

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Topic: LRSD Pre-Kindergarten Program Update and Pulaski County Imagination Library
Short Summary:

Little Rock School District operates the state's largest Pre-K program serving more than 1,665 three- and four-year olds in 89 classrooms throughout the district under the direction of Arkansas Better Chance (ABC), Preschool Development Grant (PDG) and DHS.

Children who attend the LRSD Pre-K program have a strong academic foundation for starting school. At the end of first grade, those who attended LRSD Pre-K have higher scores on the ITBS than those who did not attend the LRSD Pre-K program.

We continue to improve our program to support children and families. One addition for 18-19 is the Pulaski County Imagination Library, a monthly book gifting program affiliated with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. This partnership with NLR and PCSSD will provide all children birth through five with at-home delivery of books for all children in Pulaski County.

Background:

LRSD has been a leader in early childhood opportunities dating back to the late 1960s with the establishing of the Kramer School project under Dr. Bettye Caldwell. This program served infants through school aged children and was moved to Rockefeller in 1991. Since this time, the district has been the recipient of Arkansas Better Chance funding to establish pre-k classes in the district. Throughout the years, the district has expanded from the initial 3 classes (72 seats) to 89 classes (1,693 seats). We maintain high quality ratings by external evaluators each year as well as compliance the numerous requirements of the programs.

Recommendation:

- **Action Steps for Board of Education**
 - **Consider if community or staff needs to see this.**

The administration recommends that the Community Advisory Board approve the partnership plan and financial agreement for Pulaski County Imagination Library.

Action Steps to be taken:

If this item is approved, the draft MOU will be signed with Pulaski County Imagination Library. The LRSD Pre-K program will share the information with families in order for them to sign their children up.

Strategic Plan Alignment:

Imagination Library aligns with the mission of the LRSD Early Childhood/Pre-Kindergarten that states we collaborate "with families and the community to provide high-quality social, developmental and academic learning opportunities for young children in preparation for school success."

Further, reading to/with children from birth through five years of age has the greatest impact on literacy and vocabulary development, both of which are critical to school success.

Key Points:

1. LRSD continues to be a leader in Pre-Kindergarten with strong academic results.
2. Partnering with Imagination Library will promote a love of reading and encourage families/parents reading with their children during early years.

Key Players:

1. LRSD Early Childhood
2. Pulaski County Imagination Library in collaboration with LRSD, NLR, PCSSD.

Fiscal Impact

Title I funds will be used for this project.

REFERENCES: (List titles of relevant background reports/source materials and include location of the documents.)

1. Powerpoint for CAB presentation
2. Draft MOU with Imagination Library

Date submitted 4/19/18

Submitted by Dr. Karen James