Williston-Elko School District 29

"Where Excellence is the Standard"

Williston-Elko School District 29 Winning for Scholars
1 School District, 1 School Board,
3 Funeral Homes, and 33 Bicycles

A System Turn-Around and Academic Success!
Who Are We?

- Located in Barnwell County.
- Poverty index of 77%.
- 3,300 residents; 53% African American, 43% Caucasian, and 4% Other.
- Median household income in Williston is $22,420.
- 826 students: 51% male, 49% female, 58% African American, 37% Caucasian, and 5% Other.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subgroup</th>
<th>Number of Students</th>
<th>Percentage of Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>848</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>418</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>430</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subgroup</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian or Pacific Islander (API)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>404</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian/Alaska Native (AI)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>328</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty</td>
<td>645</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disabled</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gifted</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ALL ABOARD!
School Board, District Office, and School Staff

WE are ALL Aboard for our SCHOLARS!
District Office Trust Factor(s)

We are not a team because we work together, we are a team because we RESPECT each other!
Fractured Climate & Culture

Trust! As I mentioned, we have been spoiled in the past by leaders who were in the trenches with us and willing to do whatever it takes to be successful. Now we have leaders who won’t even answer your emails and have said, out loud and repeatedly, “That’s not my job”. It’s just so sad, and incredibly demoralizing.

2. Recruitment/Retention - It’s a struggle everywhere, but here’s the truth: in other times when it was hard to find teachers, WE didn’t struggle because no one wanted to leave a place where people were valued and treated like professionals but also like family.

3. Transparency - The current pattern of the district office is to give our principals 40 different memos and directives a week to be relayed to the individual schools. Principals can’t answer the 400 follow up questions (through no fault of their own - think of all they are dealing with), but when you go straight to the top, the only answer you get is “ask your principal”. If you get an answer, it’s enough to make you want to quit.

"Don't get it right, get it started"
~Stephen Ventura
Report Card Ratings:
The Starting Point
Year One 2018

- Elementary: 28/Unsatisfactory
- Middle: 26/Unsatisfactory
- High: 57/Average
- Kelly Edwards Elementary: CSI
- Williston-Elko Middle: Priority

Active Listening

- Initial Survey
- Focus Meetings with Various Individuals
- Community & School Visibility
- Data Analysis

#WeRise2Lead
SAFETY FIRST

Safety Team
Safety Plan
Enhanced safety at athletic events
Wrote grant for SRO
Safety bags
Restructured ISS
Placed SRO on site at schools
Reunification Site
Bullying Hotline

Next Steps:
Suicide Prevention training with DHEC

1st Year Superintendent Goals

#WeLEAD

Setting goals is the first step in turning the invisible into the visible.
-Tony Robbins

#WE RISE 2 LEAD
Transparency of Superintendent's Goals

- Goal 1: Safety & Security
- Goal 2: Academic Excellence
- Goal 3: Fiscal Responsibility
- Goal 4: Communication
- Goal 5: Transform Williston School District 29
- #WeLEAD

*Newsletters, Advisory Councils, Board Meetings, Social Media, Beginning/Middle/End of year correspondence
IMPROVED COMMUNICATION

- Weekly Board Updates
- Weekly DO Updates
- District Newsletter (staff and community)
- Department Newsletters
- Monthly District Roundtable
- Advisory Councils
- Policy and Pizza Committee
- Communications Committee
- Superintendent's ListServ
- Community visibility
- Child Find Brochures
- Social Media Connections (FB, Twitter, Webpage)
- Partnerships (DIG, First Steps, DHEC, AXIS 1, Dept. of Mental Health)

Next Steps: Overhaul Website

Superintendent and Board Communication is a MUST!

Navigating Proviso 1.88
(Consolidation)

- Food Services Director for (3) districts
- Human Resources Director for (2) districts; as needed
- Power School Liaison
- Career Center for (3) districts
- Wrote Grant/Cyber-Security
Education is All a Matter Of Building Bridges
-Ralph Emerson

ACADEMICS

* Increased Services for Scholars
* Drilled data down to Scholar level
* Personalized statements on interims and report cards
* Redirected funds to academics
* Held data meetings with Superintendent
* Conducted Instructional Rounds
* #WeLEAD
COMMUNITY

*Reading Buddies
*BEC
*DIG
*Save the Children
*SRP
*Superintendent's Advisory Council Meetings
*Rotary
*AXIS 1
* Mental Health
*WSD29 Alumni

TEAMWORK

*Community Coalition/ Back to School Bash
*Superintendent Advisory Councils
*Parent University
*W.A.T.C.H. Dogs
*Williston Police Department
*Barnwell County Sheriff Department
*Night of the Stars
*Mayor's Character Club Luncheon
CELEBRATIONS:

- Monthly Character Education Student
- Cafeteria Workers Appreciation Day
- Rotary Student of the Month
- Athletic Signing Day
- Athletic Director- State Recognition
- Student Art Work- Attorney's Office
- Night of the Stars
- Summer Reading Camp
Celebrations

Report Card Ratings: The Next Level

2018-2019 Ratings Revealed

Elementary: 39/Below Average
Middle: 53/Good
High: 69/Excellent
INSTRUCTIONAL FOCUS

New for 2020
- Scholars Academy
- STEM Lab
- Early College
- Increased Art offerings
- #WeRISE2LEAD

New for 2021
- Carolina CAP partnership with USC, Inaugural District
- AVID
- Denmark Technical College

Questions