



LITTLE ROCK
SCHOOL DISTRICT

COMMUNITY REPORT
2017

  LRSD.org  



Message from Superintendent Mike Poore



LITTLE ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dear Parents and Community Members:

I hope that everyone had a great start to the 2017-18 school year. Much of this report shares the results for our 2016-17 school year, but I believe you will also enjoy reading about current deliveries taking place in the Little Rock School District (LRSD). I am honored to continue serving as Superintendent and have enjoyed getting to meet many of you at school events, in classrooms, at community functions, and during community walks. There is tremendous pride in what this District represents and there are crystal clear signs of improvement and commitments that will serve LRSD for years to come.

LRSD is a District on the rise and here are just a few of the shining examples:

- Students and schools received \$19 million volunteer hours from parents, churches, sororities/fraternities, alumni and businesses
- LRSD was one of 12 Districts out of 288 that improved at every grade level on the ACT Aspire State Assessment
- LRSD is one of 3 Districts to meet or exceed expected growth on these same assessments
- ACT scores for seniors increased by .4 for a total of 18.6, while the state ACT score dropped .8
- LRSD seniors received scholarships totaling more than \$25 million in 2016-17
- Expansion of LRSD's career development programs (EXCEL)
- Increased business and community partnerships

Our academic progress and community support are critical components of our story that you can help us share. These results are important to highlight for the retention and recruitment of students and families. Improved academic results also help create the framework for us to regain local control. We continue to take steps in that direction with the removal of two additional schools from the "academically distressed" tag, and we are optimistic with the progress being made by our three remaining schools: Cloverdale and Henderson middle schools and Hall High School. We have introduced the Achieve Team model, aligning people and strategies to address needs and challenges at those schools.

While we look forward to a future of great promise for our District, we understand that there is still much work to do. The data trend is on

an upward trajectory, yet we must remain vigilant in our commitment to ensure that all 3rd graders are proficient readers, that all 8th graders are proficient in math, and that all students graduate and are prepared for the post-secondary world. To support this mission, we are engaged with the state of Arkansas and its RISE initiative which provides a systematic approach to teaching reading. We have also added tools to help us better monitor our students' progress, and are reviewing these tools to ensure that they are being used with fidelity.

In keeping with our commitment to ensure fidelity and fiscal responsibility, LRSD reduced its budget by \$11 million last year, and has now cut almost \$43 million over the past 4 years. These reductions were challenging but necessary for the District to maintain financial stability. I thank our employees, parents and community for living through these challenging decisions which reduced our employee workforce, modified contract days, reduced benefits, and closed schools. We will continue to find ways to utilize resources entrusted to us in order to optimize efficiencies.

We have already begun addressing energy conservation efforts with the replacement of lighting, windows, and heat/air units. We also have a list of capital needs that we are proactively addressing. The second- lien loan secured by LRSD this past summer will allow us to address needs at almost every school in the District, as well as fulfill a commitment to build a new high school in southwest Little Rock – now slated to open in 2020. You will be able to track our progress on utilization of the second-lien loan funds on our website as we move forward on projects. We are equally committed to executing the work on time and on budget.

Last year we used the phrase the "Power of Us." LRSD does not need a new phrase or mantra. We have what it takes right here in our community and within our District to impact all children, to help them achieve their potential. Thank you for allowing us to serve the students of Little Rock. Please read this report from cover to cover and find ways to deepen your support of LRSD.



Sincerely,

Michael Alan Poore
Superintendent of Schools

Superintendent's Message	2
Community Walks	3
Capital Improvements.....	3
Twitter Town Hall.....	3
New Logo and Website	4
Employee Convocation.....	4-5
Facilities & Utilization	6-7
Pinnacle View Update	6
SWLR High School Update.....	7
District Programs	8-9
One District — One Book	8
Bright Futures	8
Roberts — National Blue Ribbon School	9
Achieve Teams	9

Model-Up — Middle School Athletics.....	9
Awards Celebration for LRSD Athletes	9
2016-2017 Highlights	10-11
2017 Teacher of the Year	11
2017 Academic Signing Day.....	12
EXCEL Program	12
2016-2017 Annual Report	13-16
Summary.....	13
Top Achieving Schools.....	14
School Improvement Designations	14-15
Accreditation Status.....	14
Progress Toward ADE Goals.....	15
2016-17 Revenue/Expenses	16

Walk this Way!

Using his rather unconventional approach, Superintendent Mike Poore continued to take his message directly to the community by showing up at front doors. Last year's community walks took Poore, school leaders, teachers, students, parents and community members to homes and businesses in all 7 school attendance zones. The initial walks were part of Poore's Entry Plan. But there is no letting up for the superintendent as the walks continue this year. The community engagement effort offers an opportunity for stakeholders to have a face-to-face encounter with school officials, sharing their input about LRSD schools. It's also an opportunity for school teams to share information about the District that community members might not have otherwise known. Residents who are home receive bookmarks with District highlights; those who are not, return home to a door hanger with similar messages.

