

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



LRSD.org



**2018** Community Report





# Message from Superintendent Mike Poore



## LITTLE ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT

Greetings, Parents and Community Members,

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter to provide an update on the status of the Little Rock School District. Much of what you read in the report that follows includes highlights from the 2017-18 school year; however, you will also find current efforts underway to support our students, pre-K through graduation. I truly believe that with the commitment of our staff, administrators, parents and community, we will continue to be a District "on the rise." Below are just a few of the examples of the kinds of collaboration that are helping us continue moving the needle:

- Enhanced Community Partnerships - adding CALS, Little Rock Zoo, Rock Region Metro, Southwest Power Pool
- Expanded Career Education Opportunities - doubling number of Excel students, doubling numbers in Police and Fire Cadet programs, and introducing Naviance career exploration tool
- Enhanced Literacy efforts with addition of Dyslexia Specialist, state RISE initiative and continuation of *One District One Book* model
- Began Addressing Chronic Absenteeism - Feet to the Seat Campaign

To further these efforts, our goal remains to attract and retain high-quality teachers who are invested in helping us deliver on the promises of equipping our students with 21st century skills to prepare them for college and career.

As stewards of the public's trust, LRSD continues to refine practices in financial planning while also monitoring spending levels. LRSD's ability to forecast and analyze District expenses is critical due to the resulting settlement and loss of desegregation funds, as well as a decrease in student enrollment. However, even with the decrease in our budget, the District has maintained a healthy fiscal status while continuing to deliver high-quality educational services. We are proud to have had no major audit findings for the past nine years.

The District also continues its focus on ensuring that our facilities meet our students' needs. You may be aware that LRSD obtained a second-lien loan last fall which allowed the District to complete significant capital improvements at many of our campuses. A portion of those funds were also dedicated to fulfill a promise to students and families in the Southwest area of our District, with the construction of a new high school, slated to open in 2020. A topping-out ceremony for the new school was held in October. Other key improvements include: new security cameras in all secondary schools, new roofs, air conditioning work, and upgraded athletic facilities.

LRSD conducted a series of Blueprint community conversations this fall and will use this information to develop a plan for District facilities over the next few years, that serve our school community both in and out of the classroom. As financial resources improve, the District's teachers, principals, and other staff members are increasing their efforts to raise academic achievement of already high performing students and dramatically accelerate the achievement of those who need the most support.

We will continue to place a priority on engaging students through relevant and meaningful learning experiences that include Pre-K services, project-based learning, career technical education, science, engineering, technology and math (STEM), as well as the arts, music and athletics. That means providing additional resources for teachers. We have implemented the Teacher Excellence Support System (TESS), a model that promotes a professional learning environment for educators to support collaboration and positively impact students.

Thanks to the generosity of individuals and community partners, we were also able to provide additional support to our students last year through more than \$27 million worth of volunteer hours. Our sometimes challenging, yet, always rewarding work, requires all of us to ensure student success. LRSD excels because of this collaborative effort, focus and commitment - truly exemplifying the "Power of Us."

Thank you for choosing to be a part of Little Rock Public Schools and for entrusting us to serve your students.

Sincerely,

Mike Poore,  
LRSD Superintendent





# Feet to the Seat Campaign encourages LRSD students to be at school every day

LRSD launched the new Feet to the Seat Campaign in September to combat chronic absenteeism through helping parents and students understand the importance of daily school attendance. It was timed to coincide with National Attendance Awareness Month. Created in partnership with the Heart of Arkansas United Way, AR Kids Read, and the Optimist Club of Greater Little Rock, Feet to the Seat utilizes social media, mass media, parent messaging systems and community outreach to share how absenteeism impacts student performance.

"It takes all of us working together – home, school, and community – to provide the support our students need," said LRSD Superintendent Mike Poore. "We are grateful for this important partnership with Heart of United Way, the Optimist Club, and AR Kids Read. 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."

"We believe the community has a responsibility to support the important work our schools are doing. This partnership has allowed us to develop materials that will help students develop the skills and habits they need early in the school year to be at school, on time, every day," said Mollie Palmer, Director of Marketing and Communications for the Heart of Arkansas United Way.

"We have a responsibility to support children and families in our community. Our organization is built around helping students to establish the foundational skill of reading, which hinges on attendance. This partnership has not only allowed us to develop materials and support the critical work our schools are doing but has given a greater picture of the impact that can be made when we come together," said Megan Golden, Director of Marketing and Outreach for AR Kids Read.

## Facts about chronic absenteeism:

- Students are considered chronically absent when they miss ten percent of the school year for any reason. You may not realize it, but that's just two days per month!
- Students who are chronically absent do not perform as well academically. Children who are chronically absent are less likely to read proficiently by the end of third grade, which is a key indicator toward future success. In later grades, chronic absence is a key warning sign that a student will drop out of school.
- Being present in the classroom is key to the development of social skills that students need.
- The Little Rock School District will continue to host several events to bring awareness to the ongoing campaign to increase attendance, including an Instagram contest and community walks.



