

LITTLE ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT

Annual Report
2009-2010



Dodd Elementary



Western Hills Elementary



Hall High



Forest Heights Middle

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2009-2010 LRSD Board Members

Charles Armstrong, President

Melanie Fox, Vice President

Jody Carreiro, Secretary

Dianne Curry

Robert M. Daugherty

H. Baker Kurrus

Dr. Katherine Mitchell

GREETINGS

Superintendent Dr. Linda Watson



Linda Watson

The Little Rock School District is *Creating Excellence for Tomorrow*. This past spring the board of directors approved a new strategic plan, Target 2015, which will lead our district forward for the next five years. The plan's emphasis is on student achievement and all the roles in this district which build upon the success of our students. From improving leadership to classroom instruction

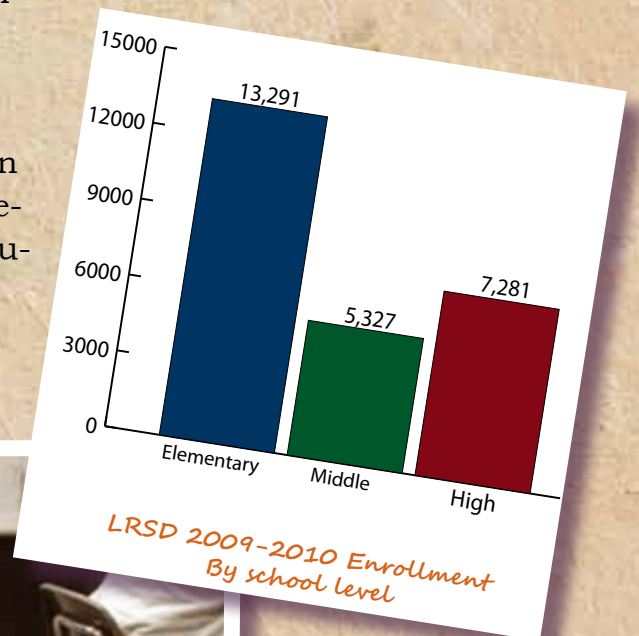
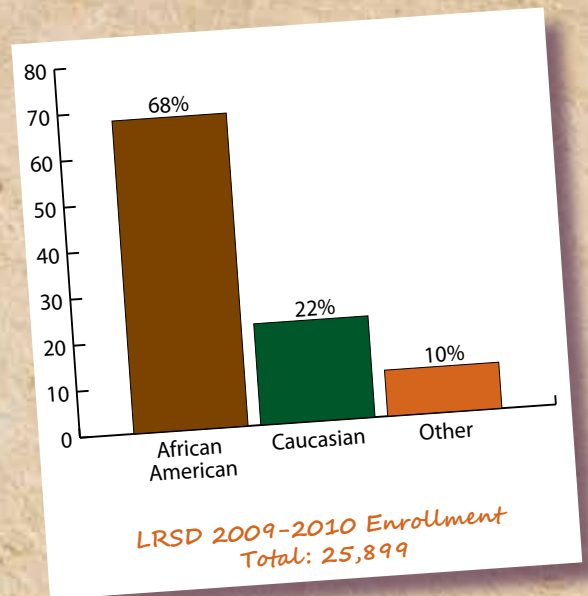
and rigorous curriculum, the plan demands excellence from us all.

I am so excited to outline the achievement of the district in this year's report. Since 2006, students have made double-digit gains in all tests. This shows us how far we have actually come in the past five years. We still have challenges ahead, but this shows us we are on the right path.

As a native of Central Arkansas, I believe in our community and I recognize the importance of strong public schools which prepare students to be valuable workers and good citizens upon graduation. I know together we can work to make our hometown the best it can be as we continue to **create excellence**.