Not a parent, but want to keep up with District news? Sign up as a community member at lrzd.parentlink.net or download the free District App. Receive information when you want it, how you want it.



COMMUNITY WALKS & TALKS

Capital Improvements Underway "Now" - Thanks to Second-Lien Loan



Want to keep up with capital improvements at LRSD schools? Watch the thermometer! We are committed to keeping you informed; LRSD has dedicated a special webpage that allows you to monitor how we're spending second-lien loan money on our schools. Secured in July 2017, the second-lien loan will generate \$90 million dollars in construction funds. The District plans to use \$55-60 million of these funds

to assist in the construction of the new high school – the first in 50-years. The remaining funds will be designated for capital improvements, including roofs, HVAC upgrades, and security enhancements. You might have already seen some of this work underway at your child's school. The following should be noted about this capital improvement plan:

- This **will not** add to anyone's tax rate
- This **does not** extend the debt
- A second-lien loan is much like a mortgage on your house

Follow our progress on lrzd.org, Facebook and Twitter. (#LRSDPowerofUS)



First-of-their-kind Teen Twitter Town Halls

Social media-savvy students and patrons had virtual connections with the District's first Teen Twitter Town Hall last spring. Rather than talking "at" or "to" the students, administrators asked the students to help lead the discussion, tackling issues that were important to them. LRSD partnered with KARK/Fox16 for the Twitter chat, which was also simulcasted for Facebook users. The date for the next Twitter Town Hall will be announced. Where else? On Twitter, of course.

Follow us [@mylrzd](https://twitter.com/mylrzd). By the way, the District is also on Instagram, and has Vimeo and YouTube channels.



The Power of US!

Logo and Website Give District New Look

It's the first makeover in more than a decade, now the LRSD family is introducing a new logo. The logo features a shield that resembles a book, along with a torch and nine stars that pay homage to the Little Rock Nine. In addition, the District will present its new visually compelling, user-friendly website in January. Users will notice the new vivid, royal blue background for the landing page, an eye-catching video backdrop designed to engage the viewer, easier access to frequently used departments/sites, fully responsive features that allow the site to conform to any device – desktop, tablet or smartphone, the ability to integrate color-coded calendars – handy if you have students at different schools, and a virtual backpack that allows schools to upload flyers, decreasing the need to send home paper versions. Stay tuned!



LITTLE ROCK
SCHOOL DISTRICT

band and an impressive rendition of the National Anthem by Pulaski Heights Middle School student, Daveon Coleman. Staff not only heard inspirational messages from students: Chauncey Williams-Wesley-Central, Dylan Hewing-Booker Arts Magnet, Katie Jaros-Pinnacle View, and Ricole Warren-McClellan, they 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.



Students Tap in Teachers With Virtual Convocation

With students in charge, LRSD's back-to-school convocation took a virtual turn, kicking off the 2017-18 school year. The event, highlighting students from elementary, middle and high school levels, was moderated by LRSD Superintendent Mike Poore and shown simultaneously on several platforms – LRSD TV, Irsd.org and Facebook. This innovative approach was the result of 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 Student Center was transformed to a temporary studio, featuring live performances by an all-staff



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 Irsd.org website and clicking on the Blackboard link on the right side of the home page. Don't forget to download the free Little Rock School District App in iTunes and Google Play.

Update Your Emergency Contact Info

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 inclement weather announcements or other emergencies.



STUDENT-LED CONVOCATION

The event, highlighting students from elementary, middle and high school levels, was moderated by LRSD Superintendent Mike Poore and shown simultaneously on several platforms – LRSD TV, lrsd.org and Facebook.



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

Facilities and Utilization



Students Welcomed by New Faces and Spaces at PVMS

With a crowd of more than 300 in attendance, Pinnacle View Middle School hosted an official ribbon-cutting ceremony in August to introduce the community to its new middle school campus – converted from the former Leisure Arts warehouse to a 21st century state-of-the-art, two-story facility. This was the second of three phases for the massive project. Students, parents, and staff have provided input every step of the way, from the colors to the design of the classrooms, to the curriculum offerings.



