

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Topic: ESSA School Index and NWEA Data

Short Summary:

On October 4th the Arkansas Division of Elementary and Secondary Education publicly released the 2019 ESSA School Index Scores and School Letter Grades. On October 1, 2019 the LRSD Fall NWEA testing window closed. This report will provide the CAB with an overview of both sets of data.

Background:

In response to the federally mandated Every Student Succeeds Act and state legislation (A.C.A. § 6-15-210), the Arkansas Division of Elementary and Secondary Education must yearly assign an ESSA School Index Score and School Letter Grade to each Arkansas school. ACT Aspire and other data are utilized to calculate these scores. LRSD has administered the ACT Aspire assessment as our state summative assessment since the 2014-2015 school year. The letter grades assigned to schools provide an indication of overall school performance based on multiple measures of student success including achievement and growth on ACT Aspire, graduation rate and several other School Quality and Student Success indicators. In 2018-2019 LRSD implemented the use of NWEA MAP as the district interim assessment program. The MAP assessment is given in grade K-10 three times per year – fall, winter and spring – in reading, math and science (grades 3-10 only). The data from these assessments is used to drive the work of the school improvement plans, differentiate instruction for students and monitor progress toward grade level expectations. For students in grades k-2, the NWEA MAP meets the state assessment requirements.

Evaluation:

On October 3, 2019 principals met with the Executive Leadership Team to discuss how the ESSA School Index is calculated and start to uncover areas of needed growth within their data. School Improvement Plan teams will meet with the Executive Leadership Team on **October 23 or 24** to discuss NWEA data and revise School Improvement Plans based on both sets of data. Teams will also meet on January 23 or 24, 2020 and April 22 or 23, 2020 to make revisions to their plans based on data available at that time. The goal of the leadership team is to inform and guide principals about how to use their data to drive decisions in their buildings and their School Improvement Plans.

Action Steps to be taken:

Implement and monitor School Improvement Plans

1. School teams will work with Executive Leadership Team on October 23 or 24, January 23 or 25, and April 22 or 23.
2. Executive Leadership Team to conduct weekly classroom walkthroughs to provide feedback to principals about progress toward school established goals as outlined in the School Improvement Plan.

The district will provide targeted support to buildings receiving a D or F school rating.

Key Points:

Letter grades will be used to identify the levels of support provided from the district and state to each school. 7 LRSD schools had increased letter grades in 2019 while 5 others had a decrease in letter grade. The winter administration of the NWEA MAP assessment show slight increases from fall 2018 data, and also indicate the need for continued rigor and scaffolding in our classrooms.

Key Players:

Randy Rutherford, Darian Smith, Hope Worsham

Fiscal Impact

Support within buildings.

Critical questions for Board to consider:

Systemic change takes time, how quickly do we expect to see results?
What supports will teachers and principals need to improve letter grades and student performance?