Bale Elementary



FUNDING

over \$310 million annual budget

46.4 mills tax rate

\$51,877 average teacher salary

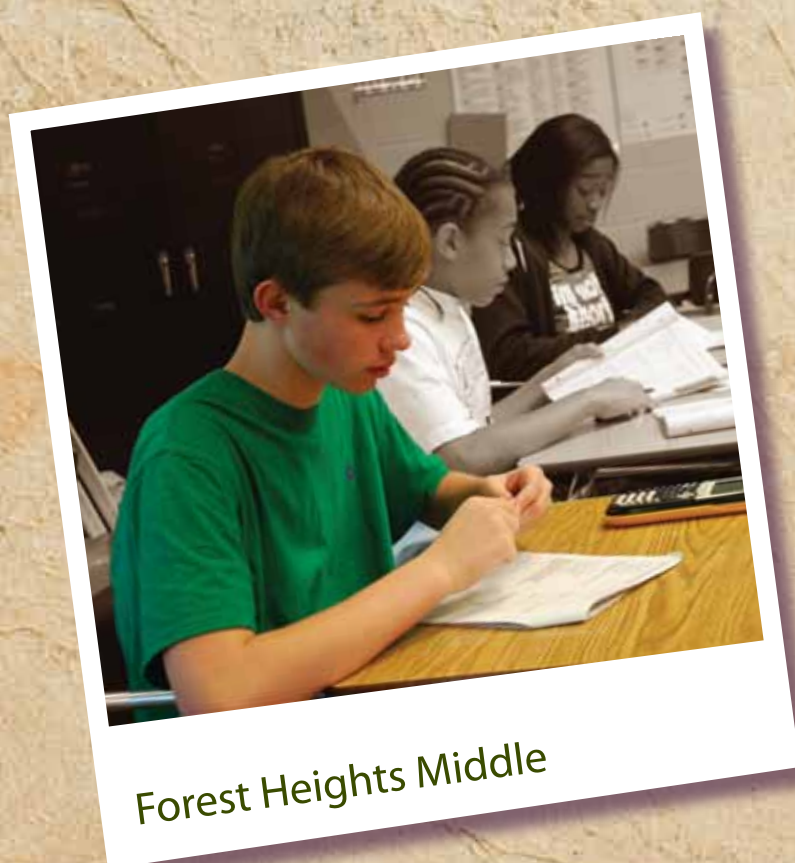
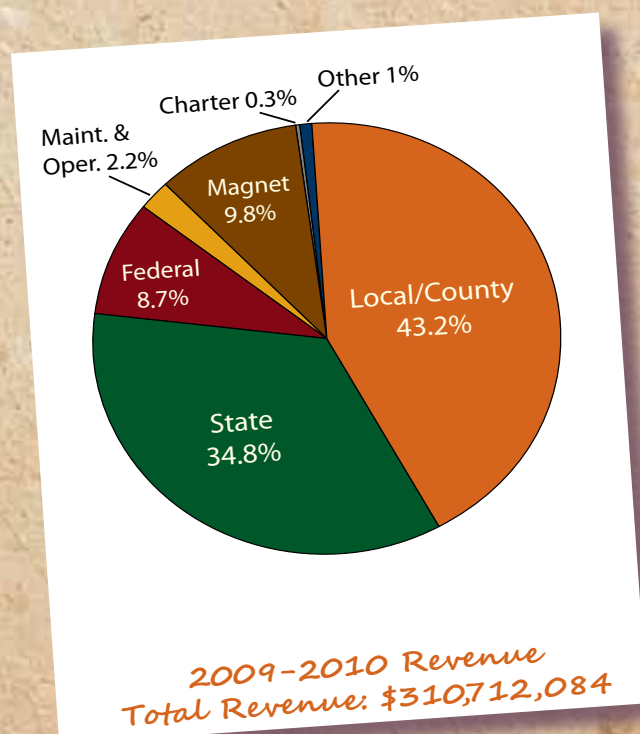
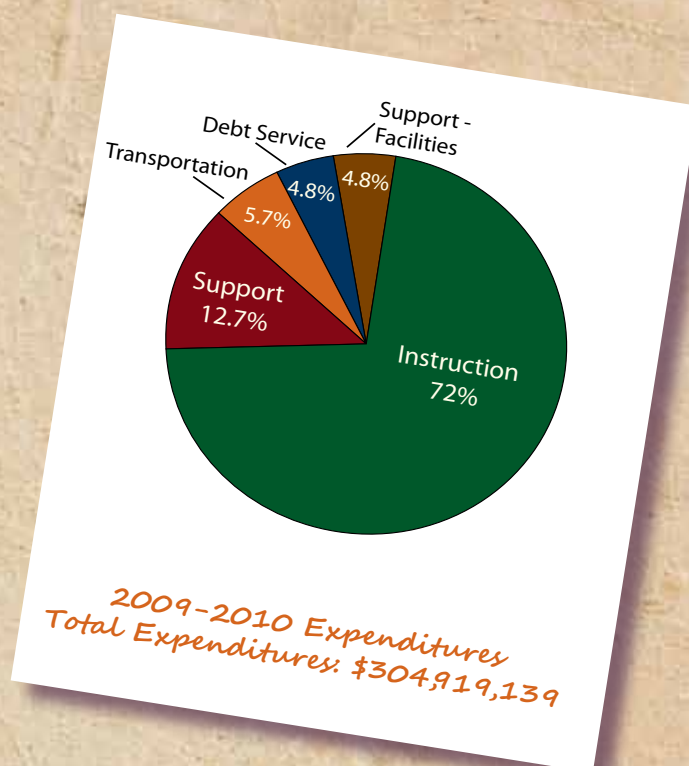
\$32,793 first year teacher salary