## WHAT IS CHRONIC ABSENCE?

Students are considered chronically absent when they miss ten percent of the school year for any reason. You may not realize it, but that's only **TWO DAYS A MONTH!**



## Good2Go Breakfast Giving Kids the Start They Need

An exciting new breakfast opportunity was introduced to LRSD high school students last spring, aiming to help them have a tasty and healthy start to their day – fruit smoothies. No Kid Hungry Arkansas, led by the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance, joined with Baptist Health and the District to host Governor Asa Hutchinson in announcing the partnership to assure more students at Hall, J.A. Fair and McClellan high schools begin their day with a nutritious breakfast. The Good2Go breakfast program is an effort to provide students with an enjoyable and portable

way to get the nutrition they need. As supporters of Governor Hutchinson's Healthy Active Arkansas Plan, No Kid Hungry Arkansas and Baptist Health assisted LRSD with customizing the Grab-and-Go breakfast model to help high-need schools increase participation in the federally funded school breakfast program. Since the launch, the District has received grant funds from Midwest Dairy and the No Kid Hungry campaign to implement the program in all middle and high schools.





# The Power of US!



**LITTLE ROCK**  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Virtually LRSD

With students in charge, LRSD's back-to-school convocation continued its virtual delivery, kicking off the 2018-19 school year via Facebook Live Streaming. The event, highlighting students from elementary, middle and high school levels, was moderated by LRSD Superintendent Mike Poore. The innovative technological approach continued this year following feedback from staff members who had expressed the desire for a more convenient way to participate, which included the opportunity to view the event at their respective buildings. The event also featured a live performance by G-Music (current/former LRSD students). Staff heard inspirational messages from students and were eligible to win door prizes, compliments of generous sponsors. Title sponsor, Everett Buick GMC: donated two Marriott Spring Break Get-away trips; VALIC: donated a Bluetooth speaker; and Superintendent Poore: \$500 to a lucky winner.



## Be in the Know 24/7... with Blackboard App

With an average 77% of parents reportedly owning a Smartphone, schools are able to communicate with parents anytime, anywhere on the devices they know and love. In addition to app notifications, with Blackboard, you get to select when, where, and how you want to receive your messages at a time that's convenient for you: phone, text or email — or any combination of the three! Blackboard will only override those settings in cases of emergency. Check out regular features and tutorials by visiting the [lrstd.org](http://lrstd.org) website and clicking on the "Parent" tab, then on Blackboard, under the "General" category. Don't forget to download the free Little Rock School District App in iTunes and Google Play.

## Sorry, Wrong Number...

Help us keep you in the loop by making sure you update your contact information at your child's school. Inclement weather can hit quickly and it is essential that the District have a method for contacting you in the event of emergencies.

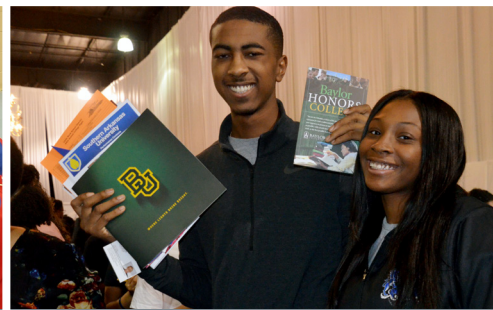
If/when a decision is made to close schools, we will notify you the following ways:

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

Plus...don't forget to brush up on your student's AMI plan. With the Alternate Method of Instruction, learning continues no matter the weather. You may have already received information from your child's school related to class assignments on inclement weather days or any other day that school may be closed during an unforeseen emergency. Now is a good time to familiarize yourself with the plan. Visit [lrstd.org](http://lrstd.org), click on Parents, then on the tab that says "AMI".







## 2017-2018 LRSD HIGHLIGHTS



**PARTNERS IN  
EDUCATION**

For information about how your organization or business can become a LRSD Partner in Education (PIE), contact the ViPS office: 447-ViPS (4450) or [tamara.blaylock@lrsd.org](mailto:tamara.blaylock@lrsd.org)



# Facilities and Utilization



## Blueprint Brainstorming – Planning for the Future

The Little Rock School District began community conversations this fall to gain community input, seek recommendations, and hear concerns about learning environments, choices, and improvements - all with the goal of laying the foundation for a Facilities Master Plan. These Community Blueprint Discussion sessions took place over multiple meetings at sites throughout the District. There were three big strategies for the process: 1) Improving Academic Environments, 2) Enhancing Parental Choices, and 3) Improving Staff Salaries (with an emphasis on Starting Teacher Salaries). Feedback from the sessions was compiled, followed by surveys. The proposed plan will be reviewed by the LRSD Community Advisory Board before final recommendations are made.



