

Lawrence County School District Annual Report to the Public 2016

District Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Lawrence County School District to develop the ability of all students by motivating, challenging, and fostering independent education. To accomplish this mission, the Lawrence County School District will ensure a positive educational environment that enhances learning, fosters growth, and provides opportunities for all students and faculty to exceed and excel beyond the educational setting.

Schools

The Lawrence County School District is home to 920 students and 129 staff members. The Walnut Ridge Elementary serves students in grades kindergarten through the sixth grade. Walnut Ridge High serves students in grades seven through twelve. The Lawrence County School District strives to support the schools in administering academic and extracurricular programs that aim at benefiting all students. District personnel accept the responsibility that ALL students can learn and the faculty and staff will continue to work diligently to accomplish that endeavor in order to develop future productive citizens of our communities.

Arkansas schools continue to ensure high quality instruction and instructional leadership through the implementation of the [Teacher Excellence and Support System](#) (TESS) that defines a system to support high quality classroom instruction and effective teaching and leading in Arkansas's schools. The new teacher evaluation system provides school districts a transparent and consistent teacher evaluation system that ensures effective teaching and promotes professional learning.

Annual Public Meeting

The Lawrence County School District held a public meeting on October 10, 2016 at 6:30p.m. in the Middle level building library.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss progress toward accomplishing district program goals, creating opportunities for excellence, accreditation standards, and school objectives for the 2017-2018 school year. Principals gave an overview of programs in each school. All parents and patrons were encouraged to attend.

Walnut Ridge Elementary School 2016 Public Report

The Walnut Ridge Elementary School is accredited by the North Central Association and is in full compliance with state standards. The faculty and staff remain committed to the school mission while developing the abilities of each student through the implementation of motivating, challenging, and independent learning within a safe and positive school environment.

The elementary school is currently made up of Kindergarten through Sixth Grade. Grades K-4 is housed in the Ben R. Bush building along with an ABC program. Grades 5-6 are housed in the Middle School building. There are 354 students enrolled in K-4 and 149 at the middle school for a total of 503 students in the elementary school. The total enrollment for preschool is 50. Sixty percent of the students qualify for the federal food program.

Third through sixth grade students have the opportunity to participate in intramural basketball. Fourth through sixth grade students may participate in football, and 5th and 6th grade girls may participate in volleyball. All of these sports are part of the Walnut Ridge Elementary Booster Club's program under the direction of the school's Athletic Director. Learning is extended at WRES through a variety of additional activities available to students. The Lawrence County Spelling Bee, Chess Tournaments, Quiz Bowl, Elementary Field Day, and Odyssey of the Mind are some of the opportunities. Our K-4th graders participated in the One School, One Book program again this past

year. **One School, One Book** provides excellent involvement between the school, parents, and community. We received positive feedback on the program and will continue it again this year.

The Walnut Ridge Elementary Before and After School Program remains a growing part of the elementary school. There are currently seventy-five students enrolled in this program. The Walnut Ridge Elementary Summer Program met the essentials of over eighty students. The average daily attendance is between 30-50 students. Our school is committed to serving the needs of our parents and community.

Parent-Teacher conferences have been scheduled for the 2016-17 school year. The first parent-teacher conference will be held at the end of the first nine weeks' period. The second conference will be held at the end of the third nine weeks. Mid-term progress reports will be sent to parents each five weeks during the four quarters. Individual conferences may be scheduled as deemed necessary.

Student Recognition is a very important part of Walnut Ridge Elementary. Students will receive awards for Honor Roll, Perfect Attendance, Good Work, Birthday, Principal's Award, Super Star Award, Happy Face Award, Paws-actively Awesome, High Five Award, Extra Effort, and Most Improved. The awards will be presented at the end of the first, second, and third quarters. End of year awards will be presented fourth quarter. Students are awarded Bobcat Bucks for exhibiting good behavior and work ethics. The Catch Me Doing Good certificates are awarded throughout the school year. Mrs. Kelly Rider is continuing the Word of the Month Program which places emphasis on words associated with good character.

