

SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT TO THE PUBLIC SEPTEMBER 2014

Act Seven of the First Extraordinary Session of the Arkansas General Assembly of 1983 and Act 35 of 2003 require public school districts across the state to report to patrons on the condition of their respective schools. The following report describes the recent progress of the Dardanelle School District in its accomplishment of stated goals and objectives.

The Dardanelle School District remains in compliance with all state mandated standards of performance and operation and retains full accreditation through the Arkansas Department of Education. There are four central goals targeted for improvement. They are:

1. To upgrade and enhance the use of technology
2. To improve student achievement
3. To vertically align the district-wide curriculum (with emphasis on writing in each subject area)
4. To meet the needs of an increasingly diverse school population.

Facilities: Numerous capital outlay projects have been completed in the past few years improving the effectiveness and appearance of all the campuses. Most recently, major renovations at the existing Intermediate, Middle, and High Schools were completed to allow for new grade configurations and upgrades. The Intermediate School was renovated and houses grades 4 & 5. Middle School houses grades 6, 7, & 8. Locker rooms and restrooms were constructed at the existing middle school/physical education building along with other major upgrades. The high school campus was expanded to include the former middle school facilities. The high school gym and football field received major lighting upgrades to improve energy efficiency and visibility. A 6.5 mill increase was approved in September 2011. The new Primary School for grades K-3 was completed during the 2012-2013 school year and opened the first day of school on August 19, 2013. The district administration office will be relocated in the near future to 102 Front Street after receiving the donated building from Centennial Bank. A districtwide safety and crisis plan has been implemented and we are constantly taking strides to keep our schools healthy and accident free. We were recently monitored by the EPA with no friable asbestos detected. The remaining asbestos containing materials are controlled through our management plan.

School Food Service: A food service management company (Chartwells) has been hired to provide school dining and nutrition services. We will see our nutrition program offering better quality and greater variety as well as more nutritious meals. Already witnessed, is an increased participation and improved morale among students and staff. This will enhance the academic and co-curricular programs of the district.

Technology: All buildings are wired and each classroom connected to the internet. The district's network infrastructure is equipped with HP ProCurve switches with 1Gigabit backbone. In addition to the three (3) Ethernet Metro connections provided by the state, we have added a 1Gigabit fiber WAN which links all school district sites together and provides a 200 MB of internet bandwidth to the district. An HP managed wireless system has been installed in each school. We added two new computer labs to the intermediate school and two new computer labs at the middle school, and upgraded two other computer labs. We've added 250 Chromebooks throughout the district. We installed new sound systems and projectors in the intermediate and middle schools, installed MimioTeach interactive boards, and Apple TVs in all middle school classrooms. We have implemented an iBoss web filter system for the entire district and launched a new hosted website/content management system for the district. APSCN has been converted to eSchool for student management and gradebook systems. All of our labs and libraries K-12 are using the current educational software: Imagine Learning, Compass Learning, Rosetta Stone, and Renaissance Learning. Odyssey software is currently in our alternative learning classroom to assist in credit recovery. Many mobile laptop labs have been put in place as well as iPad tablets which are being heavily utilized throughout the district. All classrooms are equipped with a ceiling mounted projector and document camera. All classrooms in the middle school and primary school are equipped with interactive whiteboards. Imagine Learning software is used with the ESL students at the primary and intermediate school. We are

continuously in the process of making needed repairs and updating classroom computers and our computer labs district wide.

Athletic Expenditures: According to Arkansas Annotated 6-20-2003 and the Rules Governing Athletic Revenues and Expenditures for Public School Districts, Section 6.00 mandates districts to provide a prior year athletic expenditure report as well as a current year budget. The total expenditures including equipment, salaries, facilities, utilities, travel, insurance, etc. for 2013-2014 were \$682,665.28 with \$698,230.00 budgeted for 2014-2015.

Curriculum: The major focuses of curriculum center around Arkansas Common Core and increasing the achievement level of each student to meet the performance requirements of the 2014 Arkansas District ESEA Accountability Report. Emphasis is continuing on more instructional time in math and literacy. Expectations are that instruction ensures that students are working and achieving at grade level or above with an emphasis on a higher level of accountability on the part of each school. The focus of staff development is on the achievement of math, literacy, and technology using the assets of our local staff, the resources of Arch Ford Educational Cooperative, and ADE resources. Adhering to Common Core and incorporating strategies to address Common Core, are some of the major focuses of the staff. Professional development is ongoing and targets the new teacher evaluation system (TESS), BloomBoard, SOAR, and the upcoming PARCC assessments.

