



LAKELAND
SCHOOL SYSTEM

— Learn. Grow. Lead. —

Contact Dr. Ted Horrell
Title Superintendent
Phone 901.867.5412
Email thorrell@lakelandk12.org
Website www.lakelandk12.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 25, 2021

LAKELAND SCHOOL SYSTEM RECOGNIZED AS EXEMPLARY ACCESS DISTRICT BY TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

LSS is One of Five Districts to Earn Distinction

Lakeland, TN, January 25, 2021– The Tennessee Department of Education announced today that Lakeland School System (LSS) is one of five districts selected as Tennessee Exemplary ACCESS Districts for their dedication to helping all students succeed. These districts have earned the Exemplary ACCESS designation by meeting state guidelines of ensuring **All Children are Challenged and Equipped for Success in School**.

This designation recognizes the intensive work and exceptional dedication of these five districts to student success through the second K-12 cohort of the State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG 2.0), Access to Instruction and Intervention for All Students initiative. LSS Assistant Superintendent Angie Dellosa led the district's work in this program.

On Wednesday, January 27, each of these school districts will be recognized at the virtual Partners in Education (PIE) Conference during a special session.

The State Personnel Development Grants (SPDG) program, administered through the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) within the U.S. Department of Education, assists state education agencies and their partners to improve results for children with disabilities through systems of professional development and dissemination of knowledge about best practices to educators and families.

The selection of these districts was based on training data, improvements in teaching methods, improvements in Individualized Education Program (IEP) quality, and efforts to sustain the work system-wide.

Lakeland School System superintendent Dr. Ted Horrell stated:

“Our district's participation in the professional learning made possible through the SPDG program has been overwhelmingly positive. The activities of the SPDG program have caused our teachers and administrators to reflect upon, discuss, and make changes to the ways we approach teaching all learners in the classroom. The most exciting part is seeing the number of participants who say that the training made them better teachers and helped their students learn.”

“Each of these districts has had an exceptional impact on their students, educators, and school communities,” said Theresa Nicholls, Assistant Commissioner of Special Populations with the Tn Department of Education. “We appreciate the dedication of these districts to their educators and students and their hard work creating positive, motivating, and empowering learning environments throughout their districts.”

###

If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Dr. Ted Horrell at 901.867.5412 or email at thorrell@lakelandk12.org.