## Facilities Facelift

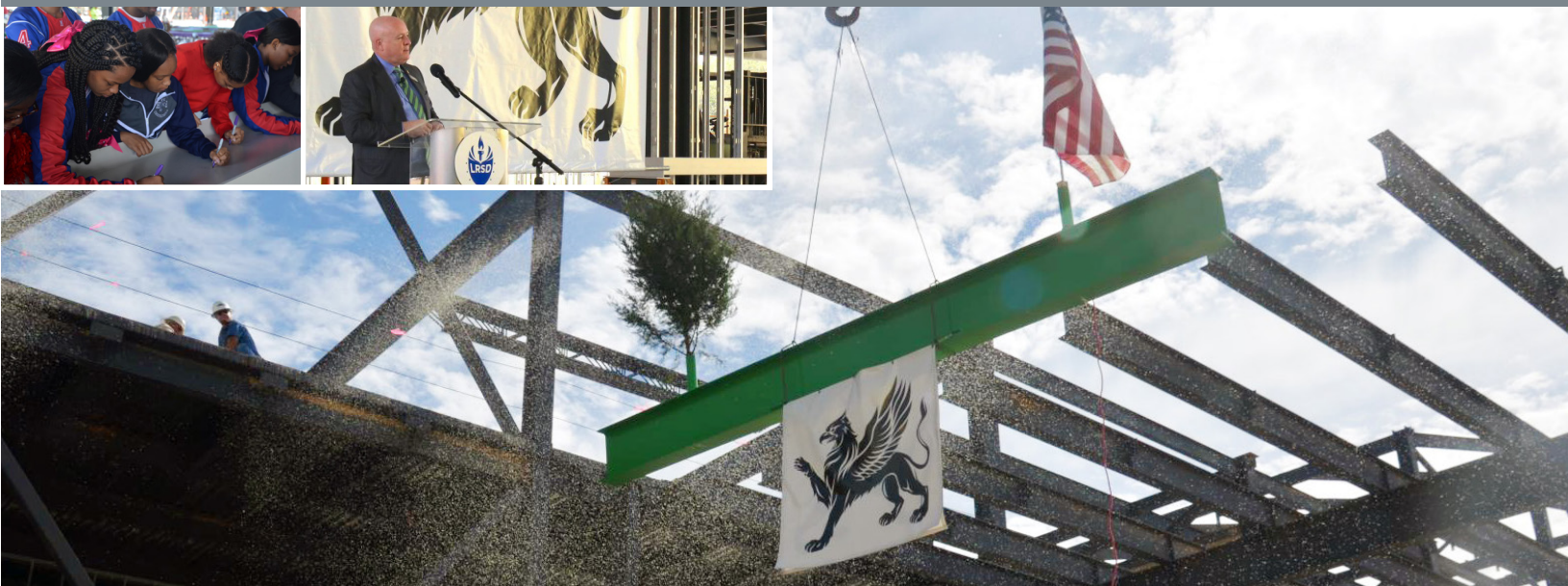
A second-lien loan obtained by LRSD last fall allowed for significant facilities improvements over the past several months. While the District had more than \$300 million identified improvement needs according to a 2014 study, the \$90 million infusion from the second-lien loan provided upgrades to athletic facilities that include air conditioning in gyms, and football field enhancements; new state-of-the-art security cameras and systems

districtwide; a project to waterproof the front of Dunbar; roofing work at many buildings; and energy conservation projects for six of the District's largest consumers. With the support of our school community, LRSD is committed to maintaining facilities at a level that enables our teachers to meet the needs of 21st century learners.





# Facilities and Utilization



## Topping Out New Little Rock Southwest High School

The LRSW High School project is making great progress and is on schedule! In the academic building, the structural steel is complete, roofing has begun, and you can even see brick going up! Most of the stairwells are complete, including the collaboration stairs in the academic building, cafeteria and Fine Arts wing. On the interior, drywall installation began in November, and more detailed items such as millwork and finishes followed. On the exterior, window framing and glass will begin to be installed soon. After roofing is complete, the building will be in the dry.

At the arena, the steel frame and roof are complete, and the precast bleachers are currently being installed. Concrete block walls are being installed at the locker rooms, offices and storage areas.

The Athletics Fieldhouse walls are under construction and roof framing will

begin soon. In the near future, the infrastructure for the football field, track, baseball and softball fields will be installed. Site work on the parking lots and site utilities is ongoing, including the planning for the construction of the roundabout on Mabelvale Pike at the front entrance.

The District celebrated the building "Topping Out" in October by hoisting a bright green beam bearing the Gryphon Flag to the top of the building. Students and the community were given the opportunity to tour the building and sign the last beam that will be installed. Discussions regarding transitioning to the new building continue with teams from JA Fair, McClellan, and Hall (Hall students who reside in the LRSW attendance zone area able to attend the new school.) meeting monthly to ensure a smooth move for students and staff into the new state-of-the-art facility. LRSW will open in 2020.

## ONEROCK

The Little Rock School District honored student athletes in April with the inaugural "OneRock" Awards ceremony, featuring blown glass trophies created for the occasion by Arkansas artist James Hayes. Local sports anchors and former athletes, including Marcus Elliott, Fitz Hill, Keith Jackson, Romona McGee, and Erica Taylor, served as presenters.



The celebration grew from a desire by LRSD Superintendent Mike Poore to honor, in a meaningful way, outstanding athletes that were also excelling in the classroom and the community. The "ESPY-style" event recognized female and male athletes for all sports categories, overall LRSD Athletes and Coaches of the Year, as well as Media and Fan Favorites.

