



Rogers Public Schools

SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT TO THE PUBLIC 2016

Good evening. I am pleased to have joined an outstanding team focused on providing our students with an excellent education, and on the team's behalf, I am pleased to share the Annual Report for the Rogers School District.

In my first months in Rogers, I have seen that the district is truly committed to its mission to provide an environment of educational excellence where all belong, all learn, and all succeed. Our 22 schools provide a top-notch education for more than 15,400 students. As part of our commitment to excellence, I would like to assure you that we are in full compliance with the Standards for Accreditation for Arkansas Public Schools.

Thanks to the dedication and hard work of our team, we had many outstanding student and staff accomplishments during the past year:

- 7 students were named National Merit Finalists.
- Elmwood earned the distinction of the outstanding middle school of the year as the state's Shannon Wright Award winner.
- We had 2 new nationally board certified teachers last year, bringing our total to 112.

- 19 seventh graders were recognized for their high ACT or SAT scores in the Duke Talent Identification Program.
- U.S. News and World Report ranked all three Rogers high schools among the Best High Schools in the country.
- The Office of Educational Policy recognized nine Rogers schools for being among the best in the state.
- 187 of our hard-working AP students were recognized as AP Scholars.
- The Class of 2016 was awarded more than \$15 million in scholarships.

Student achievement is always our daily focus and we see a snapshot of their achievement through our state assessments. For our first and second grade students, the Iowa Test of Basic Skills results show that Rogers consistently performs above the national average of the 50th percentile and the state average in the tested grades.

In the 2015-16 school year, the ACT Aspire assessment was administered statewide for the first time for grades 3-10.

The percentage of students ready or exceeding expectations ranged from 61 percent to 83 percent in English, again above the state average at every level and the national average in most grades. In

reading, the district had from 37% to 61% ready or exceeding grade level expectations, again outperforming the state and the nation. Also in writing, the students ready or exceeding expectations ranged from 24% to 60%. In math, students scored from 29% to 65% ready or exceeding expectations. In science, the results ranged from 28% to 57% reaching those levels.

Since this was the first year for our students to take the ACT Aspire, these results will be our baseline data. We expect our achievement to grow as students become more familiar with the format of the online test and the state considers providing students more of the allowed time to complete sections of the test.

Our goal is to close any achievement gaps and equip every student to be college and career ready.

Since we have had a new state assessment each of the last two years, the state has not assigned a new accountability status for the 2016 test results. But according to the latest available 2014 status, our district achieved its performance goal for on-time graduation, but overall the district and each school, except Eastside Elementary, need more improvement to meet their student achievement targets.

Our district constantly works on improving curriculum and instruction as well as on mentoring our students. Each year our dedicated staff works to further improve achievement for all students to ensure each one reaches his or her highest potential.

We use credit recovery, mentoring, early interventions, individual attention, and professional development to keep students on track to graduate and be prepared for college or the next career step. We are proud that Rogers has the highest graduation rate, 91.8%, among the four largest districts in the region. That is thanks to a culture that never gives up on students.

When we look at how our seniors compare to others, our college entrance exam scores are above the state and national averages. In 2015-16, 725 of our seniors took the ACT. Rogers' average composite score was 21.6, compared to 20.2 at the state level, and 20.8 nationally.

A great point of pride in the Rogers School District is our Advanced Placement Program. We had 1,482 students who took 2,719 AP tests in 2015-16. Students who score 3, 4, or 5 are given college credit at most schools across the nation. In 2016, 34.5% of our Advanced Placement students received a qualifying score of 3 or better with the potential of receiving college credit. Last year, 187 of our AP students were recognized as AP Scholars.

We can be very proud that 55% of students in grades 8-12 today are taking one of the 40 AP and Pre-AP classes we offer.

As required by law (Arkansas Code Annotated §6-13-629), all members of the Rogers Board of Education have met their state training requirements for the preceding year in addition to the many hours they spend in regular and special meetings, policy and study sessions, and as liaisons on district committees.

As part of the annual report, the state asks that we inform the public about our transfer policies. The Rogers School District accepts non-resident students who request to transfer into the district as required by the Arkansas Public School Choice Act (A.C.A. §6-18-206) and the applicable rules and guidelines for School Choice issued by the Arkansas Department of Education, unless the addition of the transfer students creates the need for additional staff, services, or facilities. School Choice transfer application forms must be on file in the Superintendent's office on, or postmarked by, May 1st.

The Board may also approve legal transfers of students who have been released from their resident district if the transfer does not cause the district to add personnel or facilities. Petitions for legal transfers must be submitted by July 1st to be considered for the fall semester and December 1st for the second semester. The general policy is that the Rogers Board of Education will not approve requests for legal transfers out of the district but may make exceptions to this general policy in extraordinary circumstances upon the recommendation of the Superintendent.

This year's budget is \$132,804,064. The majority of the budget (79 percent) will be spent on salaries and benefits for certified and classified personnel. Of the remaining 21 percent, 7 percent will be used for debt payment, 8 percent for utilities and services, and 6 percent for supplies. Approximately 19.8 percent of our total funding comes from federal restricted funding. Of those federal funds, we will receive \$3,102,850 in Title I funds which will be used for reading and math programs, personnel, and professional development. We will receive \$311,703 in Title II, Part A funds, which will be used for professional development. We will receive \$466,862 in Title III funds which will be used for ESOL salaries and professional development.

As you can see from our student achievement and state and national honors, the Rogers School District is achieving its vision: *to be a recognized educational leader in developing and challenging all students to realize their potential in our ever-changing world.*

We sincerely thank our community for helping us prepare our students to become responsible citizens who are equipped to achieve their dreams. Thank you for supporting Rogers Public Schools.

Dr. Marlin Berry
Superintendent