with a personal resilience and awareness necessary for success in life after high school.

- Exhibit work ethic and understand the role of perseverance in one's chosen endeavors
- Understand the importance of making appropriate personal financial decisions and understand the economy's role in society
- Emerge academically prepared for college and/or career with college credits and/or industry-related certifications

+ Interpersonal Skills

Academies of Central Arkansas students will demonstrate the ability to work effectively and respectfully in diverse teams, articulating clear thoughts and ideas using a variety of communication skills.

- Build relationships within teams
- Demonstrate the ability to make necessary compromises to attain goals
- Assume shared responsibility for collaborative work



501-447-1000
www.LRSD.org

LRSD ACADEMIES OF
CENTRAL AR SCHOOLS:

LR HALL STEAM MAGNET
HIGH SCHOOL

LR WEST HIGH SCHOOL
OF INNOVATION

LR SOUTHWEST MAGNET
HIGH SCHOOL

LR PARKVIEW ARTS/SCIENCE
MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL



State-of-the-Art Campuses Steps Closer to Reality: McClellan K8 School

With passage of the November 2021 millage extension for LRSD, another significant educational investment will be made in the southwest part of the city. The Little Rock community came together to support \$300M worth of facilities upgrades for schools, including the new McClellan K-8 promised in 2016, as well as a new Little Rock West High School campus. LRSD administration says groundbreaking for the new McClellan site could happen as soon as the beginning of the new year. The state-of-the-art campus, designed by Cromwell Architects Engineers, will replace the existing structure and combine student populations from Cloverdale Middle School, along with Baseline and Meadowcliff elementary schools. The new architectural renderings showcase innovative styling and layout, including three stories with a circular glass tower entrance that faces Geyer Springs Road. Current plans include:

- 64 classrooms
- 8 spaces for fine arts
- 3 career education rooms
- Cafetorium
- Self-contained classrooms for special needs students
- 6 project rooms for science
- 4 maker spaces
- A collaboration or learning stairway
- Library/Media Center
- Gymnasium

This K-8 model will become the District's third such campus, serving approximately 1,400 students. The mascot, school colors and other details will be determined by school stakeholders, including students, parents, and staff.

New LR West High School

**A New Full Size,
Traditional High
School a Possibility in
West Little Rock Soon**



High school students in the western part of the city will also have an expanded option with a new full-size campus for Little Rock West High School of Innovation. Meetings are now underway to determine next steps for planning and designing a new school building and athletic facilities that will serve 1,200 students in grades 9-12, to be built on the site of the current West High School of Innovation campus. Due to its current building limitations, LR West High School currently serves 250 students in grades 9-11, and will serve around 400 students with the addition of 12th grade in the 22/23 school year.

Those attending LR West have the opportunity to experience personalized learning through Project-Based Learning (PBL) assessments and activities. Students have a voice and choice in many of their classes in how they demonstrate their mastery of content. This type of learning works well with the career pathways from which LR West High School of Innovation students may choose, including Central Arkansas' only Plant and Animal Systems pathways

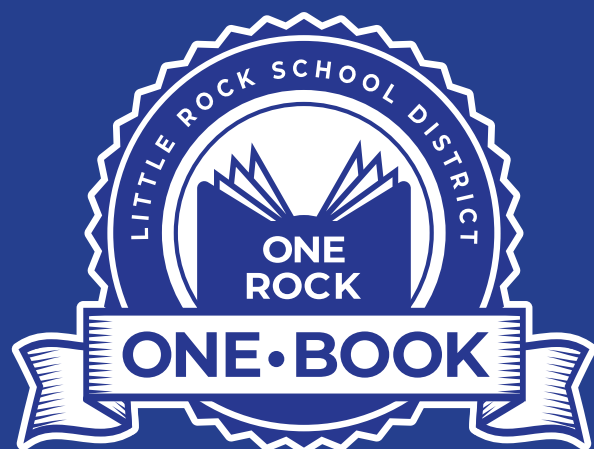
offered at a public high school. West students also have many Advanced Placement (AP) class options, with a plan to incorporate concurrent credit courses for college credit in the near future, as well.

Meeting all students' needs is at the heart of Little Rock West High School of Innovation, with students having a college and career coach from ninth grade to graduation, helping them make educational decisions for high school that will serve them well beyond graduation. Students also have on-site success coaches available to them when needed. Plus, they have advisory time built into their schedules every day that they can utilize for interventions, study time, or to simply meet with a teacher for guidance.

