



2019-2020 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 2019-2020 report highlights progress and achievements, provides a summary of planned improvement processes and future directions, and shares information about LRSD's pivot to a virtual delivery at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in the spring of 2020. When Governor Asa Hutchinson announced that Arkansas schools would be closed in March 2020, the District quickly navigated an unprecedented educational landscape to support students and staff, addressing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and technological needs, in addition to adjusting from an in-person to a virtual instructional approach. LRSD's Child Nutrition team also mobilized to work with multiple agencies to ensure that no students would go without meals during the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year and over the summer.

Partners in this effort, which would eventually prepare, pack and distribute more than 680,000 meals to area families included: the City of Little Rock, Clinton Center, World Central Kitchen, Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance, Central Arkansas Library System (CALS) and Rock Region Metro.

This report also pays tribute to the LRSD teachers and other school staff who, in conjunction with community members, worked tirelessly to provide students with academic, social, and emotional support. LRSD remains committed to meeting the needs of each student. From rigorous academic engagement for those identified as gifted and talented, to support for those facing learning, speech or physical challenges, LRSD offers unique, comprehensive educational approaches for pre-K to 12th grade students.

The District takes pride in its highly qualified teachers – nearly half of all classroom teachers have a masters or doctoral degree, and 155 have National Board Certification – among 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, and last year, continued to expand LR West High School of Innovation, adding a 10th grade class. Subsequent grades will be added each year for a 9-12 delivery. LR Hall STEAM Academy was also introduced, enhancing its focus on science and engineering academies under the Academies of Central Arkansas (Ford NGL) umbrella.

LRSD is the state's largest provider of public preschool programs with certified teachers in every class. The District's 1,700 pre-K students continued to outperform students who did not use LRSD's pre-K program in every skill area.

High school college preparatory programs, including pre-AP, AP; concurrent credit opportunities with local universities; and the District's Excel program, provide multiple options for families. These programs allow students to align their educational experience with their interests, preparing them for college and career, and equipping 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.

LRSD is proud of its highly accomplished students and the community partnerships that enhance their educational experiences. Students will continue taking their learning to the next level at the newly constructed career-academy-focused Little Rock Southwest High School.

LRSD finished its final year of state oversight following an initial "Academically Distressed" designation for 6 of 48 schools in 2015. The Academically Distressed designation was dissolved due to new legislation removing the remaining schools. Under the legislation, the District was classified in "Level 5 – in need of intensive support" as a result of eight newly identified schools.

To better determine areas of needed support for those schools and to provide resources that include best practices for all LRSD campuses, the District has worked in collaboration with the Arkansas Department of Education to provide additional assistance and developed the **District's Level 5 Exit Plan** to guide each elementary, middle and high school with a roadmap that identifies and organizes strategies and resources that will lead to student success. Each school's School Improvement Plan (SIP) highlights three main goals for improvement, with one of the goals being academic improvements. The District also created a District Support Plan (DSP) to facilitate implementation of each school's SIP and to specifically address deficits in academic achievement. The District ensured that the school's SIPs and the District's DSP aligned with the District's Level 5 Exit Plan. The **Level 5 Exit** reflects criteria/ goals that the District must implement/ accomplish to assure the DESE, the State Board, and the community that LRSD is poised for the present and future academic success of its students. The approach taken in this **Exit Plan** continues to focus on developing coherence within and among schools so that together teachers and administrators establish a new baseline understanding of high-quality instructional approaches and curriculum expectations. This **Exit Plan** and artifacts will be made public on the Little Rock School District Website. The **Exit Plan** includes the following criteria:

- Collaborative teams regularly interact to address common issues regarding curriculum, assessment, instruction, and the achievement of all students.
- The school provides teachers with clear, ongoing evaluations of their pedagogical strengths and weaknesses that are based on multiple sources of data and are consistent with student achievement data.

- The school literacy curriculum and accompanying assessments adhere to state and district standards.
- The school manages its fiscal, operational, and technological resources in a way that directly support teachers to provide a safe, supportive and collaborative culture and increase student achievement.

The administration continued its stakeholder engagement efforts integrating interactive social media outreach and public forums. Those efforts will continue in the 2020-21 school year.

Over the past three years, LRSD has reduced its budget, while implementing proven reforms that include improving systems, hiring and retaining excellent teachers, and making academic gains. A Second Lien loan has allowed the District to improve facilities while addressing some of LRSD's most urgent physical plant needs. The District continues to seek financial efficiencies in order to maintain a focus on strong academic achievement and fiscal stability.

The LRSD community is currently 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 Secretary Johnny Key serves as the District's Board of Directors. Starting in 2021, the newly elected, nine-member LRSD School Board will represent the community's interests.

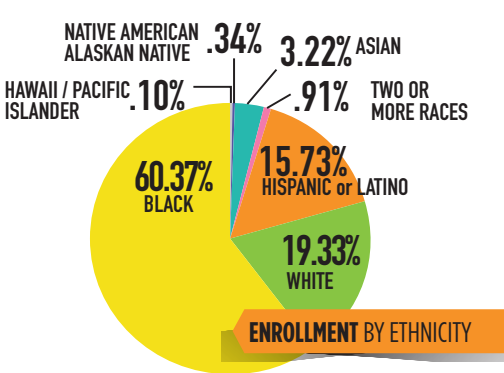
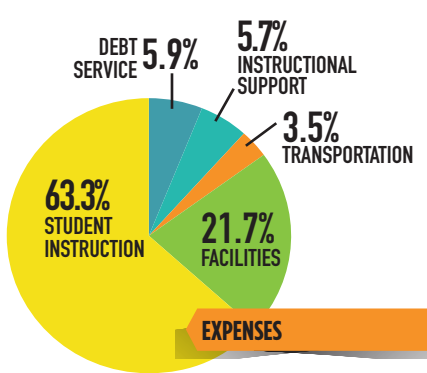
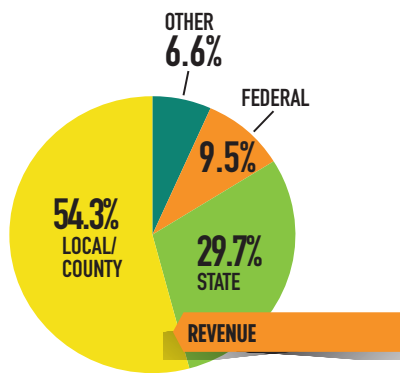
LRSD reaffirms its commitment to collaboration with its multiple stakeholder groups and will continue to proactively address student achievement, teacher/leader quality, parental involvement, community engagement, and financial stability. The District maintains its mission is to provide students with equitable access to educational opportunities, equipping them with what they need to succeed.