Student Achievement: Benchmark scores consistently rank among the top in the state. Students taking the ACT scored above the state and national average. However, all campuses are recognized as needs improvement according to the preliminary flexibility guidelines set forth by the accountability model of the National Educational Department. Dardanelle High School continues to be listed in the U.S. World Report's Nation's Best High Schools. The high school was selected by the National Research Organization as one of the state's Highest Performing Schools and selected as an Exemplary Progress School by ACT. We are proud of our records and continue to work toward excellence. While test scores in themselves do not offer an accurate reflection of the school's performance, these results may reveal strengths and areas of concern within an instructional program when observed over a period of time. However, we offer far more indicators to reveal that "we are about more educationally than a single test score."

State and Federal programs (Title I, IIA, III, NSLA, Acts 35 and 59) at the Dardanelle School District are strongly committed to ensuring that all students achieve to their maximum potential with additional assistance in mathematics and literacy. The priority goal is to have every student achieving on grade level or above as soon as possible. There are several teachers and staff in our district employed from these funds to extend the achievement of our students. We have two instructional supervisors, four computer lab managers, three study skills teachers, six special reading/math teachers, five ELL teachers, three school nurses, federal programs administrator and assistant, and seven high school teachers who work each day with remediation. The gifted and talented program at Dardanelle School District is comprised of enrichment at the primary, research-based project oriented pullout at the intermediate, enrichment/quiz bowl/chess/mentor at middle school, and enrichment/quiz bowl/AP classes/mentor at the high school level. Parents of students in the Dardanelle School District are encouraged to visit the building-level parent centers to view the many parental resource materials available for home or to use in the Center. School counselors are available to assist parents before and after school or as needed.

English Language Learner (ELL) program: The language minority student population continues to climb from 43 students in 1996-1997 to approximately 500 for 2014-2015. Because of a large influx of language minority students into kindergarten, we expect that number to be even larger at our count for the ADE November 2014 deadline. The English Language Learner (ELL) program in the Dardanelle School District is functioning well with students being clustered as much as possible to make the best use of all staff. Teachers are working cooperatively to ensure that this population is served adequately.

ACSIP (Arkansas Comprehensive School Improvement Plans) for the district and each school have been developed with the assistance of staff, administration, parents, community, and students. The documents are in continuous revision to ensure the opportunity of each child to reach his or her maximum potential. These plans are available in the Central Office for review and comment by the public. Increasingly, the ACSIP is

becoming an instrument that reflects the processes by which Dardanelle School District is endeavoring to be comprehensive in all efforts to enhance student achievement.

After School Programs: Dardanelle High School and Dardanelle Middle School operates a before and after school program through the 21st Century grant for school improvement. Jamie Burris is the Program Manager/Director of the successful ‘before and after school’ tutoring and summer enrichment sessions. In order to continue the before and after school program, the schools seek community partnership as a means of sustainability.

The school performance report that is required by ACT 35 of the 2nd Extraordinary Session of 2003 to be published annually in a local newspaper is attached. This includes all students’ performance in math and literacy (number and percentage) by grade level, economic status, and ethnicity on the Benchmark exams and End of Course exams and the percentile rankings by grade level on norm-referenced exam. Also, included in this report is the number of students taking advanced placement courses, the percent of students making a 3.0, 4.0, or 5.0 on advanced placement exams, and the number and percentage of all students retained in grades one through eight. Dardanelle students continue to outperform most state and regional schools on the ACTAAP and with a score of 21.5, beating the national average of 21.0 on the ACT.

This past year has seen the continuation of a pattern of growth and improvement that has become a trait of the Dardanelle School System. The district constantly seeks ways in which it can improve the quality of services offered to our students and patrons. The district will not rest on past accomplishments, but will continue the legacy of progress and improvement in the years to come.

The Dardanelle School District Board of Education and Staff are committed to providing a quality educational program for Dardanelle School District students. We welcome any comments or suggestions you might have.

Advanced Placement Data

146 AP test were given in 8 subjects.

28% scored 3 or better

Our average score for each subject:

- Calculus-1.7
- English Language and Composition-2.2
- European History-1.7
- Studio Art Drawing-2.7
- United States Government-1.2
- United States History-2.1
- Environmental Science-2.3
- Studio Art 2D-2.0

Our Average AP Score was 1.99

Retention Data Grades K-8

Kindergarten	20
1 st	12
2 nd	5
3 rd	2
4 th	1
5 th	1
6 th	1
7 th	0
8 th	0