Here are few interesting facts about the 230,000 square foot building:

Fast Facts:

- In 2016, opened Phase I of three planned phases
- School Mascot - Sky Hawks
- EAST Lab
- Three project-based classrooms
- Band, choir, drama, and dance classrooms
- Three art rooms
- 220 students last year
- 540 students this year - 240 7th graders; 300 6th graders
- 46 standard classrooms
- Two sensory rooms
- PT/OT rooms
- School will accommodate 1350 students
- Gym will accommodate 1400
- Not a specialized school - core belief is teaching the holistic child to reach his/her full potential

Phase III of the expansion includes the addition of 8th grade next year. Students residing in Fulbright, Terry, and Roberts elementary zones are assigned to Pinnacle View at the middle school level.

Facilities and Utilization

Building on Dreams for SWLR Students

With a groundbreaking for the ages, complete with dirt-filled mounds of colored glitter, the new southwest Little Rock high school campus is now closer to reality. The ceremony on October 2, 2017, also featured band, choir, ROTC, and cheer squads from both McClellan and J.A. Fair schools. Spirits were high as Superintendent Mike Poore and other speakers from around the city shared the importance of the new facility for the students and community! The **Gryphon Mascot** was revealed on 12X12 banners, and unfurled by two backhoes, just as 100 participants with their shovels tossed **green** and **purple** glitter – the official colors of the school. Participants included students and principals from SWLR feeder schools, business and faith-based leaders, administrators, elected officials, and community members. Meanwhile, construction is moving along well with no major setbacks. The entire 60-acre site has been cleared. Building pads for the academic building, gymnasium, and field house were completed at the end of October and are now ready for foundation work! Earthwork for parking, roads, sports fields, and utilities will continue into the spring. To date, there have been **10,995 truck-loads** of dirt moved on site!



Advisory Board Links Schools and Community

One District One Book Effort Gets Kids Excited About Reading



If you don't know about the **Lemonade War**, you must have just moved to Little Rock. From grocery stores to the halls of the state capitol, everywhere you went last spring, someone was talking about the subject, and it was all to promote the simultaneous reading of a book by the same name by LRSD K-5 students – all 13,000 of them! Using the model, “One District One Book”, administrators, led by Superintendent Mike Poore, launched the District-wide effort that generated quite a buzz.

In April 2017, students, parents, teachers and community members created themed activities including chapter introductions by celebrities, contests, skits, songs, dance and art related to reading Jacqueline Davies' **Lemonade War**. Community partners First Security Bank, Bank of the Ozarks, Rotary Club 99 and Economics Arkansas pitched in to purchase the books in English and Spanish, so parents for whom English was not their first language could also read with their students. The event was so successful that other states are now modeling LRSD's efforts.



Before the Thanksgiving break this year, K-5 students were introduced to **The World According to Humphrey** by Betty G. Birney – a book about a lovable hamster who finds himself in some interesting places. The community can find out more about this reading effort as well as plans for the spring book assignment on lrsl.org and via the District's social media.

Parents who wish to share photos of their students reading may use #LRSD1District1Book. The school with photo or video posts that get the most reaction on social media will win a billboard appearance.



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 – TBD

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 – Kandi Hughes



Ensuring Student Success Through Bright Futures

Bright Futures (BF) stepped up in a big way for nine LRSD students who needed steel-toed work boots - required safety gear for the EXCEL Careers for Advanced Studies (CAPS) Construction program. In addition to providing work boots for those students, BF has filled the needs for multiple students whose families have experienced catastrophic circumstances—house fires, accidents, and eviction, to name a few. Approximately 25 such needs (specific students) were met through the BF platform for the month of October. When BF was introduced to the community last year, the vision was shared for this model to work within LRSD to help meet student needs by connecting them with existing community resources.

Through the use of social media, BF brings together businesses, human service agencies, faith-based organizations, and parent groups, and partners them with schools in a way that helps them to quickly and efficiently meet students' basic needs – often within 24 hours. This enables students and teachers to focus on education and achieving success. Bright Futures operates under the belief that when a community invests its time, talent, and treasure into its schools, students are more likely to stay in school through graduation, have a higher degree of self-worth and confidence, and set and reach goals for the future. In turn, these students grow up to be better neighbors, quality employees, and leaders who impact their communities. A BF Advisory Board continues to meet and make decisions to ensure collective buy-in and direction for the organization. For more information, or to learn how to get involved, “like” and “share” the Bright Futures Facebook page.



Roberts Named National Blue Ribbon School

Students and staff got the surprise announcement of a lifetime when they learned this fall that Don Roberts Elementary had earned the distinction of National Blue Ribbon School. Roberts, home to 900 plus K-5 students, was named among only 342 schools nationally to achieve this status; one of only three in the state. To be named a National Blue Ribbon School, schools must demonstrate exceptional attributes in two areas of performance: "Exemplary High Performing" - recognized among their state's highest performing schools, measured by state assessments for nationally-normed tests; and "Exemplary Improving" - at least 40% of the schools' disadvantaged students demonstrate the most progress in improving achievement levels, measured by state assessments or nationally-normed tests. Top education

officials from each state nominate schools for this distinction. This coveted recognition has been bestowed on nearly 9,000 of the nation's schools since the program's inception 30-years ago.