CARES Act Funding

\$2,472,968.00	Technology – Chromebooks/Laptops/Schoology
\$805,710.76	PPE – Masks/N95 Kits Sanitizer/Sanitizer Wipes Temperature Scanners Face Shields/Eye Goggles Disposable Gowns Meal Prep Containers
\$3,278,678.76	TOTAL



LRSD MEALS – March-July
Over 280,000 meals served to LRSD students
COMMUNITY PARTNER MEALS - July-August
Over 680,000 meals served to area students



RANKINGS (BASED ON 2019):

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

RANK	SCHOOL	OVERALL
#20	Jefferson Elementary	

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

RANK	SCHOOL	MATH
#5	Jefferson Elementary	

US NEWS AND WORLD REPORT RANKINGS

BEST HIGH SCHOOLS IN ARKANSAS

RANK	SCHOOL
#22 of 269	Parkview Magnet High School
#18 of 269	Central High School

BEST HIGH SCHOOLS IN ARKANSAS METRO AREA

RANK	SCHOOL
#7 of 44	Parkview Magnet High School
#5 of 44	Central High School

Schools Exceeding Overall Growth Expectations (based on 2019 ESSA Overall VAS)

BASILENE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
CHICOT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
DAVID O. DODD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
DON ROBERTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
FOREST HEIGHTS STEM ACADEMY

FOREST PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
FULBRIGHT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
GIBBS MAGNET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
HALL HIGH SCHOOL
JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

MANN MAGNET MIDDLE SCHOOL
MCDERMOTT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
OTTER CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
PARKVIEW MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL
PINNACLE VIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL
PULASKI HEIGHTS ELEM. SCHOOL

ROCKEFELLER INCENTIVE ELEM.
TERRY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
WAKEFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
WESTERN HILLS ELEM. SCHOOL
WILLIAMS MAGNET ELEM. SCHOOL

Schools Exceeding Math Growth Expectations (based on 2019 ACT Aspire)

DON ROBERTS ELEMENTARY
FOREST PARK ELEMENTARY
FOREST HEIGHTS STEM ACADEMY
FULBRIGHT ELEMENTARY
GIBBS ELEMENTARY
JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY
MCDERMOTT ELEMENTARY

OTTER CREEK ELEMENTARY
PARKVIEW MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL
PINNACLE VIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL
PULASKI HEIGHTS MIDDLE SCHOOL
TERRY ELEMENTARY
WAKEFIELD ELEMENTARY

Schools Exceeding ELA Growth Expectations (based on 2019 ACT Aspire)

DON ROBERTS ELEMENTARY
FOREST PARK ELEMENTARY
FOREST HEIGHTS STEM ACADEMY
FULBRIGHT ELEMENTARY
GIBBS ELEMENTARY
JEFFERSON

OTTER CREEK ELEMENTARY
PULASKI HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY
ROCKEFELLER ELEMENTARY
TERRY ELEMENTARY
WAKEFIELD ELEMENTARY

REVENUE

Local/County.....	\$165,212,019
State.....	\$90,300,523
Federal Grants.....	\$28,987,150
Other.....	\$20,022,348
Total Revenue.....	\$304,522,040

Tax Rate (Mills)..... 46.4

EXPENSES

Student Instruction.....	\$215,191,522
Instructional Support.....	\$19,304,916
Transportation.....	\$11,915,838
Support—Facilities.....	\$73,777,299
Debt Service.....	\$20,022,348
Total Expenses.....	\$340,211,923

Expense Per Pupil..... \$15,966

Average Teacher Salary..... \$61,254
First Year Teacher Salary..... \$36,000

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

Total Volunteer Hours..... 969,975
Equivalent in Dollars..... \$24,666,483
Total Number of Partners in Education (PIE)280

Accreditation Status: All 42 schools fully accredited

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) or Additional Targeted Support (ATS) schools. Schools are identified as in need of TSI based on their classification as a Title I school and their ESSA School Index score for any subgroup falling below an established 1% cut score for three consecutive years. Schools are identified as in need of ATS when a subgroup is also performing below the 5% cut score. Eight (8) schools were classified as In Need of Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) schools. Two (2) of these schools have since closed and one (1) was reconstituted. 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 1,432 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 309 scholars receiving 340 awards with the following designations: AP Scholar, AP Scholar with Honor, AP Scholar with Distinction, and National AP Scholar. Twenty-three students received an AP Capstone Diploma, and three students received the AP Seminar and Research Certificate.

PSAT/NMSQT

The Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/ NMSQT) serves as an initial screener for scholars. The nationwide pool of Semifinalists represents fewer than one percent of U.S. high school seniors and only includes the highest scoring students in each state. 13 LRSD students were named National Merit Semifinalists.

*** HIGH-RESOLUTION, SCALABLE VERSION OF THIS REPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING AT: www.LRSD.org ***



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