LR West is excited to grow its student, parent, and staff population, and looks forward to adding athletics and other extracurricular opportunities for students with the expansion of its campus! In the coming weeks, students, parents and staff connected to LR West will be invited to provide input on the design and construction of their new school.

Little Rock School District

One Rock One Book – Aims to Inspire Hundreds of Young Readers



Now in its sixth year, LRSD's elementary reading initiative, One Rock One Book, focuses on building strong literacy foundations for students. Several partners are making it possible for each student, in person and virtual, to receive a copy of "Lunch Money", by Andrew Clements. The goal is to promote students' love and mastery of reading by third grade, and to encourage family engagement that focuses on literacy. This year's campaign will include several activities and contests.

The kick-off for the 2021-22 One Rock One Book event is March 18, with culminating activities on May 6. Parents should expect to hear from their child's school leading up to the kick-off. Families are invited to share pictures of related activities on social media, using the hashtag #LRSD1Rock1Book.



PROVIDED BY



PROVIDED BY



2020-21 Partners

Connecting the Community Dots with Literacy Think Tank

Advocacy and support for literacy continues to grow at LRSD. Arkansas Business Publishing Group owner and president Mitch Bettis recently approached the District administrative team about exploring ways the community may better serve students and increase strategies to improve reading levels for students by third grade.

That meeting resulted in a Literacy Think Tank in September, attended by representatives from organizations with literacy as their focus. The Think Tank included a brainstorming session, ending with the idea of creating literacy centers for parents/students to access during non-school hours. The literacy center idea is still in development stage and will eventually include gathering groups of parents and other stakeholders for their input.



The centers would be designed to enhance LRSD's ongoing literacy efforts – the District began using curricular resources three years ago that support the Science of Reading and developing a culture of reading.

Heggerty is used in K-2 to build phonological awareness. Foundations is taught in K-3 to build foundational skills (phonics, vocabulary, fluency, high frequency word study, and handwriting).

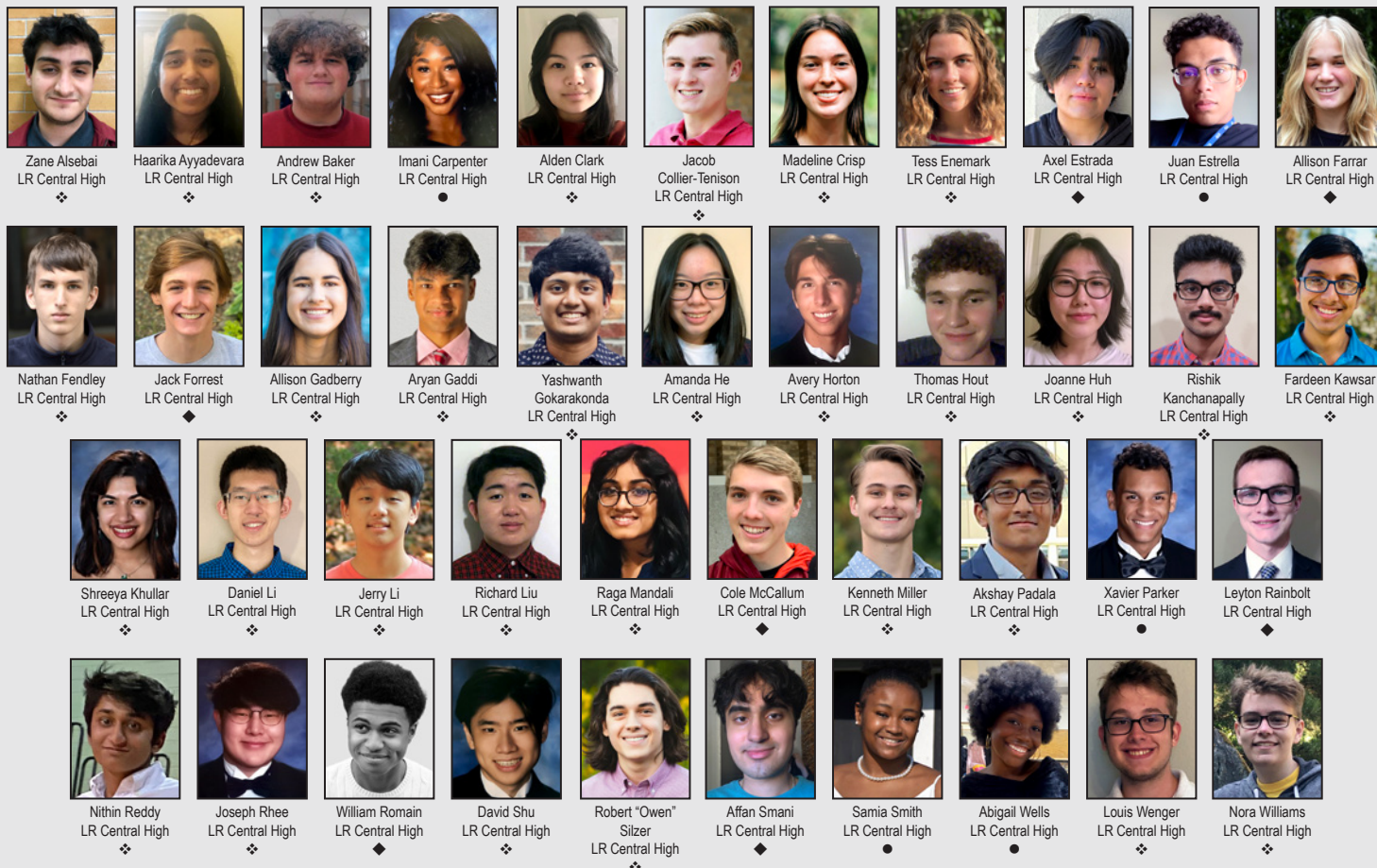
Wit and Wisdom (K-5) is a knowledge-building curriculum that develops language comprehension and writing through complex texts on high interest topics with the long-term aim of improved achievement in literacy for all students.