On the day of the announcement, Roberts hosted a confetti celebration and students enjoyed "blue" snow cones. Principal Barbara Anderson traveled to Washington DC to accept the award on November 7. Roberts is the second LRSD elementary school to earn the National Blue Ribbon distinction in 5 years - Forest Park Elementary was named in 2012.

Moving the Academic Needle With Achieve Teams

Facilitating the return of local control remains a central mission for the LRSD. Continued improvement by schools that were designated as "academically distressed" is a positive sign for LRSD. Now that three of the District's six schools with that designation - Baseline Academy, J.A. Fair and McClellan - have been removed, what's next for the remaining schools with similar designations?

Administrators believe the "Achieve Team" model, introduced last year, is helping provide the kind of improvement strategies that are not only benefitting these schools, but all schools.

Previously, the District did not have a clear, comprehensive structure in place to deliver services and support to schools using a continuous school improvement model. The District's sense of urgency for schools labeled as "academically distressed" was the initial reason for the Achieve Teams, now the model serves as a "best practice" for engaging the various stakeholders in the process of school improvement. By having fewer schools labeled as academically distressed, the Achieve Team can also focus on providing targeted support to higher performing schools.

The Achieve Team process is transforming the approach. Although the issues

may vary by school, the focus is always the same - finding ways to reduce barriers so appropriate resources are available and aligned to ensure our students have the skills needed for success.

In addition to annual assessment data, LRSD continues to explore other ways to measure the success of the Achieve Team as a school improvement strategy. However, the District can report that of the 11 schools that fully participated in the Achieve Team Process (i.e., those schools having two or more visits), 10 of the 11 made gains on the ACT Aspire assessment as compared to last year. In each middle school supported by the Achieve Team process, all of them made gains in the area of writing as compared to last year's results. (To read more about ACT Aspire gains, visit lrstd.org.)

The following schools supported by the Achieve Team process for 2017-2018 are six elementary schools (Bale, Baseline, Stephens, Washington, Watson and Western Hills); three middle schools (Cloverdale, Henderson and Mabelvale) along with three high schools (Hall, J. A. Fair and McClellan). Chicot Elementary and Dunbar Middle schools have access to support but made such significant gains that they no longer require the comprehensive support of the Achieve Team.

Model-Up Makeover for Middle School Athletics

The reintroduction of 6th grade football to LRSD this fall through a new program called "6th & Goal - Model-Up" brought together energetic, determined student athletes and caring mentors, doubling as volunteer coaches, who wanted to invest in students. The tool may be football, but the purpose is much greater - an emphasis on character, goal-setting and opportunity development for participating students. Pinnacle View Middle School served as the host site for the 6-week schedule that included teams from all eight LRSD middle schools. The program was made possible by community and special corporate support. All expenses have been covered by private fundraising efforts that are donated to a newly created Little Rock School District Athletic Foundation. The average cost to equip each athlete for the football

program is \$225. To date, local businesses that have pledged support include: Bear State Bank, First Security Bank, Bill Dillard and the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette. In addition, Arkansas Children's Hospital, Martin-Wilbourn Partners and SportsStop Athletic Products are providing a range of supporting elements. If you would like to make a donation to the program, visit gofundme.com/6thandgoal-modelup to find out how you can participate. You may also make a check payable to: Little Rock School District Athletic Foundation/6TH & GOAL Program, 3010 West 7th Street, Little Rock, AR 72205.

OneRock - "ESPY-Style" Athlete Celebration

With an enhanced focus on LRSD's athletic program, each month the District honors an outstanding student athlete, designated as "Athlete of the Month." To further recognize these students who have made a difference on their teams, as well as in the classroom and the community, LRSD will host its first District-wide celebration, called OneRock, where "Athletes of the Year" for various sports and the overall "LRSD Athlete of the Year" will be named. This will be a heavy social media-driven campaign and the public is encouraged to participate by posting photos, stories and/or videos, and voting, using #LRSD1Rock. The OneRock Awards will be held April 23, 2018 at 7 p.m. at Pinnacle View Middle School. To learn more about OneRock and the nominating process, visit LRSD.org.



