Choose LRSD.
Choose the BEST.

Annual Report
2008-2009
A word from Dr. Watson

It is hard to believe another year has already passed. Our goal is to accelerate student achievement for all students and that is exactly what our students did this year. The Little Rock School District showed gains at every level in literacy and math in last spring’s state benchmark exams. Nothing could make me more proud of our students.

I also know that these gains could only come through the hard work and dedication of LRSD staff members. The Little Rock School District employs the best teachers in the state. This fact is reinforced by all the national and state awards our teachers and administrators receive each year.

By choosing the Little Rock School District, you are selecting the best education available in Central Arkansas. The diversity of students, the volume of academic and extracurricular activities, well-maintained facilities and a highly qualified staff ensure our students receive the best educational opportunities. Choosing LRSD is choosing the BEST.

Linda Watson
over $300 million annual budget

25,785 3rd quarter average attendance

46.4 mills tax rate

$51,578 average teacher salary

$32,388 first year teacher salary

638,775.5 volunteer hours served for a value of $12,935,204

$3,078,740 total grant monies received
Elementary Schools

Elementary students in the Little Rock School District continued their tradition of excellence in academics. This year in all grades, scores for both literacy and math show more than 50 percent of LRSD students at proficient or advanced levels on the benchmark tests.

Students in grades three through five continued to make gains this year in math, after experiencing double-digit gains at some grade levels in 2008.

In literacy, students showed modest gains as they continue to make a steady pace upward.

Standards-based learning with carefully crafted curriculum maps to assist teachers with pacing and instruction throughout the year continue to be the key in guiding students toward success. Regular assessment in the classroom helps teachers track students’ progress throughout the year.
Middle Schools

Middle school students made double-digit gains in math. Last spring, the percentage of students scoring proficient or advanced on the sixth and seventh grade math benchmark jumped 11 percentage points, while eighth grade students’ scores increased five percentage points.

Literacy scores continue to show smaller, more incremental improvements.

School improvement

Number of campuses ratings for 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Met standards</th>
<th>14</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Did not meet standards:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alert</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
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<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 7</td>
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High Schools

183 AP Scholars

3,992 AP exams taken by LRSD students

968 scores of 3 or better on AP exams

11 National Merit Scholars

3 National Merit Commended Scholars

6 National Achievement Scholars

1 National Achievement Outstanding Participant

1 National Hispanic Scholar

368 seniors accepted $14.8 million in scholarship monies
In 2008 the Arkansas Department of Education instituted a new rating system for schools in Arkansas. The new system measures the academic growth of students from one year to the next. The new GAINS growth model is measured in the elementary and middle schools only.

### GAINS rating for 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GAINS Rating</th>
<th>Number of Campuses</th>
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<tr>
<td>Schools exceeding improvement standards</td>
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<tr>
<td>Schools meeting improvement standards</td>
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<tr>
<td>Schools approaching standards</td>
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<tr>
<td>Schools in need of immediate improvement</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### ACT Composite Scores

- **LRSD**: 18.9
- **State**: 20.6
- **National**: 21.1

### 2007-2008 Statistics

- **Attendance Rate**: 93.6%
- **Graduation Rate**: 82.94%
- **Dropout Rate**: 4.8%
Mary Katherine (“Katie”) Parson, a biology teacher at Little Rock Central High School, received the 2009 Arkansas Outstanding Biology Teacher Award from the National Association of Biology Teachers.

David Rouby, a science teacher at Hall High School, was named Natural Leader Educator 2009 by Audubon Arkansas for his field science leadership and his ability to motivate and challenge his students.

The Arkansas Council of Teachers of English Language Arts (ACTELA) named D. Theresa Harris of Cloverdale Middle School the Arkansas Middle School English Teacher of the Year.

Faye Hanson, Gifted and Talented Specialist at Rockefeller Elementary, was named a Javits-Frasier Teacher Scholar by the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC).

The Arkansas Association of Teacher Educators (ArATE) honored Peggy McDaniel, the music teacher at Bale Elementary, with its Mentor Teacher of the Year award.

Lilly Bouie, Director of the Child Nutrition Department, was named Commodity Director of the Year for the Central Region by the Arkansas Department of Human Services.

Superintendent Dr. Linda Watson was recognized by the UALR Center for Literacy with the Reading Recovery Award. The award is given each year at the state Reading Recovery Convention to recognize an individual who has furthered the implementation of Reading Recovery beyond the school level.
Accomplishments

Students

Rising senior Roosevelt Harris of Hall High School was elected Governor of Arkansas Boys State.

The debate team from Parkview Magnet High School won the 2009 Arkansas Mock Trial state championship.

Davis Fleming, a senior at Central High School, was selected to participate in the High School National Honor Choir. Sponsored by the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA), only 330 students were chosen to participate in this group.

Brittni Cochran, a student at Hall High School, won a 1st place award in art at the Arkansas Beta Club convention and also at the national Beta Club convention.

Chris Johnson, a senior at McClellan High School, placed 1st in individual play at the 5-A Southeast Conference golf tournament and went on to finish 2nd in individuals in the state tournament.

Jack Chen, a senior at Central High School, was named one of two state winners of the Siemens Award for Advanced Placement by the Siemens Foundation and the College Board.

Rachael Borné from Central High School and Temple Price from Hall High School were recognized as among the best student writers in the country when they were named winners of the 2008 National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Achievement Award in Writing.
Facilities

Wakefield Elementary

Due to its steadily increasing enrollment, a classroom wing addition was necessary to relieve overcrowding at Wakefield Elementary. Construction began on the new addition in October 2007. It is over 9,000 square feet in size and is connected to the main building by a glass-enclosed walkway.

Wakefield now has four classes per grade level (k through 5) and two pre-k classes. It also boasts a fully functioning dental clinic. It is one of only a handful of school-based dental clinics in the country.

Chicot Early Childhood Center

The 2008-2009 school year marked the opening of the second early childhood center in the Little Rock School District. Located on the campus of Chicot Primary in a new 21,250 square foot wing, the new building uses materials that are durable and economical while bright and welcoming to students on the inside.

Other special features of the design include the box projections in each classroom and observation rooms adjacent to four of the twelve classrooms.
37 teachers earned National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification, bringing the total to 121 teachers in the Little Rock School District who are nationally board certified.

2,149 teachers work in the Little Rock School District.

Teachers of the Year

Elementary Teacher of the Year
Nancy Morton, Williams Magnet

Middle School Teacher of the Year
Stephanie Jones, Mann Magnet

High School Teacher of the Year
Gladys Godley, McClellan

Marian Lacey Educator of the Year
Shirley Ferguson, McClellan
2008-2009 LRSD Board Members
Dianne Curry, President
Charles Armstrong, Vice President
Jody Carreiro, Secretary
Robert M. Daugherty
Melanie Fox
H. Baker Kurrus
Dr. Katherine Mitchell