How can parents help? Reading aloud to children is said to be the single most beneficial activity to support literacy development. Great titles for students at each grade may be found by visiting www.LRSD.org/Literacy. These books are not required but will definitely promote the love of family reading, and may be found at the local library, bookstores, and online.

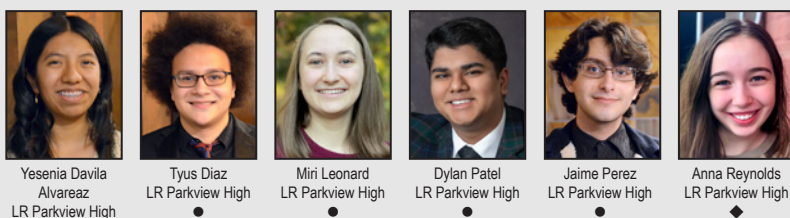
Historic Year - Honoring 2021 National Merit Semifinalists, Commended and Principal's Scholars

❖ Record 30 National Merit Semifinalist (most in LRSD's History), ◆ Commended Scholar, ● Principal's Scholar

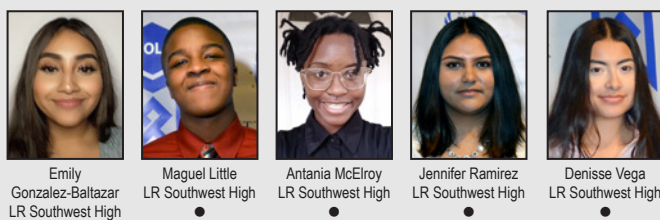
LITTLE ROCK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL



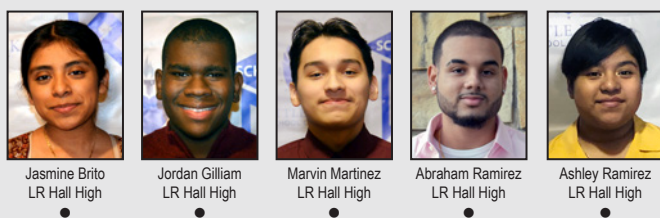
LITTLE ROCK PARKVIEW ARTS SCIENCE MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL



LITTLE ROCK SOUTHWEST MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL



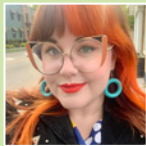
LITTLE ROCK HALL STEAM MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL



Elementary School Teachers of the Year



Daisy L. Nowlin
Bale



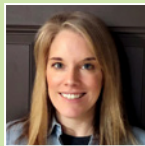
Jenna Jones
Baseline



Mariah B. H. Reescano
Booker Arts Magnet



Tamra Wiley
Brady



Stephanie Crowell
Carver Magnet



Joany Lowry
Chicot



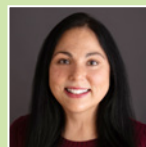
Kimberly A. Johnson
David O'Dodd



Kristen Z. Brizzolara
Fair Park ECC



Tera Cheri Phillips
Forest Heights STEM
Academy (K-5)