LITTLE ROCK CENTRAL HIGH 60TH ANNIVERSARY

Little Rock Central High School observed another historic milestone this year with the 60th anniversary of the integration of the school and the return of the students who ushered in that change. Those students, known as the Little Rock Nine - Melba Patillo Beals, Elizabeth Eckford, Ernest Green, Gloria Ray Karlmark, Carlotta Walls Lanier, Terrence Roberts, Minnijean Brown-Trickey, and Thelma Mothershed-Wair attended the ceremony in LRCH's auditorium, honoring their 1957 legacy. They were joined by students and guests that included former President Bill Clinton, Governor Asa Hutchinson, and noted Harvard University Professor, Dr. Henry Louis Gates. Little Rock Nine member Jefferson Thomas, who died in 2010, was honored posthumously.

The theme for the commemoration was Reflections of Progress - Little Rock Central High School 60th Anniversary. In addition to Monday, September 25th's official ceremony, the preceding weekend of events included educational symposiums featuring the children of the Nine, lecture series, an interfaith service, and a fundraising concert with headliner Mavis Staples. Proceeds from the concert will support scholarship and other philanthropic efforts of the Little Rock Nine Foundation. Student representatives from every LRSD high school participated in and helped chronicle the event.



2016-2017 LRSD HIGHLIGHTS



2016-2017 LRSD HIGHLIGHTS

2017 LRSD Teacher of the Year • First Student - Presenting Sponsor

Marian G. Lacey Educator of the Year and 2017 LRSD Teacher of the Year, Dr. Mary “Beth” Maris represented the District at the state level when she was named a regional finalist for Arkansas Teacher of the Year.

Maris is a veteran Math/Science teacher at Little Rock Central High who prepares her students for the rigors of college through her AP classes. Maris was inspired to share her passion for math and science with students, moving into the classroom 19-years ago, after an impressive stint as a research scientist. Regarding her educator role, she says, “A good teacher always helps her students know that he or she is there to help them and not intimidate them.” She was recognized by Governor Asa Hutchinson as a regional finalist in August.

2017 Level Winners: Nancy Downing, Elementary Teacher of the Year-Roberts; Chanda Freeman, Middle School Teacher of the Year - Forest Heights STEM Academy; and Chandle Carpenter, 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: **Bale** Jeremy Williams **Baseline** Robin Smith • **Booker** Alma Mireles **Brady** Cynthia Grant • **Carver** Barry Anderson **Chicot** Sarah Rhoads • **Dodd** Carreba Williams • **Fair Park ECC** Rebecca Brown • **Forest Heights STEM (K-5)** Patrick Wilson • **Forest Park** Deborah Baker • **Franklin** Tamika Freeman • **Fulbright** Maegan Tilley



Left to right:
Nancy Downing, Elementary Teacher of the Year;
Dr. Mary Maris, Marian G. Lacey Educator of the Year;
Chandle Carpenter, High School Teacher of the Year;
Chanda Freeman, Middle School Teacher of the Year

Geyer Springs Matthew Hartley • **Gibbs** Ashley Sims • **Jefferson** Kelly Simon • **M.L. King** Sheldon Joshua • **Mabelvale** Tyneshia Adaway • **McDermott** Robin Gregory **Meadowcliff** Kenya Robinson • **Otter Creek** Margaret Wang • **Pulaski Heights** Whitney Ragan • **Don Roberts** Nancy Downing • **Rockefeller** Cotinna Johnson • **Romine** LaShawn Pettis • **Stephens** Saddi Moix • **Terry** Aimee Freeman • **Wakefield** Donna Hudgens • **Washington** LaToyya Hunter • **Watson** Telecia Frazier • **Western Hills** Sarah Burns • **Williams** Karen Latch • **Wilson** Renada Burt • **Woodruff ECC** Melissa Sides

Middle School Winners:

Cloverdale Crystal Green-Braswell • Lawrence Tippen • **Dunbar** Catherine Miller • Erma Miller-Dawkins • **Forest Heights STEM (6-8)** Jeffrey Davidson • Chanda Freeman • **Hamilton (6-8)** Dr. Jewell Stout Jr. • **Henderson** Kristi Kyzer • Philita James • **Mabelvale** Kimeka Jacobs-Williams • Stephen Lanford • **Horace Mann** Cynthia Fuller • Robyn Nosari • **Pinnacle View** Lori Curtis • Tiansha Sheard • **Pulaski Heights** Onisha Chandler • Jescena Bland-Sweat

High School Winners: Accelerated Learning Center

Dr. Brenda James • **Central** Kim Burleson • Dr. Mary Maris • Sarah Schutte • **Hall** Brandy Johnson • Sarah Merayo • Felicia Wilson • **J.A. Fair** Carolyn Jennings • Malcolm Sharpley • Tabitha Turner • **McClellan** Deborah Hansberry • Bobbie Langston • June Wine • **Metropolitan Career-Tech Center** Charles Smith • **Parkview** Allison Belcher • Stacy O’Brien • Chandle Carpenter

Top Scholars Earn Top Dollars

The Little Rock School District, in partnership with the Public Education Foundation, honored 95 students representing all five LRSD high schools at the 13th annual Academic Signing Day in the Grand Hall of the Arkansas Governor's Mansion.