655,340 volunteer hours served for

a value of \$13,270,635

\$27,140,527 total grant funding received

\$6,039,525 ARRA stimulus funds spent



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

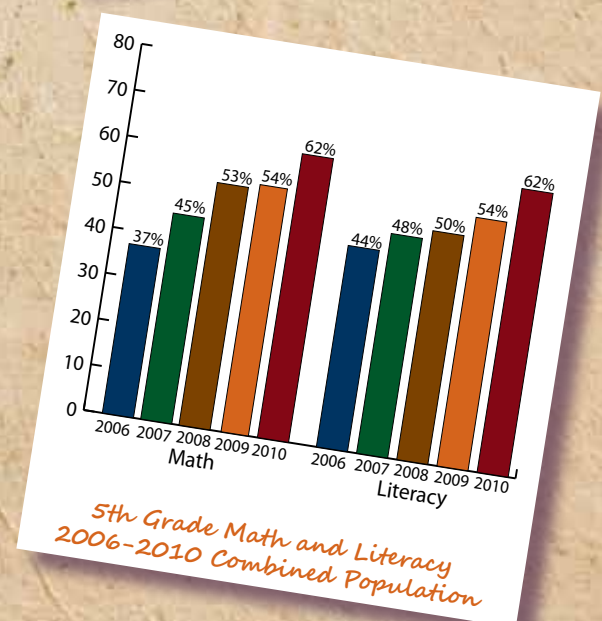
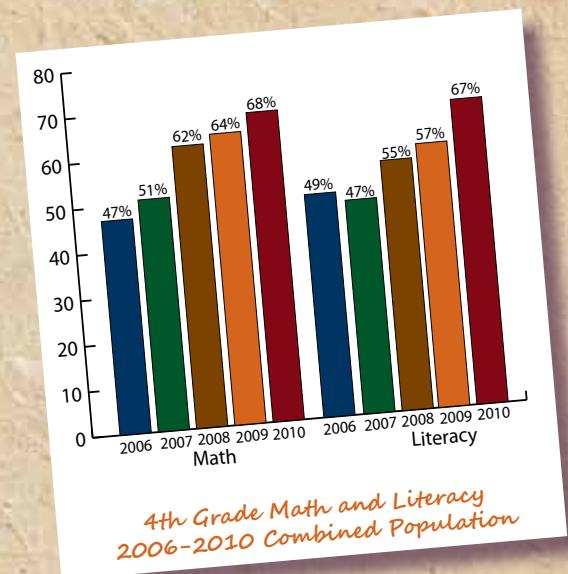
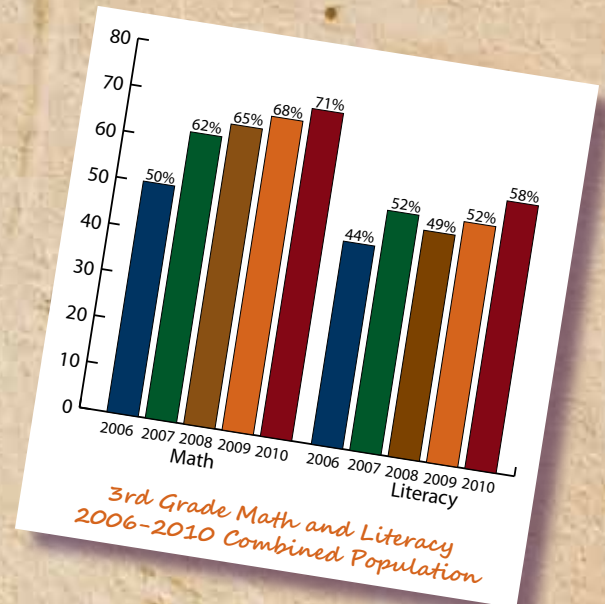
Elementary Schools



Forest Park Elementary

Elementary students showed growth in both literacy (8%) and math (5%) in grades 3rd through 5th. Economically disadvantaged, African American, Hispanic/Latino, and Limited English Proficiency subpopulations showed growth at each grade level on both the literacy and math test. The populations showing the most gains were third grade Hispanic/Latino math students which increased the number of advanced or proficient by 16% over last year. Economically disadvantaged students in fourth grade improved by 12% on the literacy exam. African American fourth grade students made an 11% gain in literacy.