The Walnut Ridge School continues the use of PLC Committees school wide with the goal of insuring that all students learn at high levels. The administration and faculty works diligently to obtain professional development that will foster student growth and provide an enhanced learning environment. All professional development is aligned with the local ACSIP Plan and meets the requirements mandated by the state. Teachers continue to grow professionally through active involvement in professional organizations and the state mandated TESS evaluation system. Professional Development this year will focus on Literacy, Science, Math, and the PLC Process. The Walnut Ridge Elementary certified teaching staff will receive 60 hours of staff development during the 2016-17 school year.

Students at Walnut Ridge Elementary take the state required assessments annually. These include the Qualls Readiness Skills for Kindergarten, the IOWA Skills Test for grades 1 and 2, and the ACT Aspire Assessment for grades 3rd thru 6th. Students with academic deficiencies on the assessments are given multiple opportunities for improvement inclusive of; small pull-out booster groups, Reading Recovery, mathematics push-in programs, and academic prescriptions are filled in the Parent Center. We also offer After School Tutoring, In School Tutoring through the remediation/enrichment period in 5th and 6th grades, and one-on-one time with instructional aides are the programs in place for students who need additional academic instruction. Our reading staff assists teachers through the implementation of small intervention groups for students in grades K-4.

Walnut Ridge Elementary faculty and staff will continue to work with the students, parents, and community to meet the needs of all students. Walnut Ridge Elementary strives to make our school a true learning environment that promotes the belief that all students can learn. All teaching strategies and techniques implemented are research based to help support fundamental growth for our students. Administrators, teachers, and parents working together can make a positive difference in student achievement and educational quality, thereby initiating a "School of Choice.

**Spring, 2016 Iowa Tests of Basic Skills
(Number & Percent Scoring at or Above the 50 Percentile)**

	ITBS	Number Tested	% at or Above 50th Percentile
First Grade	Reading Total	78	44%
	Math Total	78	48%
Second Grade	Reading Total	79	47%
	Math Total	79	43%

Spring, 2016 ACT Aspire

(The ranks show how this group performed in comparison to other grade 3 students in the nation.)

(The ranks show how this group performed in comparison to other grade 4 students in the nation.)

This report shows how the typical student in this group achieved as well as or better than other students in the nation.

Third Grade ACT Aspire	Number Tested	% At or above national scores.
	67	Writing 40%
		English 64%
		Reading 44%
		Math 31%
		Science 43%

Fourth Grade ACT Aspire	Number Tested	% At or above national scores.
	72	Writing 58%
		English 45%
		Reading 46%
		Math 46%
		Science 55%

Walnut Ridge High School 2016 Public Report

Walnut Ridge High School meets the Standards for Accreditation as established and set forth by the Arkansas Department of Education. Walnut Ridge High School is also a fully accredited member of the North Central Association.

The faculty and administration are involved in an ongoing effort to accomplish goals of the school's mission statement. Workshops and training to obtain the highest level of services for our students and faculty are provided. The professional development hours are based on the requirements found within the ACTAPP State Rules, Board policies, student achievement data, and local ACSIP plans. Specifically, professional development activities are designed at increasing student academic performance. Two key focuses of professional development at WRHS include the Smart Step Literacy Lab Project and the continued development of a Professional Learning Community.

At Walnut Ridge High School, 28 faculty members provide instruction in a broad spectrum of subjects ranging from special education and basic skills to Advanced Placement courses. In 2015-

16, Walnut Ridge High School produced four AP Scholars and one AP Scholar with Honors. This designation goes to students who have scored a “3” or higher on 3 or more AP exams throughout high school. WRHS offers nine Advanced Placement courses. A smart core curriculum and a core curriculum are offered that benefit both the college bound student and those students who will be entering the workforce after graduation. Students may also become a “Completer” by completing a course of study in one of three vocational pathways at WRHS: Agriculture, Business, and Family & Consumer Science. Students are allowed to pursue a course of study that will enable them to attend the Northeast Arkansas Technical Center in Jonesboro which offers 13 technical programs, many of which provide concurrent credit through ASU-Newport. Walnut Ridge High School also offers seven concurrent credit courses through Black River Technical College that allows students who qualify academically to receive college credit in those courses for a reduced rate of tuition.