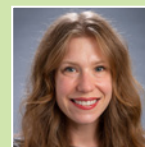
Ingrid Michelle Graves
Forest Park



Allison Stafford
Fulbright



Mitzi Nicks
Geyer Springs ECC



Blair Ray
Gibbs Magnet



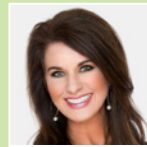
Jennifer Beranek
Jefferson



Kia Ervin
M.L. King



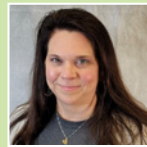
Misti Hess
Mabelvale Elem.



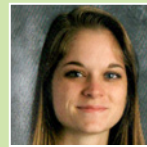
Karyn Keymer
Wortsmith
McDermott



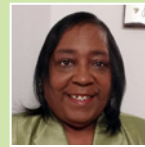
Nyree D. Williams
Meadowcliff



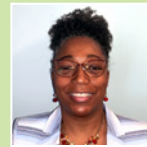
Sandra Courtis-Lawrence
Otter Creek



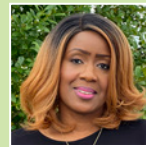
Joanna Miller
Pulaski Heights Elem.



Ola Mae Perry
Roberts



Renata Marie Sanders
Rockefeller Elem.
and ECC



Stephanie Copes
Romine



Sandra H. Young
Stephens



Jenny Wilbon
Terry



Kelly Burrus
Wakefield



Sabreen Al-Uqdah
Washington



Anthony Lee Goods
Watson



Amy Lane Kennedy
Western Hills



Charis A. Murphy
Williams Magnet

Middle School Teachers of the Year



LaKeitha C. Austin
Cloverdale



Veronica Jarrett
Cloverdale



Shakelia L. Jackson
Dunbar



Bonnita A. Rowe
Dunbar



Aaron Harris
Forest Heights STEM
Academy (6-8)



Brandon K. Randle Sr.
Forest Heights STEM
Academy (6-8)



Mythetta C. Gray
Henderson



Sharon Denise Johnson
Henderson



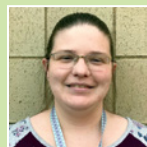
Kelan Watson
Mabelvale



Yolanda Watson
Mabelvale



Yvonne R. Hogue
Mann Arts & Science
Magnet



RaeAnn Stephanie Wood
Mann Arts & Science
Magnet



Dariane LyJoi Mull
Pinnacle View



Michelle Whatley
Pinnacle View

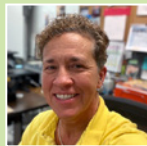


Adrian Monique Booker
Pulaski Heights

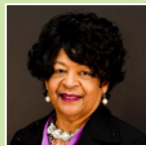


Edna McEwen
Pulaski Heights

High School Teachers of the Year



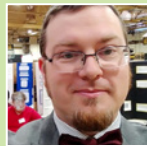
Suzette Cox
Accelerated
Learning Center



Helen Gaddy
LR Central



Colton Gilbert
LR Central



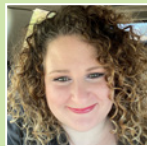
Patrick Foley
LR Central



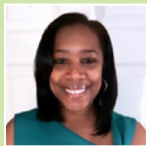
Candace H. Chappell
LR Hall
STEAM Magnet



Chad G. McKeough
LR Hall
STEAM Magnet



Christy Michelle Ritchie
LR Hall
STEAM Magnet



Dr. Marie Boone
LR Southwest



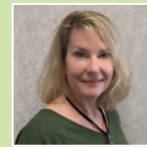
Brooke L. Griffen
LR Southwest



Roger Robinson
LR Southwest



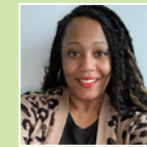
Toyoshima Ashley Gray
Metropolitan Career-
Technical Center



