Lawrence County School District
Annual Report to the Public 2025

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.

The Lawrence County School District is home to 1019 students and 145 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 teacher evaluation system provides school districts a transparent and consistent teacher evaluation system that ensures effective teaching and promotes professional learning. All K-12 faculty have demonstrated awareness or proficiency in the Science of Reading through numerous Prescribed Pathways. Arkansas schools are continuing to evolve following the passage of the LEARNS and ACCESS Acts. These comprehensive pieces of legislation have introduced significant educational reforms, including—but not limited to—enhanced school safety measures, the implementation of ATLAS exams, a "bell-to-bell" no cell phone policy, and teacher merit-based pay. The Lawrence County School District remains committed to progress by actively aligning with these new laws to help elevate the quality of education for our students.

Annual Public Meeting

The Lawrence County School District held a public meeting on October 13, 2025 at 6:00p.m.

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 2025-2026 school year. Principals gave an overview of programs in each school. All parents and patrons were encouraged to attend.

Walnut Ridge Elementary School 2025 Public Report

The Walnut Ridge Elementary School is in full compliance with the Arkansas Department of Education accreditation 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. PLC (Professional Learning Communities) meetings center around student data and the alignment that all students can learn. The administration and faculty work diligently to obtain at least 36 hours of professional development that will foster student growth and provide an enhanced learning environment. All professional development meets the requirements mandated by the state. Teachers grow professionally through active involvement in professional organizations and the state mandated TESS evaluation system. Professional Development will focus on Literacy, Data, and Mathematics.

Personnel updates for the 2025-26 school year include: Hannah Morgan, moved to 4th grade Teacher; Kera Kelly, moved to 2nd grade Teacher; Brooke Bramlett, moved to Dyslexia Interventionist; Madalyn Heard, moved to Literacy Coach; Felissa Craig, moved to 5th grade Literacy; Marcia Martin, moved to 6th grade Math; Jason Ward, K-6 Dean of Students; Carly Hurt,

3rd grade Teacher; Stacey Brown, 2nd grade Teacher, Kaylee Isaacs, Kindergarten Teacher; Mattie Flanery, 6th grade Literacy; Elizabeth Scales, 5th grade Science and Social Studies. Three teachers completed the Lead Teacher Designation Program and three more teachers are currently enrolled in a Master Teacher Designation Program. Two teachers are enrolled in graduate school pursuing a Master of Arts in Teaching and two 2 instructional aides are pursuing a degree in education.

The Walnut Ridge Elementary School consists of students in Kindergarten through Sixth grade. ABC Preschool classrooms are located across the street from the Elementary. K-6 Classrooms are located in the Ben R. Bush building, Middle School building, portable buildings adjacent to the Middle School Building and various gym locations on campus.

Enrollment reported at the beginning of the school year for the past three years are:

Students Enrolled	August 2023	August 2024	August 2025	October 2025
ABC Preschool, (ages 3 – 5)	60	60	60	60
Kindergarten	94	77	84	82
1st grade	83	101	77	76
2nd grade	94	80	95	96
3rd grade	85	88	84	83
4th grade	74	78	86	85
5th grade	79	78	82	78
6th grade	71	84	75	70
Total Enrolled	640	646	643	630

Fifth and Sixth grade students have the opportunity to participate in intramural basketball. Fourth grade through Sixth grade boys may participate in football. Fourth grade through Sixth grade girls may participate in volleyball and cheerleading. All activities are part of the Walnut Ridge Elementary Booster Club program under the direction of the Walnut Ridge Public School K-6 Athletic Director. Learning extends at Walnut Ridge Elementary School through a variety of additional activities such as the Lawrence County Spelling Bee, Chess Tournaments, Quiz Bowl, and One School, One Book.

The Walnut Ridge Elementary Paw Patch and Vacation Station programs remain a service to students and their families. The programs served the families of over 50 students by providing child-care needs from 6 am and 6 pm, for enrolled WRES students who are starting kindergarten through finishing sixth grade.

Parent-Teacher conferences are scheduled twice during the school year; midway through the first nine-week period and the third nine-week period. Parents receive mid-term progress reports each quarter. Individual conferences transpire throughout the school year as necessary.

Student Recognition is a valued part of the Walnut Ridge Elementary experience. Mr. Cameron Priest, WRES K – 4 Counselor, focuses on character education through in class presentations and PAWS (Student of the Month) celebrations. Kindergarten Graduation and End of year awards focus on student growth and achievement.

