The Little Rock School District (LRSD) is required to prepare an Annual Report for presentation to the community. The 2017-2018 report highlights progress and achievements and provides a summary of planned improvement processes and future initiatives. An LRSD educational program began in the district and community worked together to meet the needs of each student. LRSD offers unique comprehensive educational approaches for pre-K through 12th grade students. From rigorous academic engagement for high-ability students to gifted and talented, LRSD strives to support all students facing learning, social, or physical challenges.

The district takes pride in its high-quality teachers – nearly all of its classroom teachers have a masters or doctoral degree, and LRSD has National Board Certification – the most rigorous state-recognized teaching credential. The district also serves more than 120,000 students, making it the largest provider of public pre-kindergarten programs. Test results in 2016 reflected that students from every socioeconomic background who attended LRSD pre-K through 8th-grade programs outscored their counterparts who did not use LRSD pre-k program in every ability area.

High school college preparation programs, including pre-AP, AP, and duals with local universities, in addition to the district’s rigorous dual-enrollment program in 2016 provided a wide array of options. These programs allow students to align their educational experience with their interests and prepare 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 Honors, and AP Scholars. LRSD introduced its newest campus at the end of the 2016 school year, Pinnacle View Middle School, and continued development plans for its new southwest Little Rock High. LRSD is one of the state’s high-achieving schools and community partnerships that enhance their educational experiences.

The district had 5,089 students at the end of the 2016 school year, following its “Academically Distressed” designation for the first time in 2016. In 2018, the three remaining schools were removed from the “Academically Distressed” list and the designation was disbanded from the new assessment.

As an effort to identify areas of needed support for these schools and to provide resources that include best practices for all 140 campuses, Superintendent MichaelProcus created a districtwide implementation of the Achieve Texas model. This model provides a plan to gather and analyze data, identify specific targets, and then targeted actions on how community resources can be leveraged with the utilization of professional development to enhance academic achievement, allowing the district to receive support provided directly to schools.

The administration continued its stakeholder engagement efforts targeting interactions with social media trends, public relations, and superintendent in Curriculum Councils. These efforts will continue in the 2018-2019 school year. In 2016, LRSD received the last payment of $7 million in desegregation funds, designated for operational improvements, and 2017-2018 school year. In 2018, LRSD received the last payment of $10 million in desegregation funds, designated for operational improvements, and 2017-2018 school year. The district continued to make significant progress in its financial efficiencies in order to maintain a focus on strong academic achievement and fiscal stability.

The LRSD community is represented by 13 member, state-appointed Community Advisory Board, which succeeded the Civic Advisory Committee at the end of the 2017-18 school year. Arkansas Department of Education Commissioner Johnny Key serves as the district’s Board of Directors. LRSD reaffirms its commitment to collaboration, transparency, and a return to local control, and in relation to provide all students with equitable access to educational opportunities. To accomplish this mission, the district must continue to proactively address student achievement, teacher quality, parental involvement, community engagement, and financial stability.

Little Rock School District Highlights:

- 2019 Arkansas Teacher of the Year: Nearly 200 National Board Certified Teachers
- Parkview and Central ranked 3rd and 6th nationally in US News & World Report
- 615 Gifted and Talented + Advanced Placement Programs
- State’s only K-4 STEAM Academy
- Home of the 2017-16 State Basketball, 6A/4A Swimming
- $20 Million in scholarships awarded in 2018
- New Little Rock Southwest High School opens in 2020
- $21 Million in bond funds in 2018

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

- Total Volunteer Hours: 27,762,286
- Total Number of Partners in Education (P.E.M.) 321

2017-2018 School Year Accreditation Status: All 42 schools fully accredited

2017-2018 School Improvement Designations:

Twenty-two (22) schools were classified as In Need of Support and Improvement (INSI) schools. INSI identified as Level 5 schools. Needs Support and Improvement school 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) schools. Schools are identified as in need of TSI based on their classification as a Title I school and their School Index Score for a specific subgroup falling below an established 1 cut score for three consecutive years.

Eight (8) schools were classified as In Need of Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) schools. CSI schools indicate 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 prepares students for college.

Students scoring a 3, 4, or 5 on the AP exam may receive college credit. The district had 1,182 exams with a qualifying score of 3, 4, or 5. AP Scholar is a student who received scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP exams. The district has 30 AP Scholars with the following designations: AP Scholar, AP Scholar with Honor, AP Scholar with Distinction, and National AP Scholar. Twenty-six students received an AP Capstone Diploma.

PSAT/NMSQT

The Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) serves as an initial screen for scholars. The nationwide pool of Semifinalists is lower than one percent and for students to be considered for the school semifinalists and only includes the highest scoring students in each state. LRSD students received National Merit Semifinalists, 3 students named National Hispanic Recognition Scholars.