Walnut Ridge High School students participate in a variety of nationally sponsored activities that include FFA, FCCLA, FBLA, Key Club, National Honor Society, Student Council, and a number of school sponsored clubs. WRHS students have excelled both at the state and national level in such competitions as Quiz Bowl and Odyssey of the Mind. Students are also involved in community activities with Key Club, Ralph Joseph Leadership, and Red Cross. Walnut Ridge High School students attended Boys and Girls State sponsored by the American Legion.

Students are given the opportunity to attend an ACT summer program hosted by Walnut Ridge High. The preparation course offered during the summer months gives many students a significant increase in scores as a result of their participation. ACT help sessions are also sponsored throughout the school year in the week before a scheduled test.

Students may participate in a host of extracurricular activities that enhance the learning process. Athletic programs include football, volleyball, basketball, baseball, softball, tennis, track and field, cross-country, the “Alleycats” dance team, and trap shooting team. An active cheerleading squad, band, and choir compete in a host of local, state, and national events. Individual clubs and organizations meet a diverse range of student needs.

The Lawrence County School District advances its Alternative Learning Environment program. Alternative Education is located in the Walnut Ridge High School and serves students 9-12. This program serves students for behavioral issues, attendance issues and students who are at risk for not graduating. These students may earn credits in English, Social Science, Science, Math and various electives taught via Virtual Arkansas, a live-streaming simulcast taught by highly qualified teachers across the state and facilitated by WRHS teachers. Students may also attend the Jonesboro Service Center to learn skills for vocational trades. Virtual Arkansas teachers meet with students a minimum of twice a week and WRHS facilitators meet with students on a daily basis.

Technology continues to be an important component of the educational process. Every classroom has Internet accessibility and the high school library has sixteen computers available for student research and projects. The high school has three computer labs. One of the labs is used for classroom instruction in the business department. One lab is utilized as a remediation center to remediate students who scored below proficient on the End-of-Course and Benchmark exams and the other is a general lab adjacent to the Library used for a variety of educational needs. The entire high school building has wi-fi access.

Since Walnut Ridge High School received the Farm to School Grant in 2014-15, students have been growing food on the school campus and distributing that food to the school cafeteria to be served to the student body. As a result of this grant, a fully functional greenhouse and growing structure was constructed adjacent to the Agriculture building. Also, two new courses were added to the WRHS Vocational Agriculture curriculum to support the program.

Students at Walnut Ridge High take the state-required assessments annually. ACT Aspire became the state-mandated test for grades 3-10 in 2015-16. The chart below describes the results of the ACT Aspire test:

2015-16 Lawrence County School District ACT Aspire School Proficiency

English	65%
Math	40%
Science	37%
Reading	33%
Writing	28%

2012-2016 WRHS Graduate’s performance on the ACT College admission exam:

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Number Tested	40	53	72	60	67
English	18.5	17.7	19.1	19.0	18.8
Mathematics	19.7	18.6	19.6	19.3	19.5
Reading	19.8	18.1	20.2	19.5	19.8
Science	19.9	18.7	19.0	19.6	19.3
Composite	19.5	18.4	19.6	19.5	19.5

2015-16 Advanced Placement Tests/ Scores of 3 or higher

AP Course	# Enrolled	# Taking Exam	Score of:		
			3.0	4.0	5.0
Biology	4	4	1	0	0
English Lang./Comp	20	20	2	0	0
Government & Politics	5	5	2	1	1
Calculus AB	6	6	1	1	0
World History	30	30	8	2	0
English Lit./Comp.	13	13	2	0	0
Music Theory	3	3	0	0	0
U.S. History	15	15	0	1	0

Lawrence County School District Graduation, Drop-Out, Remediation Rate

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Graduation Rate*	87.2%	95.4%	96.8	85.7
Drop-out Rate	1.01%	1.57%	0.60	0.93
College Remediation Rate	64.7%	35.5%	52.2	55.8

*State Goal for Graduation Rate is 85%

Walnut Ridge High School is committed to excellence in education. The mission of Walnut Ridge High School is to enable all students and faculty an opportunity to exceed and excel. We recognize that the responsibility of a solid educational foundation lies with the students, teachers, school leaders, parents, and community. Our mission is to develop the abilities of each student by maintaining an educational setting that enhances learning, fosters growth, and ensures development.