In-school and After-school Tutoring addresses the academic needs of at-risk students identified by RTI data collected throughout the school year. Students with academic deficiencies obtain opportunities for improvement within the Bobcat Block that provides multiple interventions through small group instruction. Instructional Aides and Interventionists facilitate effective interventions during non-core instructional time periods. Curriculum used for Interventions include: UFLI, Sonday System, Take Flight, embedded resources in core curriculum (CKLA & Illustrative Mathematics. The goal of the programs is to lessen (or close) their learning gap by addressing grade-

level mathematic and literacy skills using research-based enrichment activities which promote growth. Our Literacy Coach assists teachers and staff through the implementation of small intervention groups for students in Kindergarten through Fourth grade. The Parent Center provides academic prescriptions for home learning reinforcement.

Walnut Ridge Elementary faculty and staff continue to work with the students, parents, and community to meet the needs of all students. Administrators, teachers, and parents work together to make a positive difference in student achievement and educational quality, thereby initiating a "School of Choice".

Walnut Ridge Elementary students take the state required assessments annually. The ATLAS (Arkansas Teaching and Learning Assessment System) Assessment is aligned with the state curriculum standards.

Spring 2025, ATLAS Summative Assessment Results							
		# Tested	% Proficient	% Level 1 (limited)	% Level 2 (Basic)	% Level 3 (Proficient)	% Level 4 (Advanced)
K	ELA	The K-2 ATLAS Assessment launched in Spring 2024. Results are going through a calibration process to set cut scores. ADE anticipates the data will be released in October 2025.					
	Math						
1st	ELA						
	Math						
2nd	ELA						
	Math						
3rd	**ELA** (State)	**82**	**13** (36)	**41** (29)	**47** (35)	**9** (21)	**4** (15)
	Math (State)	**81**	**16** (39)	**44** (27)	**40** (33)	**12** (26)	**4** (13)
	Science (State)	**81**	**24** (39)	**42** (27)	**35** (34)	**20** (24)	**4** (15)
4th	**ELA** (State)	**78**	**19** (39)	**38** (26)	**43** (35)	**16** (26)	**3** (13)
	Math (State)	**74**	**23** (43)	**36** (24)	**41** (33)	**19** (28)	**4** (15)
	Science (State)	**74**	**23** (39)	**42** (25)	**35** (35)	**20** (25)	**3** (14)
5th	**ELA** (State)	**68**	**22** (37)	**49** (25)	**29** (39)	**13** (24)	**9** (13)
	Math (State)	**68**	**24** (37)	**51** (32)	**25** (31)	**21** (22)	**3** (15)
	Science (State)	**68**	**27** (38)	**50** (28)	**24** (34)	**24** (23)	**3** (15)
6th	**ELA** (State)	**74**	**34**(36)	**36** (25)	**30** (40)	**29** (25)	**5** (11)
	Math (State)	**77**	**29** (40)	**31** (28)	**39** (32)	**19** (26)	**10** (14)
	Science (State)	**77**	**21** (37)	**39** (26)	**40** (37)	**13** (22)	**8** (15)

Walnut Ridge High School 2025 Public Report

Walnut Ridge High School meets the Standards for Accreditation as established and set forth by the Arkansas Department of Education.

The faculty and administration are involved in an ongoing effort to accomplish the 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 Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) State Rules, board policies, student achievement data, LEARNS act, and the District and School-level improvement plans. Specifically, professional development activities are designed to increase student academic performance. Key focuses of professional development at WRHS are the improvement of math and science scores and the utilization of high-quality instructional materials. Efforts are ongoing to improve our school

report card grade specifically focused on AP scores, students obtaining technical certificates, and eventually obtaining associate's degrees. WRHS has a graduation rate of 90.36%.

At Walnut Ridge High School, 26 faculty members provide instruction in a broad spectrum of subjects ranging from special education and basic skills to Advanced Placement courses. WRHS offers seven Advanced Placement courses. Every student at WRHS should graduate from high school success-ready with the knowledge, skills, abilities, and habits to succeed on their chosen path, with options including: enlistment in military service, enrollment in a postsecondary training or degree program, and employment in a career that provides a family-sustaining wage. Students may also become a "Completer" by completing a course of study in one of four career and technical pathways at WRHS: Agriculture, Business, Jr. Firefighter, and Criminal Justice. Students are allowed to pursue a course of study that will enable them to attend the Northeast Arkansas Career and Technical Center in Jonesboro which offers 10 technical programs or the Black River Career and Technical Center in Pocahontas which offers 7 technical programs. Walnut Ridge High School also offers courses in academic and CTE subjects totaling 24 concurrent credit hours through Black River Technical College taught on our campus that allows students who qualify academically to receive college credit in those courses. BRTC also allows WRHS students to take online courses through their campus at the reduced rate for any course not offered on our campus. Arkansas's A2A Scholarship will pay for up to fifteen hours of concurrent credit per semester in the freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior years of high school in core subject areas, if students complete the courses with a grade of "C" or better. Currently, WRHS has 63 students in grades 9-12 enrolled in BRTC concurrent classes, either online or on our campus with our teachers.