Twenty-four of twenty-eight elementary schools made growth in combined population in both literacy and math. Mabelvale Elementary School showed the most growth of any elementary school with a 23% increase in math scores and a 20% increase in literacy.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

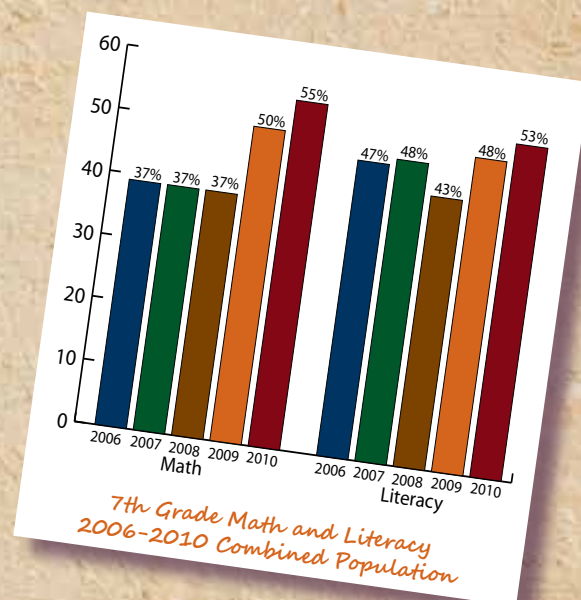
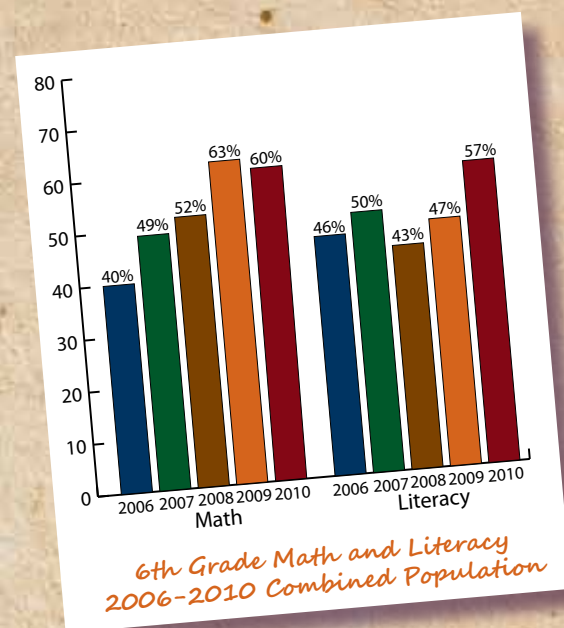
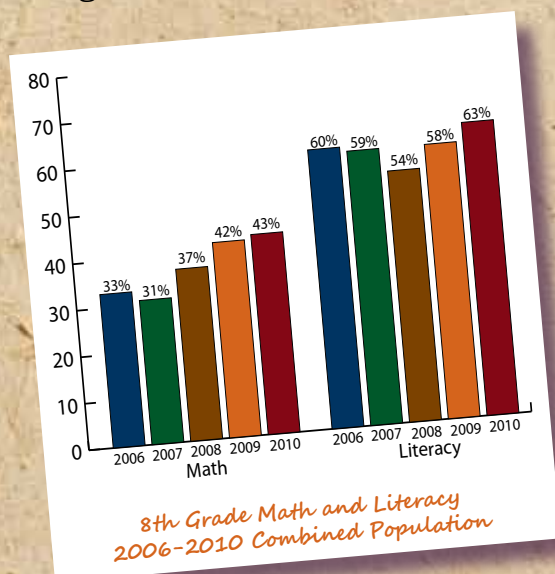
Middle Schools

In middle school, literacy scores improved at all grade levels (6th through 8th) by an average of almost seven percent per grade with all seven middle schools showing growth. Math scores in grades seventh and eighth gained three percent. Middle schools showing the largest increases were Dunbar which nearly made a 10% gain at each grade level in literacy and Pulaski Heights which made close to a seven percent gain in math and nine percent gains in literacy. Cloverdale improved six percent per grade level in math and five percent per grade level in literacy.

Algebra I Scores

Even though Algebra I is traditionally taken in high school, some students take the course in middle school. This year the middle school students at several schools did an outstanding job of mastering Algebra I, as seen by their end-of-year benchmark exams.

