



Arkansas Department of Education

Johnny Key, Commissioner

Transforming Arkansas to lead the nation in student-focused education

April 30, 2019

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10 Schools, 1 District Selected for Third Year of Professional Learning Communities at Work[®] Project

LITTLE ROCK — The Arkansas Department of Education, in partnership with Solution Tree, a national professional development provider, announces the third cohort selected for the Professional Learning Communities at Work[®] project.

Ten schools and one district from around the state were selected for the 2019-2020 school year and join the 19 schools and three districts chosen in 2017 and 2018. As with the first two cohorts, each school and district in the third 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 district to receive support from Solution Tree.

- Buffalo Island Central School District
- Camden Fairview Intermediate in the Camden Fairview School District
- Darby Junior High in the Fort Smith School District
- Eureka Springs Elementary in the Eureka Springs School District
- Harrisburg Middle School in the Harrisburg School District
- Lake Hamilton Intermediate in the Lake Hamilton School District
- Mabelvale Elementary in the Little Rock School District
- Mills University Studies High School in the Pulaski County Special School District
- Park Avenue Elementary in the Stuttgart School District
- Pinewood Elementary in the Jacksonville North Pulaski School District
- Wonderview Elementary in the Wonderview School District

"I am proud of the schools and district selected to join the PLC at Work project this year," Gov. Asa Hutchinson said. "Each year, this project yields fruit by providing educators with more tools to support our students and enhancing student-focused education. I look forward to seeing great things from the third group of schools selected to take part in this initiative."

"We are extremely pleased with the success of this project, now in its third year," ADE Commissioner Johnny Key said. "From increased student growth and achievement to improved collaboration and

culture, the PLC at Work process is a model for success here in Arkansas. We are confident that those selected for the third cohort will achieve the same results. Through programs like this, we are leading the nation in student-focused education."

"All of us at Solution Tree are delighted to see the accomplishments and progress of the first and second cohorts of schools and welcome the third cohort to our ongoing collaboration with the Arkansas Department of Education," Solution Tree President and COO Ed Ackerman said. "We look forward to continuing our mission of helping Arkansas' educators and students alike benefit from the transformative process of implementing professional learning communities in schools across the state."

The 2019-2020 schools and district 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 district 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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