The LEARNS Act requires all students starting with the class of 2026 to earn a total of 75 hours of community service before graduation. WRHS has worked with a number of local businesses and non-profit organizations to give students opportunities to earn the required hours.

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

Each summer, students are given the opportunity to attend an ACT preparation course offered here on the Walnut Ridge High School campus. The prep course 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, track and field, golf, 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. eSports was added in 2024 with grant funding to provide another extra-curricular opportunity.

Alternative Education is located on the Walnut Ridge High School campus and serves students in grades 9-12. This program serves students for behavioral issues, attendance issues and academic issues. WRHS teachers teach most courses. Students may also take electives in their field of interest or attend the Jonesboro Career and Technical Center or BRTC Secondary Center to learn skills for specific trades.

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 additional computer labs. One of the labs is used for classroom instruction in the business department. One lab is used for students taking online

college classes and for students to earn lost credits through Credit Recovery. The other is a general lab adjacent to the library used for eSports activities as well as a variety of other educational needs. All three labs were upgraded with new computers in 2022. In 2020-21, WRHS purchased a new laptop computer for every student in the high school and is now an official one-to-one school. Additionally, WRHS utilizes Microsoft 365 to enhance online and traditional learning.

Students at Walnut Ridge High take the state-required assessments annually. ATLAS became the state-mandated test for grades 3-10 in 2023-24; those scores became available, and scores were reviewed/analyzed in faculty professional development before the start of the school year. ATLAS scores on four Levels: Level 4-Advanced Understanding; Level 3-Proficient Understanding; Level 2-Basic Understanding; Level 1-Limited Understanding. The State recognizes Levels 3 and 4 as levels of proficiency. At the 9th and 10th grade levels, WRHS students' Proficiency Levels are the following:

2025 ATLAS PROFICIENCY-GRADES 9 & 10

9TH Grade English/Language Arts: 46% PROFICIENT/ADVANCED
10TH Grade ELA: 37% PROFICIENT/ADVANCED
Science/Biology: 36% PROFICIENT/ADVANCED
Math/Algebra I: 6% PROFICIENT/ADVANCED
Math/Geometry: 2% PROFICIENT/ADVANCED

ACT College Admission Exam---State-Tested 11th Grade (Mean Scores)

	2024 WRHS	2025 WRHS
Number Tested	55	68
English	17.8	19.1
Mathematics	16.4	17.1
Reading	19.1	18.0
Science	18.6	18.9
Composite	18.1	18.4

2024-2025 Advanced Placement Tests/ Scores of 3 or higher

AP Course	# Taking Exam	3	4	5
Biology	0	0	0	0
English Lang./Comp	26	6	4	0
U.S. Government	4	1	0	2
AP Precalculus	15	4	0	1
World History	10	2	3	0
English Lit./Comp.	21	4	0	0
U.S. History	11	5	1	1

In Spring 2025, seven WRHS students were recognized by College Board as AP Scholars. Two students were named AP Scholars with Honor (scored a 3 or higher on 4 or more AP exams); five students were named AP Scholars (scored a 3 or higher on 3 AP exams).

Success-Ready Diplomas of Merit & Distinction

Beginning with the Class of 2025, graduates can now earn a state diploma of merit or distinction based on advancement placement scores, college concurrent credit hours, certifications of credentials of value, a technical certificate or associate degree, or by achieving a Seal of Biliteracy.

	2025	2026
Diplomas of Merit	19 seniors earned diplomas of merit	16 seniors are on track for diplomas of merit
Diplomas of Distinction	2 seniors earned diplomas of distinction	10 seniors are on track for diplomas of distinction

These numbers may increase based on credentials, certifications, and technical certificates earned on the Black River Technical College campus or at the Northeast Arkansas Career & Technical Center on the Jonesboro High School campus.

WRHS seniors and underclassmen are also encouraged to take the necessary courses to earn the Technical Certificate in General Studies from BRTC which will qualify them for the Diploma of Distinction as well as the Governor's Scholarship of $5000 per year at an instate 4-year college.

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 continues to advance its Alternative Learning Environment program. The CATS (Creating A Thriving Student) Program is located in the Walnut Ridge High School and serves students 9-12. This program serves students who are at risk for not graduating, who have behavioral issues, and who have attendance issues. Students may earn credits in English, History, Science, Math and various electives. Core courses in English, Math, Science and Social Science are taught by accredited on-campus faculty who may use online curriculum. For electives, students may take on-campus and completer courses in Agriculture, Business, or Computer Science. Students who meet the proper criteria may also attend the Jonesboro Service Center or Black River Technical Center to learn skills for vocational trades.

