

KATV

LRSD receives assessment from Washington D.C. based school system, district working to fix issues

by Desmond Nugent

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Little Rock (KATV) — School is out, but the Little Rock School District is working to make improvements in many areas after receiving a recent assessment. The district hired Washington D.C.-based [Council of the Great City Schools](#) for a top-to-bottom evaluation.

LRSD school board member Vicki Hatter told KATV most of what was discovered they were already aware of and working to fix it.

The district's academic program was under review during March 26-30, 2023. Hatter said the 91-page report was not a surprise to read.

"We're trying to operate within a systematic structure that doesn't necessarily benefit all children," Hatter said. "Being intentional about that is really going to be the best way to address it."

According to Hatter, the district's structure issues go back 30 or 40 years.

The report showed four goals the district has in place, they include student recruitment and retention, college and career readiness, career pathways, and staff recruitment and retention.

"A lot of these conversations happen but they don't happen in public, they may happen in different circles," Hatter said.

The report made several recommendations that include organization and coherence. They state the district needs to prioritize the communication of the purpose ("the why") for change. Set forth and continuously communicate at every level the district's defined set of beliefs about how students can learn and are

capable of standards-based grade-level academic achievement. Reference the vision and purpose when addressing and acting on new initiatives and changes.

"Beyond tackling literacy right, we also know these are some other areas to focus on," she said.