Alternative Learning Environment

The Lawrence County School District advances its Alternative Learning Environment program. Alternative Education is located in the Walnut Ridge High School and serves students 9-12. This program serves students for behavioral issues, attendance issues and students who are at risk for not graduating. These students may earn credits in English, Social Science, Science, Math and various electives taught via Virtual Arkansas, a live-streaming simulcast taught by highly qualified teachers across the state and facilitated by WRHS teachers. Students may also attend the Jonesboro Service Center to learn skills for vocational trades. Virtual Arkansas teachers meet with students a minimum of twice a week and WRHS facilitators meets with students on a daily basis.

Parent Center

The Walnut Ridge School Parent Center is committed to providing materials and services to assist parents in improving their child's academic achievement. We continue to encourage and support active parental involvement in a variety of ways including but not limited to volunteering.

Informational packets are prepared in the center and will be distributed during parent/teacher conferences. Packets consist of useful information including but not limited to school calendar, contact information, parental involvement plan, volunteer opportunities, parenting tips in areas such as homework, health or nutrition, and projected parent involvement activities planned for the school year.

Newsletters are created monthly in the parent center to provide communication between the school and parents in a regular and meaningful manner for each campus including elementary, middle, and high schools. Newsletters are posted on the school website, available in paper form, and may be received electronically through email. The school website is another method for parents to communicate or be informed in a regular and meaningful manner. Parents are encouraged to visit the website at www.bobcats.k12.ar.us to check their child's progress, assignments, and activities.

Parent Center surveys will be sent home annually and are available to download on the parent center page on the school website. Results from the surveys will be used to better understand the needs of the parents. Parent meeting topics and material suggestions are also compiled from the surveys.

Volunteerism is supported and encouraged at Walnut Ridge School. Volunteer surveys are sent home annually and are also available to download on the school website. Instructional volunteers are trained through the center each year. Faculty members receive a volunteer resource book which is updated yearly from the survey results. Teachers are encouraged to take advantage of this useful resource.

The parent center provides resources and materials free of charge. The center is available daily and is located near the middle level building. It is coordinated by Lindsey Romine and facilitated by Dyan Heard. Mrs. Romine may be reached at 870-819-0443 and Mrs. Heard at 870-819-0441 or both a www.bobcats.k12.ar.us. The Walnut Ridge School encourages all parents to utilize this valuable asset.

Gifted, Talented and Creative Program

The Lawrence County School District's gifted, talented, and creative program provides students with various program options such as Whole Group Enrichment, Resource Room, Pre-Advanced Placement, and Advanced Placement Courses.

Kindergarten through second grade are served through Whole Group Enrichment by the gtc coordinator for 30 minutes per week.

Students in the third through sixth grade are provided services in the resource room for 150 minutes per week by the gtc coordinator.

Students in the fifth through tenth grade are served through Pre-Advanced Placement courses such as Civics, English, Economics, Math, Physical Science, Biology, and Algebra II, by a certified teacher for 250 minutes per week.

Students in the tenth, eleventh and twelfth grade are provided services through Advanced Placement courses such as Biology, Calculus, Music Theory, U.S. History, World History, American Government, English Language, and English Literature and Composition by a certified teacher for 250 minutes per week.

All seventh through twelfth grade students have the opportunity to meet with the gtc coordinator on the third Monday of the month from 8:00 a.m. until 8:45 a.m.