The class of 2017 honorees included two Dell Scholars, the state's only NCTE Achievement in Writing Award recipient, the 2016 USA Brain Bee Champ, and two Academic All-Stars.

Academic Signing Day 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. National Merit Semifinalists, Commended and National Hispanic Scholars, graduates with 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, are recognized.

Graduating seniors earned more than \$25 million in scholarships in 2017. Sponsors for 2017 Academic Signing Day include: WER Architects/Planners, Herron Horton Architects, Polk Stanley Wilcox Architects, Baldwin & Shell Construction Company, and Nabholz Construction.



EXCEL Allows Students to Soar and Explore

LRSD students were introduced to new, exciting opportunities to explore careers this year through the EXCEL program. Excel Careers for Advanced Professional Studies, is a high school program that operates multiple career strands for 11-12th grade students, providing real and relevant learning experiences. Each career strand offers internships, industry certifications and college credit. Seventy-five students are currently enrolled in the EXCEL program, gaining knowledge and experience through the following strands and work sites:

- Baptist Health Education Center – Medical & Health Sciences
- UA Little Rock School of Education -Teacher Cadet/Orientation

- Aristotle – Technology Solutions
- Metro Campus (open to all students in Pulaski County) – Construction

Additionally, a partnership with the Rock Region Metro bus system helps eliminate transportation barriers during the school day, providing a ride to and from work sites.

Now, the EXCEL medical/health sciences strand will be able to further enhance offerings thanks to a generous \$117,000 grant from the Blue & You Foundation. Only 40 schools are awarded such grants. As a result of the heightened interest in career exploration, enrollment at Metro Career Tech Center has increased in almost every program.





LITTLE ROCK
SCHOOL DISTRICT

2016-2017 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 2016-17 report highlights progress and achievements and provides a summary of planned improvement processes and future directions. In 2016 LRSD experienced significant progress as the District and community worked together to meet the needs of each student. From rigorous academic engagement for gifted and talented students, to support for those facing learning, speech or physical challenges, LRSD offers unique, comprehensive educational approaches from pre-K – 12th grade.

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. Test results in 2016 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 offerings. 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.

LRSD introduced its newest campus at the end of the 2016 school year, Pinnacle View Middle School, and continued developing plans for a new southwest Little Rock High School. LRSD is proud of its highly accomplished students and the community partnerships that enhance their educational experiences.

The District is in year three of state oversight following an "Academically Distressed" designation for 6 of its 48 schools. Baseline Academy was removed from that designation in 2016. In 2017, J.A. Fair and McClellan high schools were also removed.

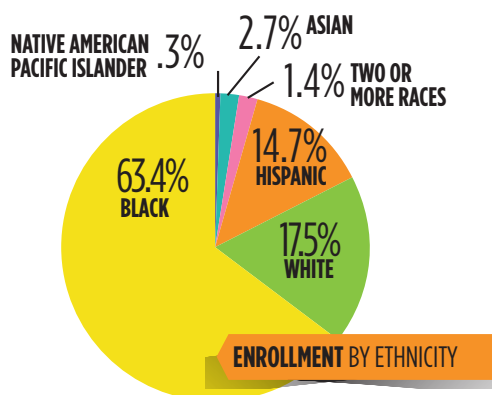
In an effort to identify areas of needed support for those schools and to provide resources that include best practices for all LRSD campuses, Superintendent Michael Poore continued District-wide implementation of the Achieve Team model. This model provides a plan to gather and analyze data; monitor specific targets; and share suggested actions on how community resources can be leveraged with the utilization of professional development to enhance academic achievement, allowing the District to maximize support provided directly to schools.

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 2017-18 school year.

In 2016, LRSD received the last payment of \$37 million in desegregation funds, designated for operational purposes. 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 must continue to proactively address student achievement, teacher/leader quality, parental involvement, community engagement, and financial stability.



PROGRESS TOWARDS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS

• 2016-2017 SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT DESIGNATIONS •

2016-2017 School Year Accreditation Status: 35 schools fully accredited; 10 schools cited.

A school is cited when one or more teachers are currently working on a second or third year additional licensure plan (ALP).

Sixteen (16) schools were classified as “Needs Improvement” schools. LRSD was identified as a “Needs Improvement” District. Needs Improvement schools either test less than 95 percent of their students or miss the achievement and growth targets. A high school will be “Needs Improvement” if it does not meet the graduation rate targets.

