



**Rogers Public Schools
SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNUAL
REPORT TO THE PUBLIC, 2019**

Good evening. I am pleased on the district's behalf, to share the Annual Report for the Rogers School District.

Rogers Public Schools is truly committed to its mission to provide an environment of educational excellence where all belong, all learn, and all succeed. Our 23 schools provide a top-notch education for more than 15,700 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 school year:

- Elmwood honored as a Diamond School to Watch
- Three students were named National Merit Finalists.
- Rogers staff members were selected as the state's finest including the Special Education Administrator of the Year, the 6A Athletic Director of the Year and the Middle School Counselor of the Year.
- 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 Rogers New Tech High School, Rogers High School and Rogers Heritage High School among the Best High Schools in the country.

- The Office of Educational Policy recognized several Rogers schools for being among the highest achieving schools in the state. Crossroads received an award for Top Composite Scores among alternative learning environment programs.
- 167 of our hard-working AP students were recognized as AP Scholars.
- Garfield and Janie Darr Elementary students were named Odyssey of the Mind World Finalists.
- The district added nine new National Board Certified Teachers: Nakia Brener, Brandi Brooks, Candice Duncan, Colby Fingerhut, Natalie Gregory, Caitlin Johnston, Cassandra Satterfield, Melinda Singleton, and Lindsy Stidham. This brings the district's total to 98.
- The Rogers School Board was recognized by the Arkansas State School Board Association with the Master Board Award.
- We also were pleased to excel in extracurricular activities including having the Arkansas Girls' Indoor Track Champions as well as runner-up in Cheer, Girls' Track, Girls' Tennis and Girls' Cross Country.

Student achievement is always our daily focus and we see a snapshot of their achievement through our state assessments. Our third through tenth grade students take the ACT Aspire tests as part of the state's accountability program and results show that Rogers consistently performs above the state and national scores. All of our schools have met the accountability requirements for the state and all schools are fully accredited.

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

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. Rogers has a 4-year graduation rate of 87.1%.

When we look at how our students compare to others, our college entrance exam scores are above the state average. In 2018, 1,089 students in 11th grade took the ACT. Rogers' average composite score was 20.54. The district scored above the state composite of 19.86.

A great point of pride in the Rogers School District is our Advanced Placement Program. We had 1,533 students who took 2,645 AP tests in 2018-19. Students who score 3, 4, or 5 are given college credit at most schools across the nation. In 2019, 33.3% of our Advanced Placement students received a qualifying score of 3 or better with the potential of receiving college credit. In 2019, 167 of our AP students were recognized as AP Scholars.

We can be very proud that 54% of students in grades 8-12 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 \$175,281,255. The majority of the budget (80 percent) will be spent on salaries and benefits for certified and classified personnel. Of the remaining 20 percent, 9 percent will be used for debt payment, 8 percent for utilities and services, 4.5 percent for federal restricted funding, and 3 percent for supplies. Approximately 9 percent of our total funding comes from federal restricted funding. Of those federal funds, we will receive \$2,844,943 in Title I funds which will be used for reading and math programs, personnel, and professional development. We will receive \$460,627 in Title II, Part A funds, which will be used for professional development. We will receive \$448,165 in Title III funds which will be used for ESOL salaries and professional development. We also receive \$205,844 in Title IV funds that transfer into Title I. We receive \$2,962,791 in Title VI-B funds for Special Education.

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