Overall LRSD Athletes of the Year – Alaysia Kelly, Hall and Tommy Crumpton, McClellan

Coaches of the Year – Dr. Beth Maris (Swimming Coach), Central and Al Flanigan (Basketball Coach), Parkview

When the upcoming nomination window opens, the public will be invited to submit names, photos and videos via social media featuring their favorite student-athletes for "Fan Favorite" votes. The OneRock Awards Ceremony will be held April 22, 2019, 7 p.m. Additional details on the location will be announced.

## Expansion of Model-Up Program Brings 6th and Spike

Following the successful launch of 6th grade football, through the 6th & Goal – Model-Up program, LRSD was able to expand athletic offerings to middle school students to now include volleyball. The District is exploring opportunities to add other sports. The program brings together energetic, determined student-athletes and caring mentors, doubling as volunteer coaches, who want to invest in students. The tool may be athletics, but the emphasis is on character-building, goal-setting and development for participating students. The hope is that the Little Rock School District Athletic Foundation will be able to solicit additional funding to support the effort. If you would like to make a donation to the program, visit [gofundme.com/6thandgoal-modelup](http://gofundme.com/6thandgoal-modelup).





# Community Partners for Reading Initiative

## A #STEM-ulating One District One Book Campaign



Now into its fourth edition, the LRSD **One District One Book** fall reading effort introduced STEM-focused books to all K-5 students. As with the first book, **The Lemonade War**, a district-wide launch in November promoted the simultaneous reading. However, two books were featured this time that also incorporated an emphasis on science: **Zoey Sassafras: Dragons and Marshmallows** for K-2nd graders, and **Frank Einstein and the Electro Finger** for 3rd-5th graders. Students also enjoyed performing chapter-themed science experiments. New community partners Southwest Power Pool and ARVEST Bank pitched in to purchase the books, joining Economics Arkansas to help support the campaign. Additionally, celebrity readers that included the governor, CEOs from the sponsoring businesses, and medical field created videos to introduce chapters in the books, which are housed on LRSD's website and video page. Audio for books was also provided in Spanish. The latest community partner, the Museum of Discovery, will host several family fun nights as part of the culminating event in January. Those dates will be shared on the District website and social media, soon. Meantime, parents who wish to share photos of their students reading may use #LRSD1District1Book to post to social media.

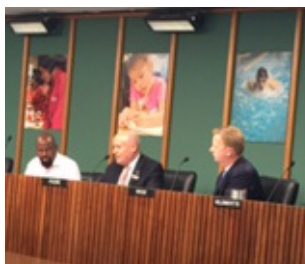


So far - in addition to above-mentioned titles - the generosity of partners has made it possible for students to enjoy the following books: **The Lemonade War**, **The World According to Humphrey**, and **Cleo Edison Oliver - Playground Millionaire**.

As a result of the district-wide efforts, LRSD received the 2018 One District, One Book Award from the *Read To Them* organization. Stay tuned for the spring reading campaign.

## LRSD Leadership

LRSD is supported by a 7-member Community Advisory Board (CAB), approved by the Arkansas State Board of Education. The CAB consists of representatives from the seven (7) LRSD school zones; members will serve under the supervision and direction of Education Commissioner Johnny Key until LRSD is returned to local control or until the State Board annexes, consolidates, or reconstitutes the school District. The CAB meets monthly on the fourth Thursday of each month, with the exception of November, December and March.



### CAB Members:

- Zone 1 - LaShannon Spencer
- Zone 2 - Maria Chavarria-Garcia
- Zone 3 - Melanie Fox (Vice President)
- Zone 4 - Jeff Woods (President)
- Zone 5 - Larry Clark, Sr.
- Zone 6 - Anthony Hampton
- Zone 7 - Michael Mason

## Reading on the RISE

LRSD continues to enhance its focus on literacy to ensure that all students are able to read by third grade with a multi-prong approach: Arkansas Reading Initiative for Student Excellence (RISE), One Book One District, and strengthened partnerships with the Campaign for Grade Level Reading, and AR Kids Read, to name a few.

RISE is a statewide initiative designed to develop a culture of reading in Arkansas by coordinating a statewide reading campaign with community partners, expand the depth of knowledge for educators to support student-focused learning, and increase access to books in homes. A critical element of RISE Arkansas is the intensive, 36-hour professional development for educators known as the RISE Academy.

Through the RISE Academy, educators receive in-depth training related to the science of reading and evidence-based instructional strategies. The Arkansas Department of Education initiated the academy for K-2 teachers during the 2017-2018 school year. Educators from 11 LRSD schools were among those from across the state who were trained and certified last fall. Remaining K-2 teachers from 17 schools began RISE Academy during pre-school in-service days this year and will conclude their training in the spring. Additional training is underway for even more teachers.

Classroom support is an ongoing element of this professional development. The specific goals of RISE Academy include: (1) connecting the science of how students learn to read with classroom practice; (2) deepening teacher knowledge, especially in the areas of phonology and phonics; (3) encouraging teachers and district decision-makers to study and implement the research on reading; and (4) creating a culture of reading across Arkansas.

LRSD furthers its commitment to support student reading success with the addition of a Dyslexia specialist who will lead district efforts in identifying students who qualify for dyslexia intervention services, assist schools in making programming and scheduling decisions to meet students' needs, and provide ongoing training and support to staff.





