Superintendent’s Letter

The 2010-2011 school year was the first year of the LRSD 2015 Strategic Plan developed with community input and school board representation on the committee. Five of the six goals deal specifically with the academic, curricular, financial, operations and human capital functions of the district. The sixth goal deals with functions of the board of directors.

This annual report provides a baseline analysis of where the district is after the first year of implementation of the strategic plan. As you will see, there are many goals ahead to achieve. The important thing to note is the district has a plan, the district has set a course of action, and the district expects to be held accountable by the community to reach these goals.

It was my privilege to serve as the Interim Superintendent of the Little Rock School District from January to June of 2011.

I strongly believe in transparency and open communication with the community. It is an imperative of my administration to meet with groups of parents and other citizens in order to provide opportunities for the school staff and community members to gain information and insight for the continual improvement of our district.

Seeking excellence,

Morris Holmes
Superintendent, LRSD

2010-2011 School Board
Melanie Fox, President
Jody Carreiro, Vice President
Mike Nellums, Secretary
Greg Adams
Charles Armstrong
Dianne Curry
Katherine Mitchell

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Target 1: Student Achievement

Elementary Schools

Third Grade Math and Literacy
2006-2011 Combined Population

Fourth Grade Math and Literacy
2006-2011 Combined Population

Fifth Grade Math and Literacy
2006-2011 Combined Population

Middle Schools

Sixth Grade Math and Literacy
2006-2011 Combined Population

Seventh Grade Math and Literacy
2006-2011 Combined Population

Eighth Grade Math and Literacy
2006-2011 Combined Population
High Schools

217 AP Scholars
3,791 AP exams taken by LRSD students
1,071 Students scoring 3 or better on AP exams
17 National Merit Scholars
6 National Achievement Scholars
2 National Merit Commended Scholars
1 National Hispanic Scholar
$20.5 million Scholarship Dollars Accepted
78.5% Graduation Rate
93.6% Attendance Rate
2.2% Dropout Rate
1,271 Total ACT Tests Taken
Average ACT Score

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<th>Reading</th>
<th>Science</th>
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Boshan (Bob) Zhao, Central High School: 2011 U.S. Presidential Scholar. Only two students from each state receive this honor each year.

Miriam Pearsall, a student at Parkview Magnet High School; Lucy Richardson, a student at Central High School; David Ye, a student at Central High School; Boshan (Bob) Zhao, a student at Central High School: Student winners of the 2011 Stephens Award.

Christian Michael, senior at Hall High School: a winner of the 2010-2011 Outstanding Senior in French Award from the American Association of Teachers of French.

Alex Zhang, a student at Central High School: 2nd place in Medical Sciences at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in Los Angeles.

David Chen, Arhita Dasgupta and Abhilasha Gokulan, students at Central High School: participated in and won awards at the International Sustainable World Environment, Energy and Engineering Project Olympiad in Houston, Texas. David Chen won the Silver Medal in Environment; Arhita Dasgupta won the Bronze Medal in Energy; and Abhilasha Gokulan won the Silver Medal in Environment. Abhilasha also won the Cabot Oil and Gas Award.

Parkview High School debate team: 1st place at Arkansas Student Congress.

Central High School debate team: 2nd place at Arkansas Student Congress. Both of Central High School's SECME teams were best in the state. Central's 11th/12th grade team won the overall Best in State championship for the 2nd year in a row. The 9th/10th grade team also out-scored all of its competitors.

The Central High School Troubadours: won state titles in Varsity Debate, Novice Debate, Varsity Debate Speaker and Original Oratory Speaker at this year's state tournament.

Parkview Magnet High School: 6A men's state basketball champions

Central Tennis Team: Won conference and state tournaments and also won individual conference, state and overall state tournaments.
The AdvancED organization conducted a thorough and rigorous examination of LRSD in the spring to look for organizational effectiveness, engagement in continued improvement, and the demonstration of quality assurance. The visit resulted in full district accreditation by the AdvancED organization.

The final oral review provided the following commendations of the district:
- The district has a strong emphasis on Pre-Kindergarten education.
- Volunteerism in the schools is outstanding.
- The schools and central office have stability in their personnel.

The following recommendations were noted in the report:
- The district should evaluate its programs and eliminate those that do not work well.
- The district must develop a monitoring process for all school improvement efforts in the schools and evaluate their effectiveness.
- The central office should be realigned or reorganized so that it can serve the schools more effectively.
- The culture of the Board of Education should change so that the sole focus is on school effectiveness and student achievement.

Accreditation by AdvancED is important because helps educational institutions boost performance efforts. AdvancED insists on a relentless pursuit of excellence—for itself and for the institutions it accredits.

Patty Bates Abraham

ViPS
For the 2010-2011 school year, volunteers in LRSD schools donated 726,678 hours of their time, or the equivalent of $15,521,842 paid hours.

Patty Bates Abraham was honored with the 2011 Jane Mendel Award, the district’s highest distinction in recognition of volunteer service.

Partners in Education
The Little Rock School District partners with 276 businesses and organizations in Little Rock to provide additional support to students and their campuses. This year, 15 new partnerships were formed.