Debra Caldwell
LR West High
School of
Innovation



Lisa Drannon
LR West High
School of
Innovation



Crystal L. Parillon
LR West High
School of
Innovation



Dennis Show
Parkview Arts and
Science Magnet



Matt TerAvest
Parkview Arts and
Science Magnet



Neitasha Tims
Parkview Arts and
Science Magnet



COLTON GILBERT
2021 LRSD
TEACHER OF THE YEAR



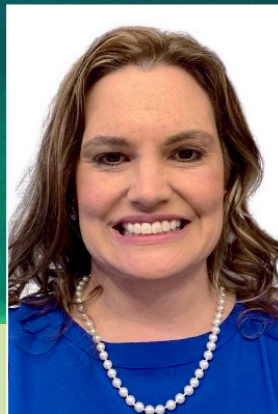
LITTLE ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT



2021

Crystal Awards

TEACHER OF THE YEAR



KELLY BURRUS
2021 LRSD
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
TEACHER OF THE YEAR



DARIANE LYJOI MULL
2021 LRSD
MIDDLE SCHOOL
TEACHER OF THE YEAR



MATT TERAVEST
2021 LRSD
HIGH SCHOOL
TEACHER OF THE YEAR



PATRICIA BROWN
2021 LRSD CLASSIFIED
EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Classified Employees of the Year



Frank Howard
LRSD Transportation
Employee of the Year



Maurice Phelps
LRSD Custodian
of the Year



Michael Ellis
Maintenance &
Operations Employee
of the Year



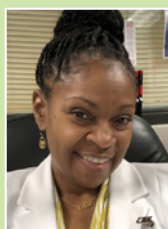
Barbara Surratt
LRSD Child
Nutrition Employee
of the Year



Chris Carrigan
LRSD
Paraprofessional
of the Year



Patricia Brown
LRSD
Health Employee
of the Year



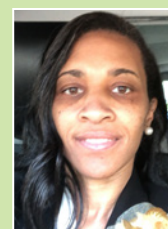
Ada Ratliffe-Butler
LRSD Secretarial and
General Support
Staff of the Year



Zach Heaton
LRSD
Safety and Security
Officer of the Year



James Jackson
2021 First Student
Driver of the Year



**Kenya
Richardson-Wilbert**
2021 First Student
Driver of the Year

Top Scholars Honored at Academic Signing Day

The Little Rock School District, in partnership with the Public Education Foundation, honors students representing all five LRSD high schools through its annual Academic Signing Day.

Class of 2021 honorees were accepted at higher education institutions throughout the country, including: Arkansas State University, Arkansas Tech University, Barnard College of Columbia University in the City of New York, Baylor University, Brigham Young University, Florida State University, Hendrix College, Howard University, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Lindenwood University, Ohio State University, Ouachita Baptist University, Philander Smith College, Princeton University, Reed College, Sewanee - The University of the South, Swarthmore College, Tulane University, University of Alabama at Huntsville, University of Arkansas - Fayetteville, University of Arkansas - Little Rock, University of Arkansas - Pine Bluff, University of Central Arkansas, University of Denver, University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill, University of Southern California, University of Texas - Dallas, Vanderbilt University, Vassar College, Wake Forest University, and Washington College.

The event mirrors athletic signing days, where top athletes sign letters of intent to compete at the collegiate level. As with athletic signings, high-achieving students choosing to study here in Arkansas and out of state are equally celebrated.

To qualify for the event, graduates are required to achieve at least one of the following: a cumulative 4.0 grade-point average in grades nine through 12; valedictorian, salutatorian, or the third or fourth highest rank in their class; National Hispanic Scholar; National Merit Semifinalist; and/or National Merit Commended Scholar.

Annually, LRSD students are awarded more than \$23 million in scholarships.

Freshmen should start inquiring at the beginning of their 9th grade year about participating in this prestigious academic celebration.

The Public Education Foundation and the Little Rock School District
Present the 2021 Class For