# LRSD-CALS Partnership Means 24-7 Access to Online Research and Resources

Little Rock School District students now have access to the Central Arkansas Library's (CALS) digital resources any time and any place thanks to an enhanced partnership. LRSD Superintendent Mike Poore and CALS Executive Director Nate Coulter held a joint announcement about the new Tech Card program, designed to give students access to CALS' virtual library. The announcement included the unveiling of artwork designed by Hall High School student Jennifer Mendoza that will be used in the tech card marketing campaign. Mendoza and Mann Magnet Middle School students, who helped promote the program through social media, were recognized during a Superintendent's Citation Program for their impressive roles in helping their peers learn about the Tech Cards.

Students who don't have a personal library card will be able to use the library system's digital resources from school and home with the CALS tech card.



## Blue & You Foundation Helping Fund Medical Futures

Thank you to Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield for opening doors and jump-starting careers! A grant from their foundation made it possible for 80 Little Rock School District students to participate in the EXCEL Advanced Medical Science Program to gain college credit, employment skills and professional certifications.



October 2018 Ridership	5,298
October 2017 Ridership	3,814
Increase in Ridership	1,484
% Increase in Ridership	38.91%

## Ride This Way

Getting students to those medical sites for internships is going to be a lot easier now that the District offers UPASS in conjunction with Rock Region Metro. The program provides passholders, with designated student identification issued by the school, unlimited bus rides for one year. Passholders show their specially marked IDs to Rock Region METRO bus drivers to use the system, free of charge, during all system operating hours and on all routes. An increase in ridership this past year indicates more students are taking advantage of the service.

"Transportation can be the difference in whether our students have access to educational enrichment, vocational training and jobs. We are happy to partner with Rock Region METRO to make that access even more attainable by removing the fee barrier for our students," said Michael Poore, LRSD superintendent. "As we grow LRSD educational offerings, the ability to quickly connect students from school to school and from schools to internships and other employment opportunities is important to our success."





# LRSD TEACHER OF THE YEAR

## 2018 LRSD Teacher of the Year • First Student - Presenting Sponsor

**Marian G. Lacey Educator of the Year and 2018 LRSD Teacher of the Year, Stacey McAdoo represented the District at the state level when she was named a regional finalist, and ultimately The Arkansas Teacher of the Year!**

**2018 Level Winners:** Kathleen Mehran, Elementary Teacher of the Year-Fulbright; Amber Harbin, Middle School Teacher of the Year - Forest Heights STEM Academy; and Leslie Williams, High School Teacher of the Year - Parkview Magnet High School. Nearly 70 LRSD teachers, representing the best in the profession, were also honored during LRSD's gala in May.

### ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WINNERS:

**Charde Wade-Wilson** Bale, **Tameka Freeman** Baseline, **Amy Hallum** Booker, **Mary Lawson** Brady, **Latoya Davis-Stewart** Carver, **LaShana Flowers** Chicot, **Elizabeth Warford** Dodd, **Jessica Cookro** Fair Park ECC, **Sarah Perkins** Forest Heights (K-5), **Virginia Yeatman** Forest Park, **Kathleen Mehran** Fulbright, **Renata Sanders** Geyer Springs, **Famus Bradford** Gibbs, **Jodi Feingold** Jefferson, **Edward Scott** King, **Misti Hess** Mabelvale Elementary, **Pamela Ruehr** McDermott, **Keysha Griffith** Meadowcliff, **Chelsea Marelle** Otter Creek, **Courtney Gasper** Pulaski Heights Elementary, **Laura Pollard** Roberts, **Krystal McGinn** Rockefeller, **Nona Whitaker** Romine, **Jennifer Buck** Stephens, **Lori Diffey** Terry,

**Connie Hansen** Wakefield, **Deanna Woods** Washington, **Jerica Moore Jones** Watson, **Rose Clark** Western Hills, **Alexandra Wakelyn** Williams

### MIDDLE SCHOOL WINNERS:

**Lawrence Tippen** Cloverdale, **Veronica Jarrett** Cloverdale, **LaSheena Gordon** Dunbar, **Jan Mixon** Dunbar, **Whitney Bordelon** Forest Heights (6-8), **Amber Harbin** Forest Heights (6-8), **Kwadjo Boaitey** Henderson, **Debra Myton** Henderson, **Dannisha Stroud** Mabelvale, **Virginia Thompson** Mabelvale, **Devona Holmes** Mann, **Lakeisha Sharpley** Mann, **Brooke Decker** Pinnacle View, **Cody Zimmerman** Pinnacle View, **Eric Steward** Pulaski Heights, **Jessica Watts** Pulaski Heights

### HIGH SCHOOL WINNERS:

**Kim Williams** Central, **Stacey McAdoo** Central, **Frank Baker** Central, **Jaimie Hatfield** Hall, **Mary Hines** Hall, **Tracy Mason** Hall, **Aisha Jackson** J.A. Fair, **Natasha Millen** J.A. Fair, **LaKiella Washington** J.A. Fair, **Amy Howard** McClellan, **Christina Cereghini** McClellan, **Ivey Kelly** McClellan, **Rodney Bailey** Parkview, **Debra Rogers** Parkview, **Leslie Williams** Parkview, **Hillary McCree** Adult Education, **Eric Brandon** Accelerated Learning Center, **Syrita Ramos-Walker** Metropolitan Career-Technical Center, **Drew Bennett** Hamilton Alternative Learning Center



Left to right:  
Kathleen Mehran, Elementary Teacher of the Year; Stacey McAdoo, Marian G. Lacey Educator of the Year and Arkansas Teacher of the Year; Amber Harbin, Middle School Teacher of the Year; Leslie Williams, High School Teacher of the Year.