Fifteen (15) schools were classified as Focus schools. Six “Focus” schools met Year One Exit criteria in 2015-2016: Bale, King, Stephens, Western Hills Elementary; Pulaski Heights Middle, and Central High. In 2016-2017, Pulaski Heights Middle met Year Two Exit Criteria and was removed from the “Focus” school classification.

Focus schools are identified based on the size of the achievement gap rather than the performance of the All Students group. They include 10% of Title I schools with the largest achievement gaps. Non-Title I schools with commensurate magnitude gaps as the Title I schools are also identified.

Seven (7) schools were classified as Priority schools. Priority schools include 5% of Title I schools with the lowest performance over a three year period. Non-Title I schools with commensurate low performance are also identified as “Needs Improvement Priority” schools.

Three schools (3) were classified as Academic Distress schools. The “Academic Distress” classification is any public school in which 49.5% or less of its students achieve proficient or advanced in math and literacy on the state-mandated criterion referenced assessments administered in that District for the most recent three (3) year period.

A Few of the 2016-17 Highlights:

- Delta Dental Bright Smiles Partnership
 - Commitment to provide oral health care to all LRSD pre-K - 5 students
- Sprint 1Million Partnership
 - 5yr commitment to provide data plan/devices to all incoming freshmen
- \$25 million in scholarships earned by graduating seniors
- Districtwide “Lemonade War” literacy effort
 - Now being modeled across U.S.
- Began implementation of comprehensive energy efficiency plan



Top 10 High-Achieving Schools in Arkansas (based on ACT Aspire)

RANK	SCHOOL	ASPIRE CATEGORY
#2	Forest Park Elementary	OVERALL
#2	Forest Park Elementary	MATH
#2	Forest Park Elementary	ELA
#4	Forest Park Elementary	SCIENCE
#4	Don Roberts Elementary	OVERALL
#7	Don Roberts Elementary	MATH
#4	Don Roberts Elementary	ELA
#5	Don Roberts Elementary	SCIENCE

Top 5 High-Achieving Schools in Central Arkansas (based on ACT Aspire)

RANK	SCHOOL	ASPIRE CATEGORY
#1	Forest Park Elementary	OVERALL
#1	Forest Park Elementary	MATH
#1	Forest Park Elementary	ELA
#1	Forest Park Elementary	SCIENCE
#2	Don Roberts Elementary	OVERALL
#4	Don Roberts Elementary	MATH
#2	Don Roberts Elementary	ELA
#2	Don Roberts Elementary	SCIENCE

Top 10 High-Achieving/Low-Income Schools in Arkansas (based on ACT Aspire)

RANK	SCHOOL	ASPIRE CATEGORY
#3	Forest Heights STEM	OVERALL
#2	Forest Heights STEM	ELA
#4	Forest Heights STEM	SCIENCE

Top 5 High-Achieving/Low-Income Schools in Central Arkansas (based on ACT Aspire)

RANK	SCHOOL	ASPIRE CATEGORY
#2	Forest Heights STEM	MATH
#1	Forest Heights STEM	ELA
#2	Forest Heights STEM	SCIENCE
#4	Geyer Springs Gifted & Talented	ELA
#4	Geyer Springs Gifted & Talented	SCIENCE
#3	Mann Magnet Middle	MATH
#2	Mann Magnet Middle	ELA
#4	Mann Magnet Middle	SCIENCE

PROGRESS TOWARDS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS



Distressed Schools will work with School Improvement Leadership, District Improvement Teams, and other stakeholders to meet the goals recommended by the Ark. Dept. of Education

U.S. NEWS 2017 RANKING IN COUNTRY

PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS IN THE UNITED STATES ARE RANKED ACCORDING TO THEIR PERFORMANCE ON STATE ASSESSMENTS AND HOW WELL THEY PREPARE THEIR STUDENTS FOR COLLEGE. OF 22,000 PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS, 6,041 WERE AWARDED A GOLD, SILVER, OR BRONZE MEDAL. **TWO LRSD HIGH SCHOOLS RANKED NATIONALLY— PARKVIEW MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL RANKED #807 AND CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL RANKED #993. AMONG ARKANSAS' 279 ELIGIBLE HIGH SCHOOLS, 82 WERE HONORED. PARKVIEW MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL RANKED #3 AND CENTRAL RANKED #6 AMONG THE HONORED SCHOOLS.**

AP RESULTS

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 956 high school students score a 3, 4, or 5 on AP exams. An AP Scholar is a student who received scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP exams. **The District has 256 students with the following designations: AP Scholar, AP Scholar with Honor, AP Scholar with Distinction, National AP Scholar, and AP International 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. **13 LRSD students were named National Merit Semifinalists. 3 students named National Hispanic Recognition Scholars.**