Identified students also have the opportunity to participate in outside learning opportunities such as Odyssey of the Mind, quiz bowl, chess competitions, NEAC Business Expo, U.S. Space Camp, Story Store, Stock Market Game, and Project Fair. Additional field trips are arranged when appropriate.

Referrals for the gifted, talented and creative program are accepted throughout the year. Please feel free to access Tonda Brand's website page for more information or contact her at 819-0439.

District Technology

The district continues to implement technology at a responsible pace. The rolling out of wireless networking has become a moving target. Technology and best practices continue to evolve. The new wireless standard, 802.11ac, will require a wireless access point in every room to take full advantage of the new technology. This is eligible for E-rate and funding has been applied for. We are waiting on approval and hope to have this installed this calendar year.

Our goal is for all buildings to have a robust wireless network capable of simultaneously supporting large numbers of devices at any location in the buildings. There is a wireless network connection available in the basketball gym for patrons to use at athletic events. There are no plans at this time to provide wireless access outside of the buildings other than what can be accessed using what wireless signal is propagated outside the building. The wireless network availability has not only enabled students to access information "anywhere, anytime", it has also enabled the use of mobile labs. We are up to 14 carts of laptops and are experimenting with one to one in third and fourth grade rooms. We have close to 1000 computers on campus including servers, desktops, and laptops.

The state is taking over the internet connection state wide and will be increasing the speed from our current 100 mbps to 200 mbps. We actually took a step backwards this year when the

Suddenlink contract expired. We are now at 60 mpbs and sometimes becomes saturated. After the new state network is installed we should be in good shape.

We continue to investigate a phased in approach of replacing Smartboards with touch screen LCD displays. We have installed 15 new LCD interactive panels in the math and science departments. Response has been very good. We will continue to move in this direction to get away from projector based presentation equipment. Projector bulbs have advertised lifetimes of 2000 hours and cost \$300-\$400 each. LCD displays are rated at 10,000 hours and beyond and the picture quality is vastly better. The LCD pricing continues to fall.

Windows 10 is out, to great reviews, and we are upgrading from Windows 7 to Windows 10. This project is well underway with 90% of computers being updated to Windows 10.

We have completed getting a 10 gbps backbone installed. Some buildings with low user counts will continue to have a 1 gbps connection to the backbone but most buildings are now on the new 10 gbps backbone including the community center. We will move the servers to the new backbone as funding becomes available. Some servers are older and cannot support the new speed but we do have a few that can and any new servers purchased in the future will have a 10 gbps network connection.

The tech office has been moved to the central point of the network. About half of the servers are in the new location and we should be able to move the rest of the servers during the summer break in 2017.

A new IP based surveillance camera recording system has been installed but will be a phased in approach. We are still running the older DVRs at three locations and as these fail the cameras will be added to the new system. The new system will enable much higher resolution cameras and a centralized server for storing video. We will use the old fiber that is in place for the video cameras which will allow us to keep that high bandwidth traffic off of our main network.

Capital Improvements

- **Computers**
- **New Cafeteria Tables**
- **New Library Tables**
- **Striping of the Parking Lots**
- **Purchased Area for New Parking**
- **Resurfaced Parking Lot**
- **New School Vehicle**
- **LED Lighting Campus Wide**
- **15 Interactive LCD Panels**
- **New Ceiling and Floor Tiles in the Cafeteria**
- **ALE Classroom Remodeled**
- **High School Teacher Workroom Remodeled**
- **Basketball Goals on Playground**
- **Hot Water Heaters Campus Wide**
- **Acquired Property Adjacent to High School Campus**
- **Purchase of Mini Bus**

Federal and State Categorical Funding

The Lawrence County School District receives federal monies and state categorical monies to supplement educational programs. The District receives Title I, Title II-A, Title VI (state), Carl Perkins, National School Lunch Act (NSL) English Language Learners (ELL), Professional Development (PD), and Alternative Learning Environment (AE) funding. All funds (except Carl Perkins) are administered through the schools' Arkansas Consolidated School Improvement Plans.