Academic Signing Day

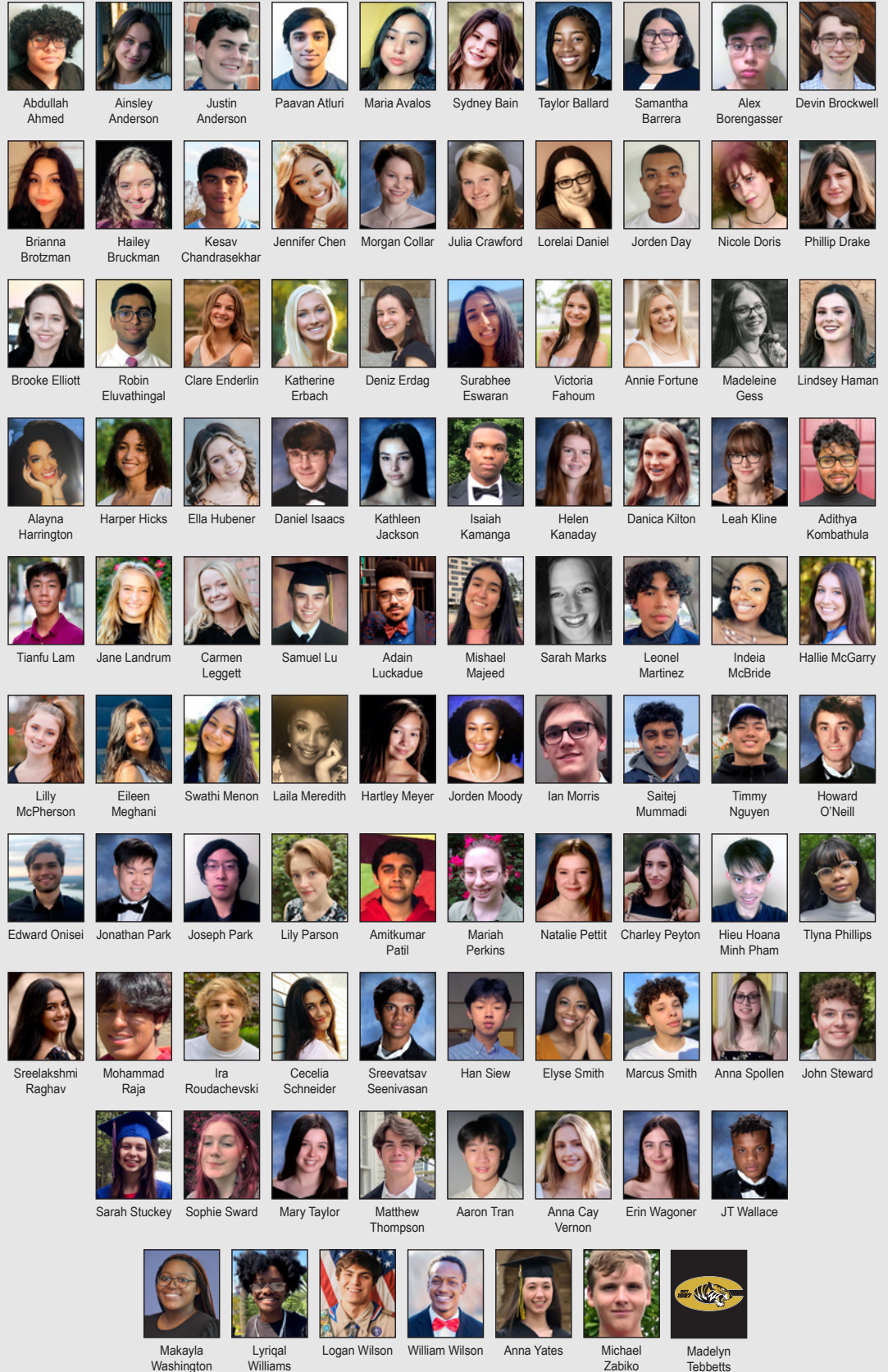


POLK
STANLEY
WILCOX

INTEGRITY
NABHOLZ

CROMWELL

WER
ARCHITECTS/PLANNERS



Parents as Partners



“Not a day went by in the beginning of the pandemic that they didn't send a text or a phone call checking on us like we were family.”

Keneasha Scott, Parent - Chicot
- Virtual student

“From the staff, to the families, to the kids, to the community, to the outstanding education she is receiving, I cannot think of a better place to send our daughter.”



Bailey and Sydney Faulkner, Parent/Student - Jefferson Elem
- New student



“All of the teachers are certified in their fields, over half have master's degrees. We have a strong PTA. It really has been such a positive experience.”

Deborah Britton, Parent - Williams Magnet
- Returning student

www.LRSD.org/SeeWhyLRSD

The District and teams use the Johns Hopkins University National Network of Partnership Schools' (NNPS) School, Family and Community Partnerships' six types of involvement and other evidence-based models to assist in increasing parent engagement and student achievement: (1) **Communication**, (2) **Parenting**, (3) **Student Learning**, (4) **Volunteering**, (5) **Decision-Making**, and (6) **Community Collaboration**. By the way, LRSD was recognized by NNPS with the 2021 District Partnership Award for excellent district leadership on school, family, and community partnerships.

The Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) program serves as a major connection between home and school. Statistics show students perform better academically when parents are involved in their education. Contact your child's school for more information.

The Volunteers in Public Schools (ViPS) program involves parents and other stakeholders in the education of children. Volunteers serve as tutors, mentors, classroom speakers, classroom helpers and in many other capacities. If you are interested in volunteering time or resources, please call 447-ViPS (447-8477) or visit www.LRSD.org/ViPS.

Partners in Education (PIE) brings businesses and schools together to support education. Businesses, large and small, are invited to participate. Business partners recruit employees as volunteers, make in-kind donations and/or contribute funds to help meet a school's needs. For more information: 447-ViPS (447-8477) or visit www.LRSD.org/partners.

To become more involved in your child's education, consider volunteering:

LRPTA information: www.LRSD.org/PTA

LR Volunteers in Public Service information: www.LRSD.org/ViPS

Happenings Around the District



2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT

LITTLE ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT



• SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT DESIGNATIONS •

2020-2021 School Year Accreditation Status: All 42 schools fully accredited

School Improvement Designations

Nineteen (19) schools were classified as In Need of Support and Improvement schools. LRSD identified as a Level 4 district. Needs Support and Improvement schools had a lower Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) School Index score overall or for a specific subgroup. A high school will be "In Need of Support and Improvement" if it does not meet the graduation rate target. Fourteen (14) schools were identified as In Need of Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) or Additional Targeted Support (ATS) schools. Schools are identified as in need of TSI based on their classification as a Title I school and their ESSA School Index score for any subgroup falling below an established 1% cut score for three consecutive years. Schools are identified as in need of ATS when a subgroup is also performing below the 5% cut score. Five (5) schools were classified as In Need of Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) schools. CSI schools include 5% of Title I schools with the lowest ESSA School Index score over a three year period.

AP and PSAT/NMSQT Results

AP RESULTS

The Advanced Placement (AP) program offers high school students a rigorous, college-level curriculum that readies students for college. Students scoring a 3, 4, or 5 on the AP exam may receive college credit. The district had 1,221 exams with a qualifying score of a 3, 4, or 5. An AP Scholar is a student who received scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP exams. The district has 270 scholars receiving 296 awards with the following designations: AP Scholar, AP Scholar with Honor, and AP Scholar with Distinction. Twenty-two students received an AP Capstone Diploma, and four students received the AP Seminar and Research Certificate.

PSAT/NMSQT

The Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) serves as an initial screener for scholars. The nationwide pool of Semifinalists represents fewer than one percent of U.S. high school seniors and only includes the highest scoring students in each state. Arkansas had a total of 141 semi-finalist. Of those, LRSD had the most students with 29 students named National Merit Semifinalists.

2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT

LITTLE ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT

2021 RANKINGS:

Top 5% of Schools in Arkansas with High Student Performance (based on ACT Aspire)

Don Roberts Elementary
Forest Park Elementary
Jefferson Elementary

Top 5% of Schools in Arkansas with Most Growth (based on ACT Aspire)

Forest Park Elementary

Top 6%-10% of Schools in Arkansas with Most Growth (based on ACT Aspire)

Don Roberts Elementary

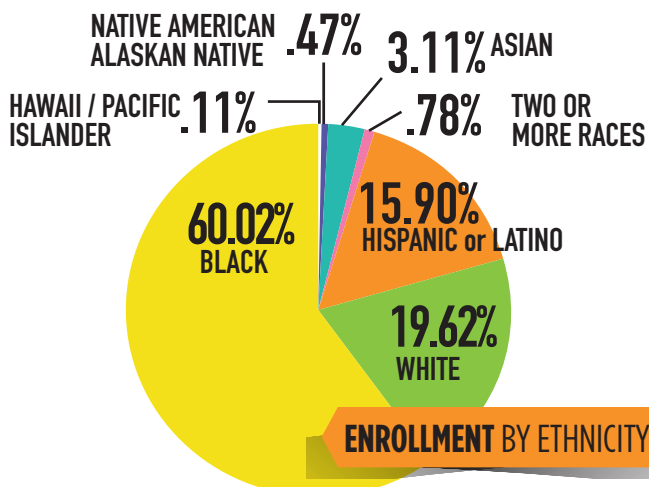
US NEWS AND WORLD REPORT RANKINGS

BEST HIGH SCHOOLS IN ARKANSAS

| | |
|------------|-----------------------------|
| #14 of 271 | Parkview Magnet High School |
| #15 of 271 | Central High School |