CLOVERDALE

- G1** – Increase achievement by a performance level in one or more content areas on ACT Aspire Interim & Summative Assessments for 50% of students
- G2** – Students will receive effective instruction, with instructional strategies and interventions geared to their individual learning and behavioral needs by expanding the implementation of literacy and math interventions for students who are not performing at grade level
 - Prof. Develop: ESL instructional strategies & differentiation strategies
- G3** – Focus on Positive Behavior Intervention System (PBIS) to improve student behavior and decrease discipline referrals
 - Increase parent involvement in an effort to improve the school culture and increase student achievement

HENDERSON

- G1** – Increase achievement in math and writing with 51% of the student population performing at the ready level as evidenced by the ACT Aspire assessment
- G2** – Use data to identify instructional areas that need school-wide improvement
- G3** – Provide student-centered learning environments (i.e., blended instruction), differentiating instruction and meeting individual student needs in order to improve student engagement outcomes

HALL

- G1** – Fifteen percent of the combined 9th and 10th grade student math and reading scores will increase from 2015-2016
- G2** – Engage the Hall staff and Leadership Team in developing a shared mission, vision and core values.
- G3** – Incorporate AVID Strategies schoolwide
 - Increase the number of students completing Credit Recovery
 - Promoting positive behaviors and student engagement in all classes
 - Use the Innovation Council to explore Schools of Innovation redesign models and partner with Ark. Office of School Innovation for application process



LITTLE ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT

810 West Markham Street
Little Rock, AR 72201

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
Paid
Little Rock, AR
Permit No. 1367

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 SCHOOLS CLOSED

Dec. 18, 2017 - Jan. 1, 2018

OFFICES & SCHOOLS CLOSED

Dec. 20, 2017 - Jan. 1, 2018

STUDENTS OUT

Tuesday, January 2
Record/Work Day

STUDENTS OUT/ OFFICES & SCHOOLS CLOSED

Monday, January 15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

PARENT CONFERENCE DAY 1

Thursday, February 15, after school—3 hours
(school in session)

PARENT CONFERENCE DAY 2 STUDENTS OUT Friday, February 16, 8am-1pm

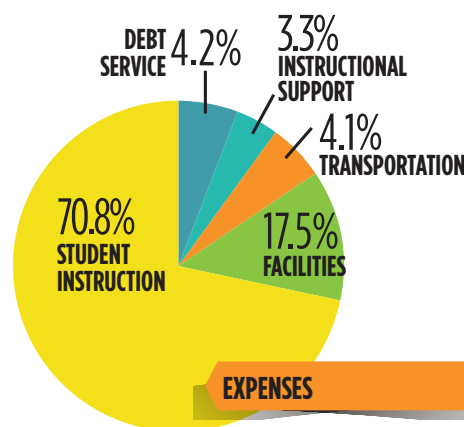
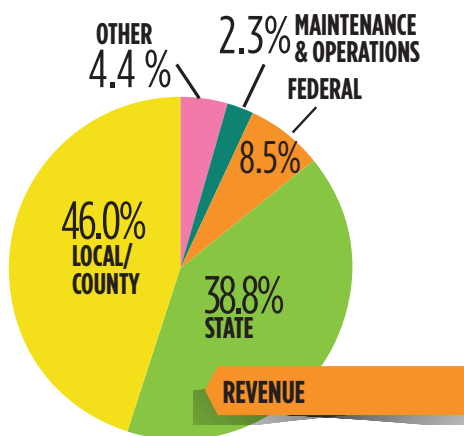
STUDENTS OUT

Monday, February 19 • Professional Development

ARTISTRY IN THE ROCK

Monday, March 12 - Wednesday, March 14, 9am-2pm
Thursday, March 15, 9am-2pm and 6pm-8:30pm
Metroplex Event Center

2016-2017 REVENUE & EXPENSES



REVENUE

Local/County.....	\$156,912,116
State.....	\$132,422,784
Federal Grants.....	\$28,926,528
Dedicated Maintenance & Operations.....	\$7,894,431
Other.....	\$14,888,322
Total Revenue.....	\$341,044,181
Tax Rate (Mills).....	46.4

EXPENSES

Student Instruction.....	\$241,257,493
Instructional Support.....	\$11,379,814
Transportation.....	\$14,108,445
Support—Facilities.....	\$59,548,326
Debt Service.....	\$14,347,851
Total Expenses.....	\$340,641,929
Expense Per Pupil.....	\$14,031
Average Teacher Salary.....	\$55,435
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.....	863,130
Equivalent in Dollars.....	\$20,835,958
Total Number of Partners in Education (PIE)	306