School	% Proficient/ Advanced
Dunbar	93%
Forest Heights	100%
Mann	100%
Pulaski Heights	100%



School improvement ratings for 2010

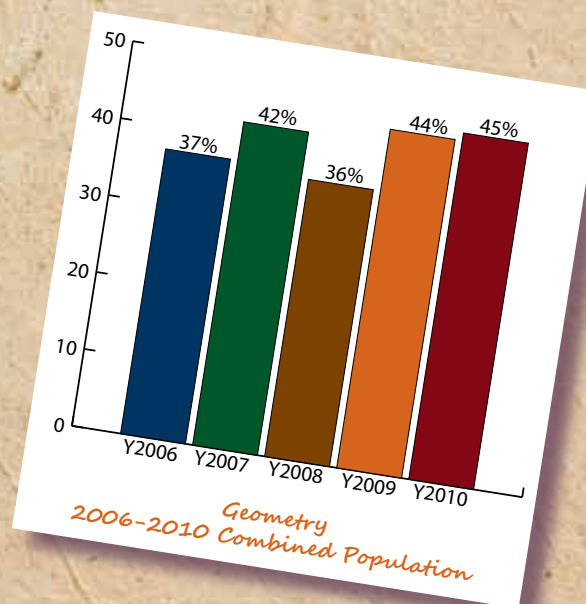
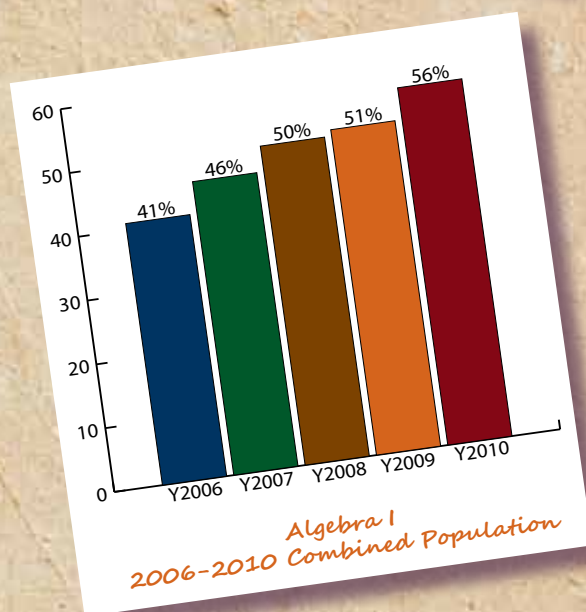
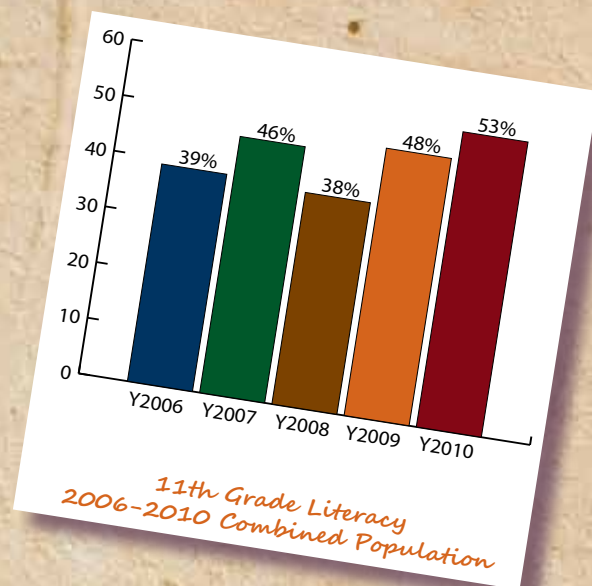
Met standards	16
Did not meet standards:	
Alert	6
Year 1	5
Year 2	4
Year 3	3
Year 4	3
Year 5	2
Year 6	3
Year 7	7
Year 8	1

Number of campuses

High Schools



Central High



183 AP Scholars

4,064 AP exams taken by LRSD students

982 scores of 3 or better on AP exams

24 National Merit Scholars

4 National Merit Commended Scholars

2 National Achievement Scholars

2 National Achievement Outstanding Participant

\$19.5 million in scholarships

accepted by the Class of 2010

STRATEGIC PLAN

In the Spring of 2010, the Little Rock School District Board of Directors approved a new five year strategic plan for the district. This plan was created over a 10 month period by representatives from diverse segments of the community. The complete plan can be viewed at www.LRSD.org under the Board section. Below is a summary of the six target areas.

Target #1: Ambitious, eye-popping goals

It is essential that the district establish eye-popping goals that will get each of us (students and adults alike) striving to attain them. Not only do we need more students to reach the level of proficient and advanced on standardized tests, we must work to eliminate the achievement gaps that exist across the district. Our five year goals expect that 85 to 90 percent of all Little Rock students achieve at least the proficiency level on state tests in reading and math, and to have 50 percent or more of all minority students achieving at the advanced levels. Attainment of these goals would establish the Little Rock School District as one of the highest performing urban districts in the country and dramatically reduce the current achievement gaps.

