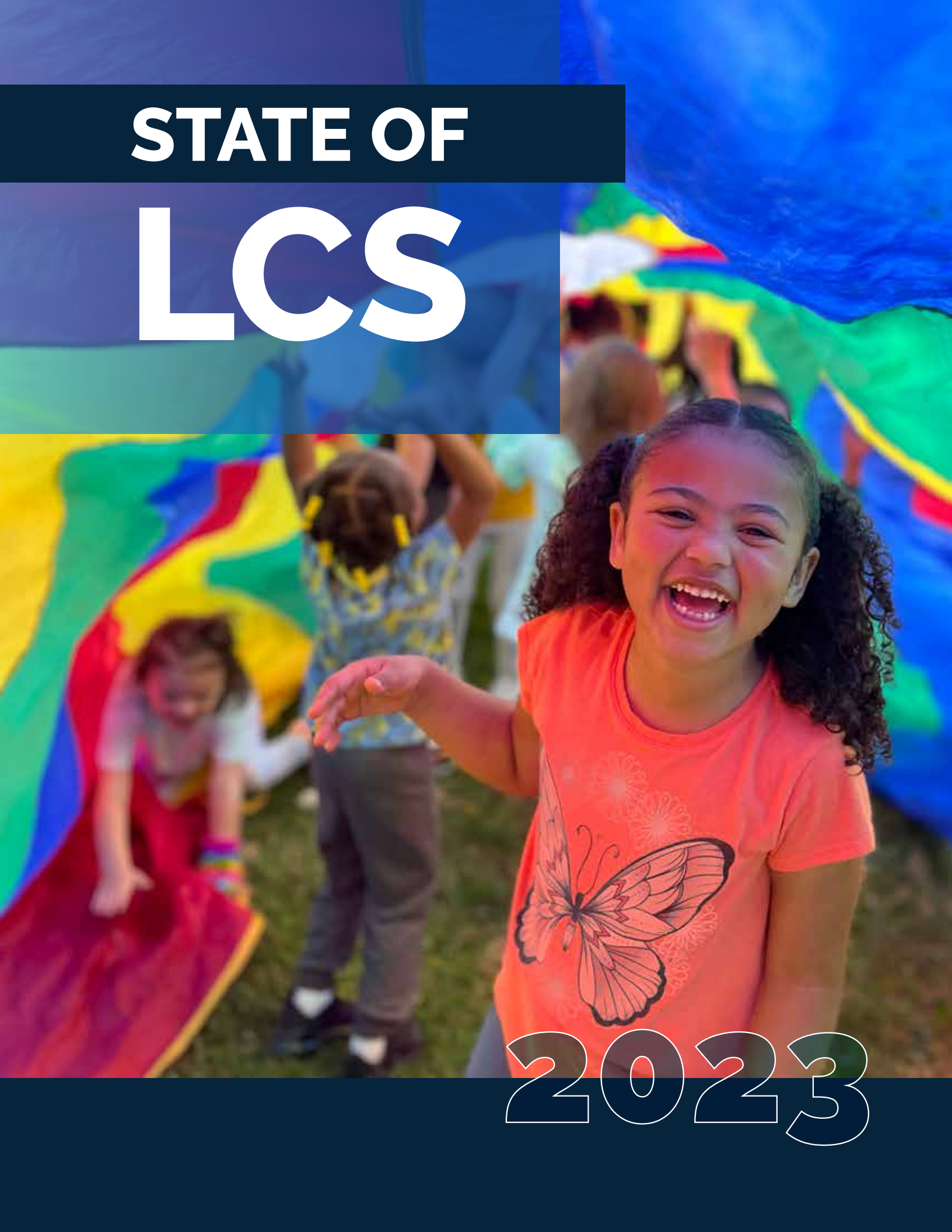


# STATE OF LCS



2023

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Dr. Crystal Edwards  
Superintendent

## FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Over the past year, Lynchburg City Schools (LCS) has embarked on a journey to accelerate excellence and innovation across the division. From cutting-edge programs to groundbreaking academic and extracurricular achievements, I'm so proud of everything we've accomplished together.

In 2023, we expanded our Career and Technical Education program, started using our first electric school bus, introduced new middle school Pre-AP arts courses, launched a new pipeline program to bolster middle and high school athletics, and introduced an elementary school security program. Our students competed in the International Science and Engineering

Fair, won national theatre awards, stunned at state championship games, beautified the local community with their art, and more.

