



Arkansas Department of Education

Division of Elementary and Secondary Education

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9 Schools, 2 Districts Selected for Fourth Year of Professional Learning Communities at Work® Project

4 Cohort 1 Schools Recently Named PLC Model Schools

LITTLE ROCK — The Arkansas Department of Education, in partnership with Solution Tree, a national professional development provider, announces the fourth cohort selected for the Professional Learning Communities at Work® project. ADE also celebrates the four Arkansas schools from the first cohort that were recently named PLC Model Schools.

Nine schools and two districts from around the state were selected for the 2020-2021 school year and join the 29 schools and four districts chosen the last three years. As with the first three cohorts, each school and district in the fourth cohort will receive up to 50 days of training, coaching, and support to build and sustain a strong culture of collaboration that will enhance student learning.

Those chosen completed a rigorous application and evaluation process. A panel of education professionals reviewed all applications, and the ADE selected the following schools and districts to receive support from Solution Tree.

- Bayyari Elementary School in the Springdale School District
- Camden Fairview High School in the Camden Fairview School District
- Centerpoint School District
- Clinton School District (Clinton Elementary School and Clinton Junior High School)
- Crossett High School in the Crossett School District
- Hot Springs Junior Academy in the Hot Springs School District
- Lake Hamilton Junior High School in the Lake Hamilton School District
- Northside High School in the Fort Smith School District
- Rivercrest High School in the Rivercrest School District
- Valley Springs Elementary School in the Valley Springs School District
- Watson Elementary School in the Little Rock School District

"I am always excited when we take a proven best practice model, implement it here in Arkansas, and see continued success," Gov. Asa Hutchinson said. "The PLC model is one of those examples. It has transformed the day-to-day operations and culture at schools around the state, leading to improved

outcomes with student learning. Congratulations to this new cohort of schools selected to join the PLC family, and congratulations to the four schools from the first cohort that were selected as model schools for the state.”

The following four schools, which were part of the first cohort of PLC schools selected in 2017, were recently named PLC Model Schools for their excellence in implementing the PLC at Work model with fidelity.

- Ballman Elementary School in the Fort Smith School District
- Greenbrier Eastside Elementary School in the Greenbrier School District
- Spradling Elementary School in the Fort Smith School District
- Morrilton Intermediate School in the South Conway County School District

In order to be named a model school, a school must demonstrate a commitment to PLC concepts; implement those concepts for at least three years; present clear evidence of improved student learning; explain the culture, practices, and structures of the school or district and be considered for the recognition; and update school or district information on the site each year to show continued progress in meeting the PLC at Work criteria.

“When I first attended a PLC institute several years ago, I immediately knew we needed to implement the model in Arkansas,” ADE Secretary Johnny Key said. “Not only is the PLC at Work model one of the most highly-recognized best practices in the country, it is backed by numerous years of research. Since launching the PLC initiative in Arkansas, we have seen teachers across multiple subject areas come together to collaborate, lead by example, and make needed changes that have transformed student learning at their schools. The work is hard, but the payoffs have been huge. Congratulations to the new cohort and to the four schools recently named model schools. You serve as leading examples for all schools in the state.”

“Year after year we are continually impressed by the improvements and accomplishments of each cohort,” Solution Tree President and COO Ed Ackerman said. “We are thrilled to welcome nine additional schools and two districts to the project and begin helping them work collaboratively to build professional learning communities. When it comes to improving student education, we truly believe — and research and results show — there is no better approach.”

The 2020-2021 schools and districts will be matched with a certified PLC at Work associate from Solution Tree and receive intensive job-embedded training, observation, and coaching. The schools and district will create action plans that focus on increasing student achievement through aligned curriculum, formative assessments, and proven instructional strategies. During the second year, the schools and districts will deepen their understanding and focus on implementing multi-tiered systems of support, followed by strengthening their systems and sustaining the process in year three.

Act 427 of 2017, which amended Arkansas Code Ann. § 6-20-2305(b)(5), provides funding for the project. For more information, please visit the ADE website at <https://bit.ly/2ugELNw> and follow this project on social media at #PLC4AR.

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