Target #2: Research proven strategies for attaining our goals

- a. Develop annual and five year improvement goals for each school.
- b. Adopt a new curriculum with a greater focus on whole class, teacher directed instruction, with a more systemic approach to reading across the entire district.
- c. Develop a comprehensive and more parsimonious

battery of student assessments with a strategic mix of diagnostic, formative, benchmark, and summative assessments.

d. Create school schedules that enable collaborative work by Professional Learning Communities of teachers.

e. Enhance and focus ongoing professional development on improved instruction in reading, math, writing, and science, and provide instructional

coaches to support teachers across all schools and classrooms.

f. Reduce the number of student interventions and improve the effectiveness of those interventions that remain in place.

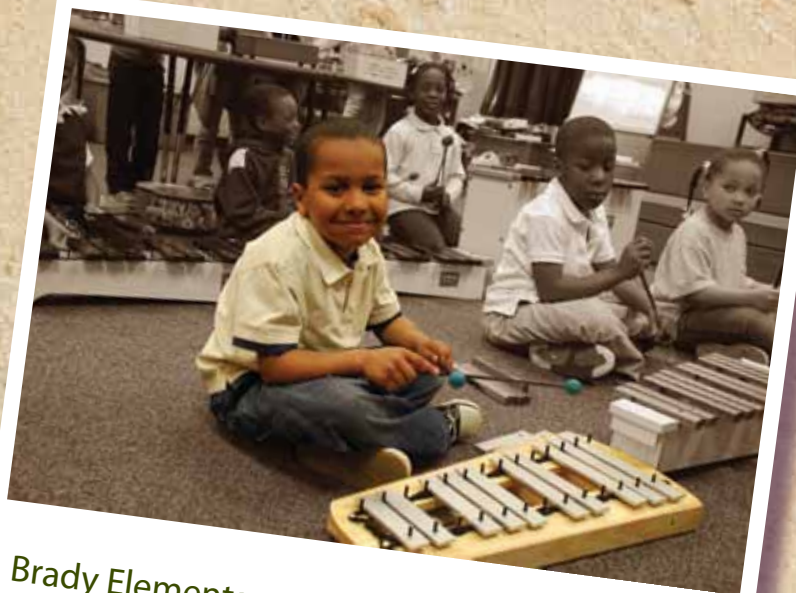
Target #3: Adequate and effective funding for our schools

Our district has adequate fiscal resources to meet our goals. What is needed

is a budget process, resource allocation guidelines, resource reallocation structures, and an accounting system that will enable us to allocate resources to areas of greatest need and programs that are most effective throughout the district.

Target #4: Recruitment and retention of a high quality staff

Nearly all districts that have been successful in moving the student achievement needle by large amounts, and reducing the achievement gap in the process, have expanded their talent pool beyond



Brady Elementary



Pulaski Heights Elementary

just individuals available in the local market for educators, while appropriately enhancing diversity of their teachers and principals. Little Rock is no exception and will need to implement strategies – including more national recruitment for top teacher and leadership talent – that have been successful elsewhere if we are to ensure that our children have access to the best teachers, and our teachers receive the support of talented and performance-oriented site administrators.

Target #5: Data and Accountability

Little Rock needs a streamlined data and accountability system that links students, teachers and schools so growth and value-added analyses can be conducted, and includes performance on formative, anchor, end-of-course, SOAR and state assessments along with appropriate demographic data. This assessment system will be the structure within which all programs, students and teachers are evaluated on a regular basis, including consideration of a new salary schedule for teachers.

2009-2010 Statistics

Attendance Rate	93.8%
Graduation Rate	78.9%
Dropout Rate	2%

Target #6: Effective, Performance Driven Leadership

All community and school district stakeholders will be carefully watching the elected leadership of the school system to measure its collective commitment to the bold changes outlined in this plan. In order to send a clear message that the school board understands the need for fundamental change throughout the school district, the board itself must become a prime example of change that leads to improvement.



Forest Heights Middle

SPOTLIGHT

Monica Norwood received the Presidential Award for Excellence for her math instruction at Romine Elementary. She is the only recipient named from the state of Arkansas.

Mary Katherine Parson, a biology teacher at Central High School, was named 2009 Arkansas Outstanding Biology Teacher of the Year by the National Association of Biology Teachers.

Two Central High School seniors, Yi Wu (left) and Helio Liu (right), were selected as winners of the 2009-2010 Siemens Award for Advanced Placement based on their exceptional performance on Advanced Placement (AP) exams in math and science courses.