# ARKANSAS TEACHER OF THE YEAR



## Congratulations Stacey McAdoo! 2019 Arkansas Teacher of the Year



LITTLE ROCK  
SCHOOL DISTRICT



When Stacey McAdoo arrived at school, she had no idea she would receive the surprise of a lifetime. During a special presentation, Gov. Asa Hutchinson and Arkansas Department of Education Commissioner Johnny Key recognized McAdoo as the 2019 Arkansas Teacher of the Year.

McAdoo, a 16-year educator, teaches communication and Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) for grades nine through 12 at Little Rock Central High School in the Little Rock School District.

"Second to parents, teachers play the greatest role in shaping our students," Hutchinson said. "Their ability to guide, teach and positively influence the next generation is one of the greatest responsibilities in any profession. What they do in the classroom can impact the future of our state for years to come. In Arkansas, we are blessed with an abundance of first-rate teachers, like the 2019 Teacher of the Year, Stacey McAdoo. Congratulations, Stacey. Arkansas' future is even brighter because of your investment into the lives of our students."

"From incorporating rap and slam poetry in the classroom to utilizing creative opportunities that foster parent, community and civic engagement, Ms. McAdoo serves as a model of excellence for all Arkansas teachers," Key said. "She gently guides her students to think outside the box and challenge stereotypes. I both commend and congratulate Ms. McAdoo for the example she has set for her students, co-workers and parents."

McAdoo has taught speech communication at Little Rock Central High School since 2002 and has taught both speech communication and AVID since 2007. Through AVID, McAdoo provides support to help students

prepare for college. Because of her efforts, Little Rock Central High School has been named a Highly Certified AVID School since 2007.

A graduate of Hall High School in Little Rock, McAdoo has a Bachelor of Arts in Professional and Technical Writing from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and a Master of Arts in Teaching from the University of Arkansas at Monticello. She is certified in several licensure areas.

Having received the Distinguished High School Mentor Award in 2017, McAdoo is the 2018 Little Rock Central High School Teacher of the Year, 2018 Little Rock School District Teacher of the Year and 2019 Arkansas Teacher of the Year Regional Finalist. She is the founder and sponsor of the Writeous Poetry Club, co-sponsor of the Troubadour Club (drama and debate), and is an Arkansas Communication and Theater Association presenter.

In August, McAdoo was named one of four 2019 Arkansas Teacher of the Year State Semi-Finalists and received a \$2,000 award sponsored by the Walton Family Foundation. The ATOY Selection Committee then conducted site visits for each of the state semi-finalists and selected McAdoo as the 2019 Arkansas Teacher of the Year. In addition to a paid, year-long sabbatical that will begin July 1, 2019, McAdoo received an additional \$14,000 award sponsored by the Walton Family Foundation.

To learn more about the Arkansas Teacher of the Year program, visit <http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/communications/teacher-of-the-year>.

(Source - Arkansas Department of Education)





# Top scholars honored at Academic Signing Day

## CLEVER CLASS

The Little Rock School District, in partnership with the Public Education Foundation, honored 83 students representing all five LRSD high schools at the 14th annual Academic Signing Day in the Grand Hall of the Arkansas Governor's Mansion.

Class of 2018 honorees were accepted at prestigious higher education institutions throughout the country, including Columbia, Drake, Morehouse, the University of Arkansas, Washington University, and Yale, to name a few.

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 \$20 million in scholarships.



## Improving Academic Achievement



Moving the academic needle remains a top priority for the Little Rock School District. This year, the District created a School Improvement Plan (SIP) to guide each elementary, middle and high school with a roadmap that identifies and organizes strategies and resources that will lead to student success. An individualized school plan was created at each campus by the school's Professional Learning Community Team prior to the beginning of the school year. The plans were reviewed and approved by the District Leadership Team. Each school's plan was uploaded to the LRSD website prior to October 1, 2018. The SIP is a living document and school teams are continuously making changes based on the most recent student assessment data.







## 2017-2018 ANNUAL REPORT LITTLE ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Little Rock School District (LRSD) is required to prepare an Annual Report for presentation to the community. The 2017-18 report highlights progress and achievements and provides a summary of planned improvement processes and future directions. In 2017 LRSD experienced significant progress as the District and community worked together to meet the needs of each student. LRSD offers unique, comprehensive educational approaches for pre-K to 12th grade students, from rigorous academic engagement for those identified as gifted and talented, to support for those facing learning, speech or physical challenges.