Tutoring programs
The Little Rock School District offered 40 tutoring programs for students during the 2010-2011 school year. Through these programs, students were able to receive help before school, after school, and during the summer to get additional support in their learning.

Literacy Audit
The Council of Great City Schools conducted an audit of the LRSD literacy program to see where changes could be made to improve student learning and literacy performance. The report offered twenty-eight recommendations for the district to implement in order to effectively improve reading instruction in the district. One of these recommendations was to adopt a new reading textbook for elementary classrooms.

PLC’s
Professional Learning Communities were implemented on all campuses to allow collaboration among teachers during the school day. Collaboration provides opportunities for teachers to develop common lessons, assessments, share ideas, and support each other in the classroom. The district sent representatives from LRSD to receive nationally recognized training from Tom Many, an expert in education management.
Roberts Elementary opened its doors to just under 700 students for the 2010-2011 school year. This new building in West Little Rock was built to relieve overcrowding at Fulbright and Terry elementary schools. The two-story, 147,431 square-foot building features two art rooms, two music rooms, a gymnasium, a large cafeteria, an EAST lab and a state-of-the-art media center. A unique learning environment has classrooms grouped by grade level in “communities”, each with a multipurpose room (flex space) for gatherings and special projects.

Cloverdale Aerospace Technology Conversion Charter School was opened to students seeking enrichment opportunities in aerospace science and technology through accelerated achievement and proficiency in literacy, mathematics, and science. The new charter school offers a structured environment with a strong emphasis on literacy, math and science. Students participated in a space camp offered at the school this summer.
Target 4: High Quality Staff

**Rex DeLoney**, Art teacher and Fine Arts Department chairperson at Central High School: 2010 Educator of the Year from Arkansas Art Educators.

**Mary Katherine Parson**, Biology and marine biology teacher at Central High School: one of the top three finalists for the Arkansas Teacher of the Year award.

**Claudia Smith**, Library Media Specialist at Dunbar Magnet Middle School: School Library Media Specialist of the Year by the Arkansas Association of Instructional Media.

**Fred Boosey**, Theatre Arts teacher at Parkview Magnet High School: Teacher of the Year by the Arts Schools Network, the nation’s largest professional membership organization of specialized arts schools.

**Debra L. Rogers**, Chemistry teacher at Parkview Magnet High School: teacher winner of the 2011 Stephens Award and 2011 High School Chemistry Teacher of the Year from the Central Arkansas Section of the American Chemical Society.

**Dr. Mary Elizabeth Maris**, Chemistry teacher at Central High School: teacher winner of the 2011 Stephens Award.

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**Teacher Ethnicity**

- Black 42%
- Non Black 58%

**Teacher Degrees**

- 1,950 Teachers with Degrees
  - 936 Masters
  - 991 Bachelors

**Teachers of the Year**

- Front row from left to right:
  - Tamika Gore, LRSD Teacher of the Year; Shannon Smith, Elementary Teacher of the Year; Elizabeth McFadden, Middle School Teacher of the Year; Debra Murray, High School Teacher of the Year.

- Back row from left to right:
  - Elizabeth McFadden, Middle School Teacher of the Year; Debra Murray, High School Teacher of the Year.
Target 5: Accountability Systems

Data Warehouse
Data Director is a data warehouse that allows the district to house various types of data in one system. Data such as student demographics, class schedules, test scores, parent contact information and other information is included in the system. District and school staff now have easier access to various types of data and are able to track the increases in achievement for their class or school population.

Programs Evaluated
The LRSD Planning, Research and Evaluation Department evaluated eight programs for the 2010-2011 school year. These programs and their recommendations included America’s Choice (discontinue), Target Teach (discontinue), Reading Recovery (continue), RIGOR (discontinue), READ180 (continue with modifications), M-PACT (continue), Compass (continue with modifications), Smart/Thrive/EGO (continue with modifications). The primary research question addressed effectiveness of each program to improve student achievement and secondary research questions related to student, parent and teacher satisfaction.

Principal Evaluation
In 2010, the current principal’s evaluation instrument was revised to include student achievement as a performance indicator. The newly added indicator places an emphasis on achievement and the district’s efforts to hold school leaders accountable for the yearly growth of their schools.

ParentLink
The ParentLink messaging system allows schools to contact parents with the same message in just minutes. Parents can be contacted by phone, text message, or email. The reports created after calls go out allow schools to better manage parent contact information and document attempts to contact parents. Daily attendance messages help keep parents informed of students’ absences.

Edline
Edline is a multi-purpose, web-based program that allows teachers to post grades, attendance, and other pertinent school and classroom information online for administrative, parental and student purposes. Parents and students have access to Edline information after activating an access code. Access to Edline by parents and students is increasing at every level of our schools.

SOAR
Regular assessment of student learning is a way to help teachers and administrators make sure students stay on track with their learning. SOAR data is an excellent predictor of a student’s performance on the end-of-year benchmark exams. It also provides comprehensive data about skills students have mastered or not mastered in order for teachers to fill in these holes.

LRSD used federal stimulus funds to purchase interactive white boards for students in all core classes this year.