Siemens Award Winners

The Siemens Foundation and the College Board named Dr. Vickie Logan as a recipient of the 2009 Siemens Award for Advanced Placement for Teachers. Dr. Logan, who teaches Pre-AP and AP Biology at Parkview Arts & Science Magnet High School, was the only teacher from Arkansas among the 50 educators nationwide who were chosen to be so honored.

Cathy Hayes, an English teacher at Central High School, was named 2009 Arkansas High School English Teacher of the Year by the Arkansas Council of Teachers of English and Language Arts (ACTELA).

Vicki Stroud Gonterman, International Studies Specialist at Gibbs Magnet Elementary School of International Studies and Foreign Languages, was named Arkansas History Teacher of the Year by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History and Preserve America.

Three students and two educators were named winners of the 2010 Stephens Award. The educator winners include Monica D. Ball, a science teacher at Parkview Magnet High School, and Mary Katherine Parson, a science teacher at Central High School. The student winners include: Yi Wu of Central High School; Helio Liu of Central High School; and Siteng Ma of Central High School.



Monica Norwood



Cathy Hayes

SPOTLIGHT

Hall High senior Myron Jackson was named “2009-2010 Mentee of the Year” by the Board of Directors of 100 Black Men of America, Inc.

Three seniors from the Little Rock School District were named winners of the NCTE Achievement Award in Writing by the National Council of Teachers of English: Jessica Riddick, Central High School; Connor Thompson, Parkview Magnet High School; and Neelam Vyas, Central High School.

Central High School’s Quiz Bowl team went undefeated in the 7A State Quiz Bowl competition.

Winners in the statewide JETS (Junior Engineering Technical Society) competition revealed two LRSD teams at the top of their divisions: J.A. Fair High School Team B and Central High School.

Siteng Ma (1st place) and Theresa Edattukaren (2nd place), both students at Little Rock Central High School, won the top awards at the 2010 Arkansas Science Talent Search.



Myron Jackson

Debate students from Parkview Magnet High School successfully defended their state title at the Arkansas Mock Trial Championships.

Central High School’s Science Bowl team took first place in the Arkansas-Oklahoma Science Quiz Bowl competition.

The team of Michael Anda and Lindsey Garland from Central High School won the Junior Varsity debate title at the Harvard University National Debate and Student Congress Tournament in Boston.



Parkview Debate Team

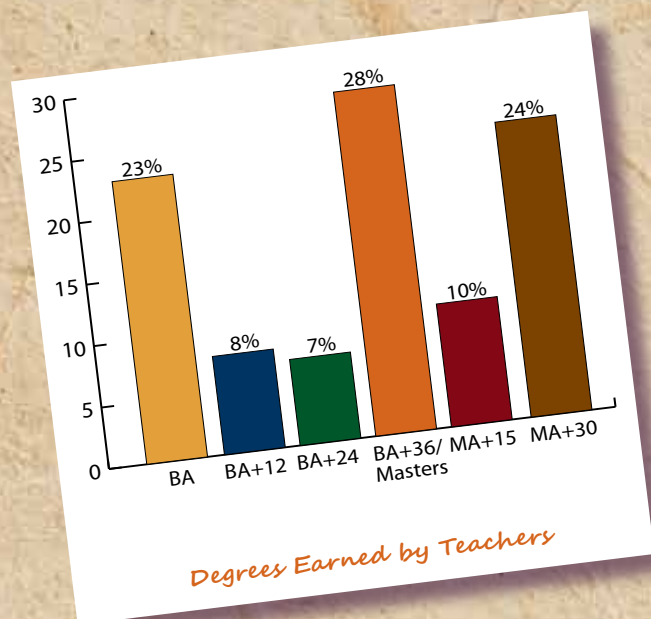
Yi Wu, a senior at Central High School, was selected as a semifinalist in the Siemens Competition in Math, Science & Technology. Her submission was one of the 300 projects selected for semifinalist status from the 1,400 projects submitted from throughout the nation, and it was the only project from Arkansas to be so honored.

Parkview debaters placed first at the Arkansas Student Congress.