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 posted on our website and made available 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 and nutrition, and projected parent involvement activities planned for the school year.

The Parent Center is using the app Remind to provide communication between the school and parents in a regular and meaningful manner for the elementary school. Remind announcements are posted on the school website, and can be available in paper form. 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 https://www.bobcats.k12.ar.us/high-school/grades **to check their child's progress, assignments, and activities.**

Parent Center surveys are sent home annually and are available to download on the parent center page on the school website. Results from the surveys are 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 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 in the Sharum Gymnasium. It is coordinated by Lindsey Romine and facilitated by Angela Brady. Mrs. Romine may be reached at 870-819-0443 and Mrs. Brady at 870-819-0451 or both at www.bobcats.k12.ar.us. The Walnut Ridge Elementary School encourages all parents to utilize this valuable asset.

Gifted and Talented Program

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

Kindergarten through second grade classes are served through Whole Group Enrichment by the coordinator via in person enrichment or through coordinator provided activities for at least 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 coordinator.

Students in the fifth through tenth grade are served through Honors 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, Pre-Calculus, U.S. History, World History, American Government, English Language, and English Literature and Composition by a certified teacher for 250 minutes per week.

All tenth through twelfth grade students have the opportunity to meet with the coordinator on Thursday from 10:35-11:20. Seventh and eighth grade students may meet with the coordinator one time during the second and fourth weeks per month for 50 minutes, in addition to the Honors courses provided.

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

Referrals for the gifted and talented program are accepted throughout the year. Please feel free to access Susan Ashlock's website page for more information or contact her at 819-0421.

District Technology

Expanded E-Sports program to include 2 more gaming computers, 4 new PlayStation 5s (plus TVs to run them), and 4 additional Nintendo Switches. Rewired the Gen Lab and added a new networking switch to accommodate the increased demand on the network.

Used the remainder of last cycle's E-Rate funding to upgrade the core network switch in preparation for campus wide upgrades over the next 5-year E-Rate funding cycle.

Replaced Mitel phone system with a Fortinet Phone system.

Replaced several broken smartboards and added new Smartboards to rooms that didn't previously have them to accommodate our district's continued growth.

Currently in the process of bringing district wide technology and policy related to technology into compliance with new state laws regarding cyber security (Act 504). This includes (but is not limited to) updating computers across campus to Windows 11 and adding multi-factor authentication (MFA) to faculty accounts. The computers in the North/South lab were replaced as part of the process because the machines that used to be in there did not meet the minimum requirements for Windows 11.

Capital Improvements

- **Safe Room Shelters in High School Classrooms**
- **Smart Board Computers**
- **iPads**
- **Student Laptops**
- **Teacher Laptops**
- **New Cameras**
- **Student Desks and Tables**
- **Door Locking System**
- **Replaced Ceiling Tiles**
- **New Copiers**
- **Cafeteria Ice Machine**
- **Sound System Football Field**
- **New Lighting Football Field**
- **Paved Parking at Baseball/Softball Field**
- **Bus Diagnostic Software**

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 IV-A, Title V (state), Carl Perkins, Enhanced Student Achievement (ESA), English Language Learners (ELL), Professional Development (PD), and Alternative Learning Environment (ALE) funding. All funds (except Carl Perkins) are administered through the LCSD School Improvement Plans.

<u>Title I</u> funds are utilized for Walnut Ridge Elementary (grades K-6). Funds are used to provide additional academic support and learning opportunities for teachers and students. Literacy, math, and science are targeted areas of improvement, with an emphasis on literacy and math. The Parent Center is funded using Title I funds.

<u>Title II-A</u> are transferred to Title I to help with expenses in the Title I budget.

<u>Title IV–A</u> funds are transferred to Title I to help with expenses in the Title I budget.

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

Enhanced Student Achievement (ESA) funds are geared at increasing student academic performance in math, literacy, science, and social studies. Positions paid with ESA funds: MS Paraprofessional, Dyslexia/Reading Interventionist, School Nurse, Security Resource Officer, MS Guidance Counselor, Technology Lab teacher in HS, Librarian in ES, Before and After School Tutoring, and Summer School at the high school.

Professional Development funds allow teachers to attend various training courses 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. Part of the salary of the ALE Coordinator is paid with ALE funds.

The Lawrence County School District does not have a soda contract.

Equity The Lawrence County School District Equity Coordinator is Amy Privett. You may reach Ms. Privett at 870-886-6697.

Homeless Jennifer Roark is our homeless liaison.