Title I funds are utilized for Walnut Ridge Elementary. Funds are used to provide additional academic support and learning opportunities for teachers and students. Literacy and math are targeted areas of improvement. The Parent Center is funded using Title I fund, also.

Title II-A funds assist the school in creating a smaller teacher-student ratio in the elementary grades. Currently, Walnut Ridge Elementary has staff positions that are funded from Title II-A funds. Those positions are Nikki Brinkley – Kindergarten Teacher and part of Brooke Bramlett's salary as Literacy Coach.

Title VI (state) funds are used to help provide a security officer for the district.

Carl Perkins funds are specifically used in the Vocational Department. Business, Agriculture, and Family and Consumer Science classes provide supplemental activities with Carl Perkins funds. Funds are also used to provide teachers with professional development opportunities and travel expenses.

National School Lunch Act (NSLA) funds are geared at increasing student academic performance in math, literacy, science, and social studies. Positions paid with NSLA funds are: School Nurse, Security Officer, MS Guidance Counselor, Technology Lab aide in HS, Librarian, Before and After School Tutoring, and others. NSLA monies are also used for software, HS library, and materials and supplies for math and literacy.

Professional Development funds allow teachers to attend various trainings throughout the year. Teachers are also afforded the opportunity to attend meetings that address best practices in their respective academic field and that pertain to their Professional Growth Plan.

Alternative Learning Environment (ALE) funds assist in the establishment of the Alternative School located on the Walnut Ridge campus. Teachers are compensated for providing instruction at the school. Materials and supplies are also purchased to assist with the instructional program of the ALE.

The Lawrence County School District does not have a soda contract at the present time. The district is looking at possible options.

Equity

The Lawrence County School Equity coordinator for the District is Debbie Findley. She can be reached at 870-886-6623.

Homeless

The Lawrence County School Homeless Coordinator for the District is Penny Sloan. She can be reached at 870-886-6697.

Statement

The Lawrence County School District is committed to provide our students an excellent education. We want parents and the community involved in the educational process. With everyone working toward the same goals, we can provide the education our children need. At the Lawrence County Schools, we are committed to this challenge. The Lawrence County School Board and Administration are committed to improve our facilities and modernize the school. This is an ongoing effort by all. We want everyone to be proud of our school district and our combined success.

Agenda
Lawrence County School District
Annual Public Meeting
October 10, 2016
6:30 p.m.

- I. Call to Order**

- II. Superintendent's Report**
 - A. Progress of Goals**
 - B. Accreditation Status**
 - C. General Overview**

- III. Walnut Ridge Campus - Elementary K-6 Principal's Report**
 - A. Progress of Goals**
 - B. Accreditation Status**
 - C. General Overview**

- IV. Walnut Ridge Campus – High School Principal's Report**
 - A. Progress of Goals**
 - B. Accreditation Status**
 - C. General Overview**

- V. Closing Report**

- VI. Adjourn**

**Minutes
Lawrence County School District
Annual Public Meeting
October 10, 2016**

The Lawrence County School District met Monday, October 10, 2016, at 6:30 p.m. in the Middle-Level Library for the Annual Public Meeting.

At 6:30p.m. President Ronald Ingram called the meeting to order.

The first item was the Superintendent's Report, which was given by Superintendent Terry Belcher. He gave a general update for the school, discussed goals and accreditation status. Mr. Belcher discussed the ACT Aspire and the TESS evaluation system.

Ms. Cheadle gave the Walnut Ridge Elementary Principal's report. At the annual public meeting, Ms. Cheadle discussed the goals for the elementary school, the accreditation status, and the test scores results.

Mr. Kersey gave the Walnut Ridge High School Principal's report. At the annual public meeting, Mr. Kersey discussed the goals for the high school, the accreditation status, and proposals for the upcoming year.

Superintendent Belcher gave the closing for the schools' report and a question and answer session.

At 6:45 p.m. Joe Penn moved the meeting adjourned. Pat Roby seconded the motion. The motion received unanimous approval.

Vickie Mitchell, Secretary