The District takes pride in its highly qualified teachers – nearly half of all classroom teachers have a masters or doctoral degree, and 170 have National Board Certification – the most in the state. LRSD continues to operate the state's only K-8 STEM campus, eight magnet schools and a uniquely focused language and literacy elementary academy. The District also serves more than 1,700 pre-K students, making LRSD the largest provider of public preschool programs. Recent test results reflected that students from every socioeconomic background who attended a LRSD pre-K program outperformed students who did not use LRSD's pre-K program in every skill area.

High school college preparatory programs, including pre-AP, AP and classes with local universities, in addition to the District's newest Excel program - introduced in 2016 - provide a wide array of options. These programs allow students to align their educational experience with their interests and prepare them to meet the challenges of a global society. LRSD consistently places among the top tier of state schools with National Merit Semifinalists, as well as Commended, National Hispanic, and AP Scholars.

With the addition of 8th grade in 2018, LRSD's newest middle school - Pinnacle View - began serving grades 6-8. Construction of the new Little Rock Southwest High School, home of the Gryphons, is well underway, with plans to open in 2020. LRSD is proud of its highly accomplished students and the community partnerships that enhance their educational experiences.

The District is in year four of state oversight following an "Academically Distressed" designation for 6 of its 48 schools. In 2018, the three remaining schools were removed from the "Academically Distressed" list and the designation was dissolved due to new legislation.

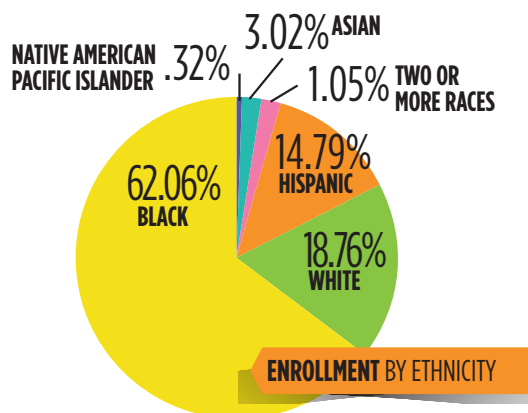
In an effort to identify areas of needed support for those schools and to provide resources that include best practices for all LRSD campuses, the District created a School Improvement

Plan (SIP) to guide each elementary, middle and high school with a roadmap that identifies and organizes strategies and resources that will lead to student success.

The administration continued its stakeholder engagement efforts integrating interactive social media town halls, public forums, and superintendent-led Community Walks. Those efforts will continue in the 2018-19 school year.

In 2016, LRSD received the last payment of \$37 million in desegregation funds, designated for operational purposes and in 2017 received the last portion of those funds designated for facilities. The District continues to seek financial efficiencies in order to maintain a focus on strong academic achievement and fiscal stability.

The LRSD community is represented by a 7-member, state-appointed Community Advisory Board which succeeded the Civic Advisory Committee at the end of the 2015-16 school year. Arkansas Department of Education Commissioner Johnny Key serves as the District's Board of Directors.



LRSD reaffirms its commitment to collaboration, transparency and a return to local control, and its mission to provide all students with equitable access to educational opportunities. To accomplish this mission, the District will continue to pro-actively address student achievement, teacher/leader quality, parental involvement, community engagement, and financial stability.

### Little Rock School District Highlights:

- Nearly 200 National Board Certified Teachers
- Parkview and Central ranked 3rd and 6th nationally in US News & World Report
- Roberts Elementary (2017) joined Forest Park Elementary (2012) with National Blue Ribbon designation
- K-12 Gifted and Talented + Advanced Placement Programs
- State's only K-8 STEM Academy
- Home of the 2017-18 6A State Basketball, 6A/7A Swimming
- \$20 Million in scholarships awarded in 2018
- New Little Rock Southwest High School opens in 2020
- \$27 Million in volunteer hours



## • SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT DESIGNATIONS •

### 2017-2018 School Year Accreditation Status: All 42 schools fully accredited

#### 2017-2018 School Improvement Designations

Twenty-two (22) schools were classified as In Need of Support and Improvement schools. LRSD identified as a Level 5 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) 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.

Eight (8) 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 1,365 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 311 scholars with the following designations: AP Scholar, AP Scholar with Honor, AP Scholar with Distinction, and National AP Scholar. Twenty-six students received an AP Capstone Diploma.

##### 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. 7 LRSD students were named National Merit Semifinalists. 3 students named National Hispanic Recognition Scholars.

**2018 rankings and rewards schools:** The Arkansas School Recognition Program provides financial rewards to schools showing high performance, high growth, or high graduation rates. Schools in the top 5% receive up to \$100 per student, while schools in the top 6-10% receive up to \$50 per student.

#### Top 5% High-Achievement Schools in Arkansas (based on ACT Aspire)

SCHOOL
Don Roberts Elementary
Forest Park Elementary
Jefferson Elementary

#### Top 5% Academic Growth Schools in Arkansas (based on ACT Aspire)

SCHOOL
Don Roberts Elementary

#### Top 6-10% High-Achievement Schools in Arkansas (based on ACT Aspire)

SCHOOL
Forest Heights STEM Academy





# PROGRESS TOWARDS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS



**2017 Rankings:** Rankings were not available until the end of the 2018 school year and were not able to be shared with our stakeholders. We would like to include the rankings in this publication to share our successes.