Central Debate Team

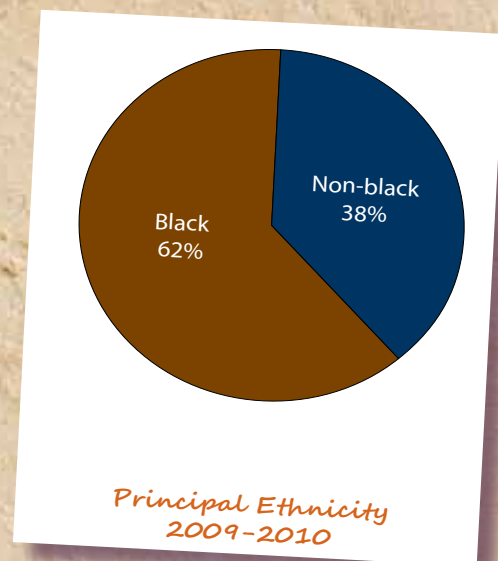
EMPLOYEES



24 teachers earned certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards

145 Nationally Board Certified teachers in LRSD

2,090 teachers work in LRSD



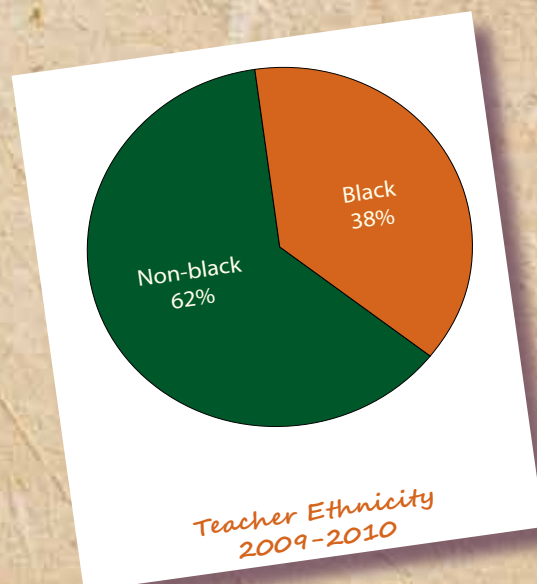
2010 Teachers of the Year

Marian Lacey Educator of the Year
Mary Katherine Parson, Central

Elementary Teacher of the Year
Susan Blue, Booker Magnet

Middle School Teacher of the Year
Lavon Cyr, Mabelvale
Rugen Anderson, Mann Magnet

High School Teacher of the Year
Fred Boosey, Parkview Magnet



FACILITIES

Major Improvement Projects

Roof Replacement

Forest Park Elementary
Rockefeller Elementary
Woodruff Elementary

Bus Drive and Parking Lot

Mabelvale Elementary

Gym Floor Replacement

Mann Magnet Middle

Locker Room Renovation

Mabelvale Middle

Restroom Renovation

McClellan High
Pulaski Heights Middle

Fire Alarm Replacement

Carver Elementary
Woodruff Elementary

Waterproofing

King Elementary

HVAC Improvements

Hamilton Learning Academy
McDermott Elementary
Parkview Magnet High
Pulaski Heights Middle

Playground Equipment

Carver Elementary
Franklin Elementary
Jefferson Elementary
Wakefield Elementary
Watson Elementary



Woodruff Early Childhood Center

Woodruff Early Childhood Center

Woodruff, which has been an elementary school since it first opened its doors in 1911, began the 2009-2010 school year as an Early Childhood Center. The only students attending Woodruff are three- or four-year-olds who are learning their ABCs and 123s!

Woodruff, although the oldest building still in use by the Little Rock School District, is the district's newest center dedicated solely to help young children succeed in school. The building was extensively remodeled to accommodate a Pre-K center, along with measures to keep students safe.

FACILITIES

Dr. Don R. Roberts Elementary

Don R. Roberts Elementary is a two-story, 147,431 square-foot building. It features two art rooms, two music rooms, a gymnasium, a large cafeteria, an EAST lab and a state-of-the-art media center. A unique learning environment groups classrooms by grade level in “communities,” each with a multipurpose room for gatherings and special projects. Interactive white boards linked to computers are among the high-tech learning tools utilized by teachers and students in the classrooms.

The original land for this school was purchased in August 2007 for \$5.3 million. Site preparation began in January 2009, with actual construction of the building beginning in March 2009. Construction of the building was completed in July 2010.



Roberts Elementary



Meet the Principal Night

Verizon Wireless Field at Quigley Cox Stadium



Verizon Wireless Field

Quigley Cox Stadium got an upgrade this year with its first synthetic turf field. With a \$250,000 donation by Verizon Wireless, the field was named Verizon Wireless Field. The total cost of the project was \$530,000 which came solely from private donation from the community. Major donors include Joe Johnson, Houston Nutt, the Peters family, Arkansas Baptist College, the Little Rock Convention Bureau, and Foxwood Sports.

Today Quigley Cox Stadium is the home to not only Tiger football, but also the home field for Arkansas Baptist College on Saturday evenings and the Life Champs organization on Sunday afternoons.

A special thanks goes to Dr. Drake Hawkins who spearheaded the project.



LITTLE ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT

www.LRSD.org • 810 W. Markham • Little Rock, AR 72201