BEST HIGH SCHOOLS IN ARKANSAS METRO AREA

| | |
|----------|-----------------------------|
| #5 of 44 | Parkview Magnet High School |
| #6 of 44 | Central High School |





LITTLE ROCK
SCHOOL DISTRICT

ENROLLMENT

Take advantage of unique and innovative educational opportunities by enrolling in one of LRSD's schools. LRSD offers magnet schools, specialty programs, and career/professional studies, with concurrent credit opportunities.

LRSD Student Registration Office

501-447-2950

or visit www.LRSD.org/StudentRegistration

PRE-K (P3-P4) ENROLLMENT

The LRSD offers a free pre-school education of exceptional quality so your child will have a great start to his/her education. Pre-Kindergarten classes are located throughout the District in both elementary schools and early childhood centers.

501-447-7360

or visit www.LRSD.org/EarlyChildhood

IMPORTANT DATES

PARENT CONFERENCE DAY 1

Monday, February 17

after school—3 hours
(school in session)

PARENT CONFERENCE DAY 2

STUDENTS OUT

Tuesday, February 18

8:00-12:00 Elementary • 9:00-1:00 Secondary
(students out)

ARTISTRY IN THE ROCK

Monday, March 14 - Wednesday, March 16,
9am-2pm

Thursday, March 17, 9am-2pm and
6pm-8:30pm

VIPS - AN EVENING FOR THE STARS

Tuesday, April 19 - 5:30-7:30 pm

AP EXAMS

Monday, May 2 - Friday, May 6, and
Monday, May 9 - Friday, May 13

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

Monday, May 2 - Friday, May 6

OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL CHOICE WINDOW

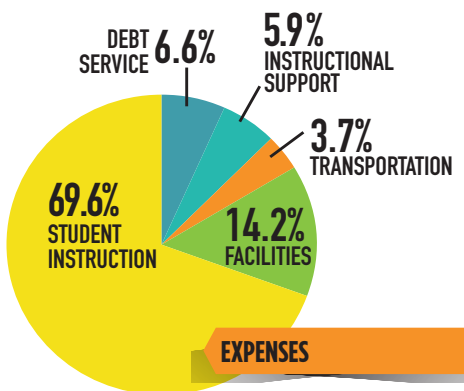
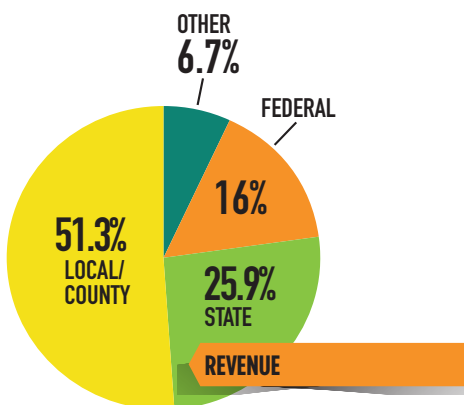
May 1 Deadline • Parent application must be postmarked
July 1 • Notification from non-resident district

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATIONS

War Memorial Stadium - MAY 24-25:

Visit www.LRSD.org for school specific
graduation information

2020-2021 REVENUE & EXPENSES



REVENUE

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Local/County..... | \$164,740,755 |
| State..... | \$83,272,303 |
| Federal Grants..... | \$51,437,261 |
| Other..... | \$21,455,206 |
| Total Revenue..... | \$320,905,525 |

Tax Rate (Mills)..... 46.4

EXPENSES

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Student Instruction..... | \$225,103,634 |
| Instructional Support..... | \$18,980,548 |
| Transportation..... | \$11,817,485 |
| Facilities..... | \$45,851,749 |
| Debt Service..... | \$21,455,206 |
| Total Expenses..... | \$323,208,622 |

Expense Per Pupil.....\$15,766

Average Teacher Salary.....\$61,845

First Year Teacher Salary.....\$36,000

LRSD's volunteer program, Volunteers in Public Schools (ViPS) is a vital component in the operation of all of our schools.

Total Volunteer Hours..... 466,042

Equivalent in Dollars.....\$13,300,845

Total Number of Partners in Education (PIE) 243