## Beating the Odds Schools

### Top 20 Schools in Arkansas with Most Overall Growth (based on ACT Aspire)

RANK	SCHOOL	ASPIRE CATEGORY
#14	Don Roberts Elementary	OVERALL

### Top 10 High-Poverty Elementary Schools in Arkansas with Most Overall Growth (based on ACT Aspire)

RANK	SCHOOL	ASPIRE CATEGORY
#10	Wakefield Elementary	OVERALL

### Top 5 Schools in Central Region with Most Overall Growth (based on ACT Aspire)

RANK	SCHOOL	ASPIRE CATEGORY
#5	Don Roberts Elementary	OVERALL

### Top 5 High-Poverty Elementary Schools in Central Region with Most Math Growth (based on ACT Aspire)

RANK	SCHOOL	ASPIRE CATEGORY
#2	Wakefield Elementary	MATH
#5	McDermott Elementary	MATH

### Top 10 Schools in Arkansas with Most Math Growth (based on ACT Aspire)

RANK	SCHOOL	ASPIRE CATEGORY
#9	Don Roberts Elementary	OVERALL

### Top 5 High-Poverty Elementary Schools in Central Region with Most ELA Growth (based on ACT Aspire)

RANK	SCHOOL	ASPIRE CATEGORY
#1	Wakefield Elementary	ELA

### Top 5 Schools in Central Region with Most Math Growth (based on ACT Aspire)

RANK	SCHOOL	ASPIRE CATEGORY
#3	Don Roberts Elementary	MATH

### Top 10 Top 5 High-Poverty Middle Schools in Central Region with Most Math Growth (based on ACT Aspire)

RANK	SCHOOL	ASPIRE CATEGORY
#3	Mann Magnet Middle	MATH
#5	Mabelvale Middle	MATH

### Top 5 Schools in Central Region with Most ELA Growth (based on ACT Aspire)

RANK	SCHOOL	ASPIRE CATEGORY
#5	Wakefield Elementary	ELA

### Top 5 High-Poverty Middle Schools in Central Region with Most ELA Growth (based on ACT Aspire)

RANK	SCHOOL	ASPIRE CATEGORY
#5	Dunbar Magnet Middle	ELA





**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 Sherman St. (at Capitol Ave.)  
Little Rock, AR 72202

**501-447-2950**

### 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**

## IMPORTANT DATES

### WINTER VACATION OFFICES & SCHOOLS CLOSED

**Dec. 20, 2018 - Jan. 1, 2019**

### STUDENTS OUT

**Tuesday, January 2, 2019**

Record/Work Day

### STUDENTS OUT/ OFFICES & SCHOOLS CLOSED

**Monday, January 21**

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

### PARENT CONFERENCE DAY 1

**Thursday, February 14,**

after school—3 hours

(school in session)

### PARENT CONFERENCE DAY 2 STUDENTS OUT

**Friday, February 15,**

Elementary: 8am-12noon

Secondary: 9am-1pm

### STUDENTS OUT

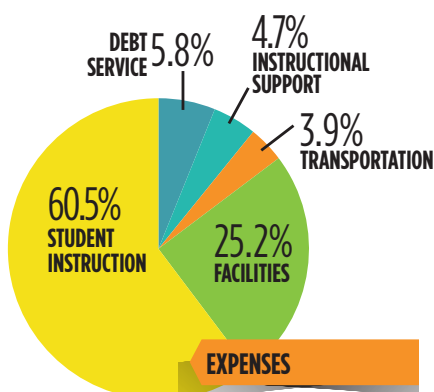
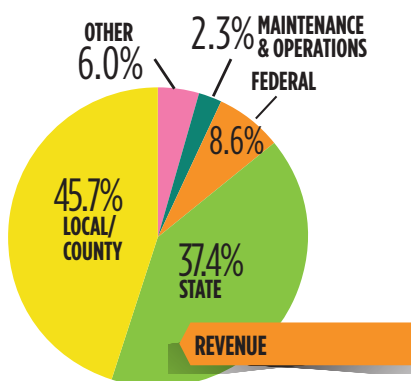
**Monday, February 18 • Professional Development**

### ARTISTRY IN THE ROCK

**Monday, March 11 - Wednesday, March 13, 9am-2pm**

**Thursday, March 14, 9am-2pm and 6pm-8:30pm**

## 2017-2018 REVENUE & EXPENSES



### REVENUE

Local/County.....	\$160,304,620
State.....	\$131,190,205
Federal Grants.....	\$30,128,824
Dedicated Maintenance & Operations.....	\$8,034,147
Other.....	\$21,206,662
Total Revenue.....	\$350,864,458
Tax Rate (Mills).....	46.4

### EXPENSES

Student Instruction.....	\$219,446,531
Instructional Support.....	\$16,957,996
Transportation.....	\$13,986,970
Support—Facilities.....	\$91,362,220
Debt Service .....	\$20,893,205
Total Expenses .....	\$362,646,922
Expense Per Pupil .....	\$16,404
Average Teacher Salary .....	\$57,302
First Year Teacher Salary .....	\$34,865

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

Total Volunteer Hours.....	1,141,378
Equivalent in Dollars.....	\$27,352,286
Total Number of Partners in Education (PIE) .....	321