I'm consistently blown away by the hard work, creativity, and indomitable spirit of our students, staff members, partners, and community members. Because of your commitment to expand our tradition of excellence for all, we've pushed the boundaries of what's possible in education. As we look towards the future, we will continue to shape LCS into a beacon of educational excellence, preparing our students for lifelong success.



# ABOUT LCS

## STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

**7909**

Total Students

**343**

Pre-K Students

**3477**

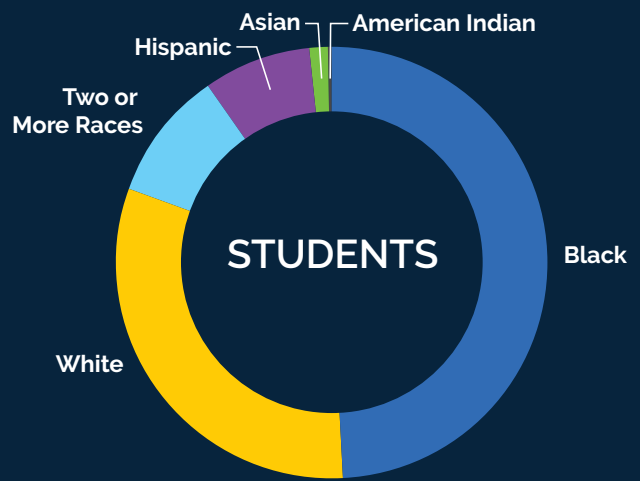
Elementary School Students

**1685**

Middle School Students

**2404**

High School & Post Graduate Students



**49.2%**  
Black

**31.3%**  
White

**9.9%**  
Two or more races

**8.0%**  
Hispanic

**1.3%**  
Asian

**0.2%**  
American Indian

## LCS MISSION STATEMENT

Every Child, By Name and By Need, to Graduation and Beyond.

## LCS VISION STATEMENT

A Tradition of Excellence for All.

## LCS CORE VALUES

We believe...

**Integrity** is doing the right thing in an ethical and transparent manner.

**Respect** is valuing self and others.

**Teamwork** is collaborating and communicating to work together in accomplishing a common goal.

**Learning** is acquiring and applying knowledge and skills in an effort to grow and develop.



# ACCELERATING **EXCELLENCE & INNOVATION**

# IN OUR SCHOOLS

This year, LCS promoted holistic growth in every facet of our work. From inventive new programs to increased interconnectivity across grade levels, here are just some of the ways LCS accelerated excellence and innovation.

## A YEAR OF NEW BEGINNINGS FOR CTE

The Career and Technical Education (CTE) program at LCS made great strides in the 2022-23 school year. Through this program, LCS secondary students receive hands-on experience in career fields like carpentry, machining, automotive technology, culinary arts, cosmetology, and cybersecurity.

The number of LCS students enrolled in the CTE Academy at Central Virginia Community College (CVCC) has more than doubled since last year. This program allows students to take college CTE classes on CVCC's campus for free, receiving dual university and high school credit. Starting next year, 11th and 12th graders will have the opportunity to take all their CTE and core classes through CVCC for free, thanks to a grant from the VDOE.

This year, participation in student career readiness organizations has seen a dramatic increase. Heritage and E. C. Glass high schools formed Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) chapters. Both schools will reactivate their Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) and SkillsUSA chapters this coming year.



## MIDDLE SCHOOLS INTRODUCE PRE-AP ARTS COURSES

All three LCS middle schools added new College Board Pre-Advanced Placement (AP) arts classes for eighth graders in the 2023-24 school year. Dunbar and Linkhorne middle schools introduced Pre-AP Theatre, and Sandusky Middle School introduced Pre-AP Visual Arts. These courses help students earn high-school credit early, bolster grade-point averages, and provide a gateway to AP for students who might not otherwise consider taking advanced classes.

## LCS ATHLETIC PROGRAMS LEVEL UP

Thanks to a new football talent pipeline program, aspiring high school football players across the division will get the academic support and accountability, scheduling help, and parent involvement they need to succeed starting in eighth grade. E. C. Glass High School is working with Linkhorne Middle coaches to instill Virginia High School League (VHSL) standards early. A similar program is in the works between Sandusky Middle and Heritage High School, and both schools are working with Dunbar Middle.

Coaches at both high schools are inviting middle schoolers to out-of-season workouts and mentoring middle school coaches. When student-athletes reach the high schools, they'll be greeted with upgraded weight rooms and new training equipment.

Middle school sports enjoyed an innovative year, too. Sandusky Middle formed a cross-country team and plans to add tennis next. Linkhorne Middle built a brand-new fence around their track and will receive a new set of bleachers this year. All three middle schools



came together to develop the Lynchburg City Softball, the division's first softball program for sixth through eighth graders. The team's first season will begin in the spring of 2024.

## INTRODUCING LCS RESTORE

In the 2022-23 school year, the division launched LCS Restore, a holistic program empowering students to succeed academically and emotionally through restorative practices. Guided by healthy relationship-building between educators and students, the program aims to help students change harmful behavior and build lifelong skills.

Funded by the Department of Education's School-Based Mental Health (SBMH) grant program, the Restorative Suspension Center opened in February. This alternative to traditional short-term suspension helps secondary students keep up academically when suspended instead of missing school, preventing chronic absenteeism.

Students transitioning into kindergarten, first, sixth, and ninth grade who need additional behavioral support can attend the Elementary and Secondary Restorative Academies. These help students develop the social and emotional skills necessary for success before



transitioning to their base schools over a 6-9-week intensive period. The kindergarten program opened in the 2022-23 school year, and the secondary and first-grade programs will launch in the 2023-24 school year.

## ROSETTE ACADEMY HELPS STUDENTS TRANSITION INTO MIDDLE SCHOOL

LCS introduced the Linkhorne Middle School Rosette Academy in 2023 to help sixth graders transition from elementary school to middle school while developing important academic and social-emotional skills.

All sixth-grade students operate on an altered block schedule with no bells. Students are separated into two teams, each with a teacher in English, math, science, and social studies. The team camaraderie and separation from seventh and eighth graders create a supportive small-school atmosphere.

The Rosette Academy implements intentional learning strategies based on student feedback to promote



academic achievement. Every nine weeks, the teams participate in a cross-curricular, project-based learning opportunity. Each student has a personalized learning plan, and social-emotional learning curriculum is embedded into instruction.



## NEW PROGRAM EMPOWERS ASPIRING TEACHERS

Aspiring educators in Lynchburg now have more opportunities than ever to become licensed teachers, thanks to the new LCS Classified Teacher Program. The initiative offers an alternative route for those with bachelor's degrees to gain invaluable classroom experience while pursuing their provisional teaching license. More than 30 classified teachers have been hired since the program launched in August 2023.

Supported by experienced mentors, classified teachers take on all the responsibilities of a licensed teacher. They're hired full-time with comprehensive benefits and compensated at the 90th percentile of the current starting teacher salary. Bringing fresh talent into the division, it's an accessible answer to traditional teacher preparation programs.



LCS

SPOTLIGHT



## CTE STUDENTS EARN NATIONAL ACCLAIM

Five Linkhorne Middle School students earned national honors at the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) National Leadership and Recognition Conference in Denver, Colorado in July. Each competitor identified an issue concerning families, careers, or communities; researched their chosen topic; and developed and implemented a project to move toward positive change.

Anna Boyers placed second in the nation in entrepreneurship. Addisyn Cruz and Jordyn Cordova placed second in the nation in the sustainability challenge. KaDerrah Bright was named a national finalist in National Programs in Action, and Katherine Lasitter earned a silver medal in career investigation.

## AN EXPERIMENT OF INTERNATIONAL PROPORTIONS

Heritage High School junior Micajah Mason represented LCS at the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) in Dallas, Texas in May. His project, entitled “The Effect of Degradation on a Full Synthetic versus Conventional Motor Lubricant’s Tribological Performance,” tests which type of motor oil can perform for longer in a car engine before breaking down and causing drops in performance.

Mason qualified for the international competition when he was named the Grand Award Finalist in Physical Sciences at the Central Virginia Regional Science Fair. E. C. Glass High junior Lilly Wood won the Grand Alternate Award in Biological Sciences. Both were among the seven LCS students who advanced to the state competition.





## A VENDING MACHINE... FOR BOOKS!

To recognize exemplary student behavior and work, Linkhorne Elementary School introduced its new Book Vending Machine in October. Each week, selected students earn a token, which can be redeemed for a book of their choosing.



## EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE

E. C. Glass High School senior Sage Khurana received the \$25,000 Excellence in Science Scholarship this year through the Lynchburg City Schools Education Foundation. One of the highest-achieving students in the class of 2023, Khurana is attending William & Mary University and plans to become a biology, geology, or paleontology researcher.

## LCS STUDENTS' ART ALL OVER TOWN

The Academy Center of the Arts displayed artwork by students from every school in the division at the LCS Youth Art Show, held in the BWXT Youth Gallery in March. A long-standing Lynchburg tradition, the exhibition has opened annually for 12 years. On the other side of town, Lynchburg Regional Airport displayed artwork by 12 T. C. Miller Elementary School for Innovation students in November for National Aviation Month.



## LCS ATHLETES MAKING HISTORY

The Heritage High wrestling team won the Region 3C wrestling championship in February, becoming the first LCS team to secure a regional grappling title. Across town, the E. C. Glass boys basketball team was named the VHSL Class 4 runners-up after making it to the state competition for the first time since 1967.



## DUNBAR THEATRE STUDENTS WIN NATIONAL AWARDS

Thirty-three theatre students from Dunbar won a national Freddie G. Excellence in Ensemble Work award at the Junior Theatre Festival (JTF) in Atlanta, GA in January. The award recognizes the group's skills in singing, dancing, acting, and teamwork. Students Haven Manning and Will Hoffman were named JTF All-Stars for their individual performances.

## HURDLING TO VICTORY

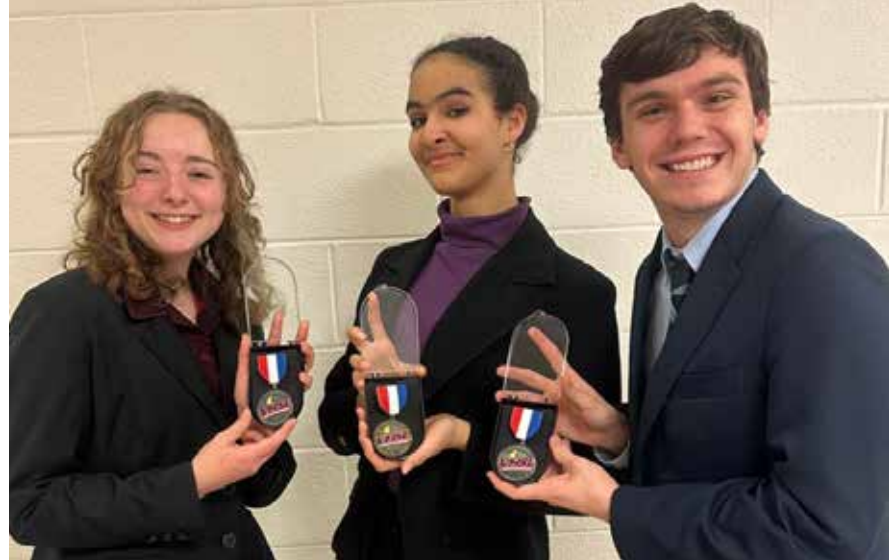
The Heritage High indoor girls and boys teams dominated at the Class 3 state indoor track championships in February. Akera Molette placed first in the state in the 55-meter hurdles, high jump, and triple jump. Jaidyn Johnson placed first in the 55-meter and 300-meter dashes. Marquis White placed first in the 55-meter hurdles.



## FORENSICS STEALS THE SHOW

E. C. Glass and Heritage high school forensic teams dazzled at the Virginia High School League (VHSL) state championships in March. Heritage High student Nisha Mangrati was named the Virginia Class 3 forensics champion in poetry.

E. C. Glass emerged as the third-place team in the state in Class 4, with Sophia Haupt named the poetry state champion, Luke King the humorous dramatic interpretation runner-up, and Brea Cyphert the prose runner-up.



## HERITAGE HIGH'S FAB FOUR TAKE THE STAGE

“Beatles vs. Stones – A Musical Showdown” came to the Historic Academy Theatre in September, with strings accompaniment by Heritage High School students Calvin Guo, Victoria Callahan, Isabel Kirkwood, and Shayna Lyttle. Named “the most unique tribute show in decades” by the Los Angeles Times, the concert has toured for years, this time hitting 125 cities in the United States, Canada, and Australia. Guo, Kirkwood, Callahan, and Lyttle will join the ranks of high-caliber student musicians around the world who have performed with the tribute bands.

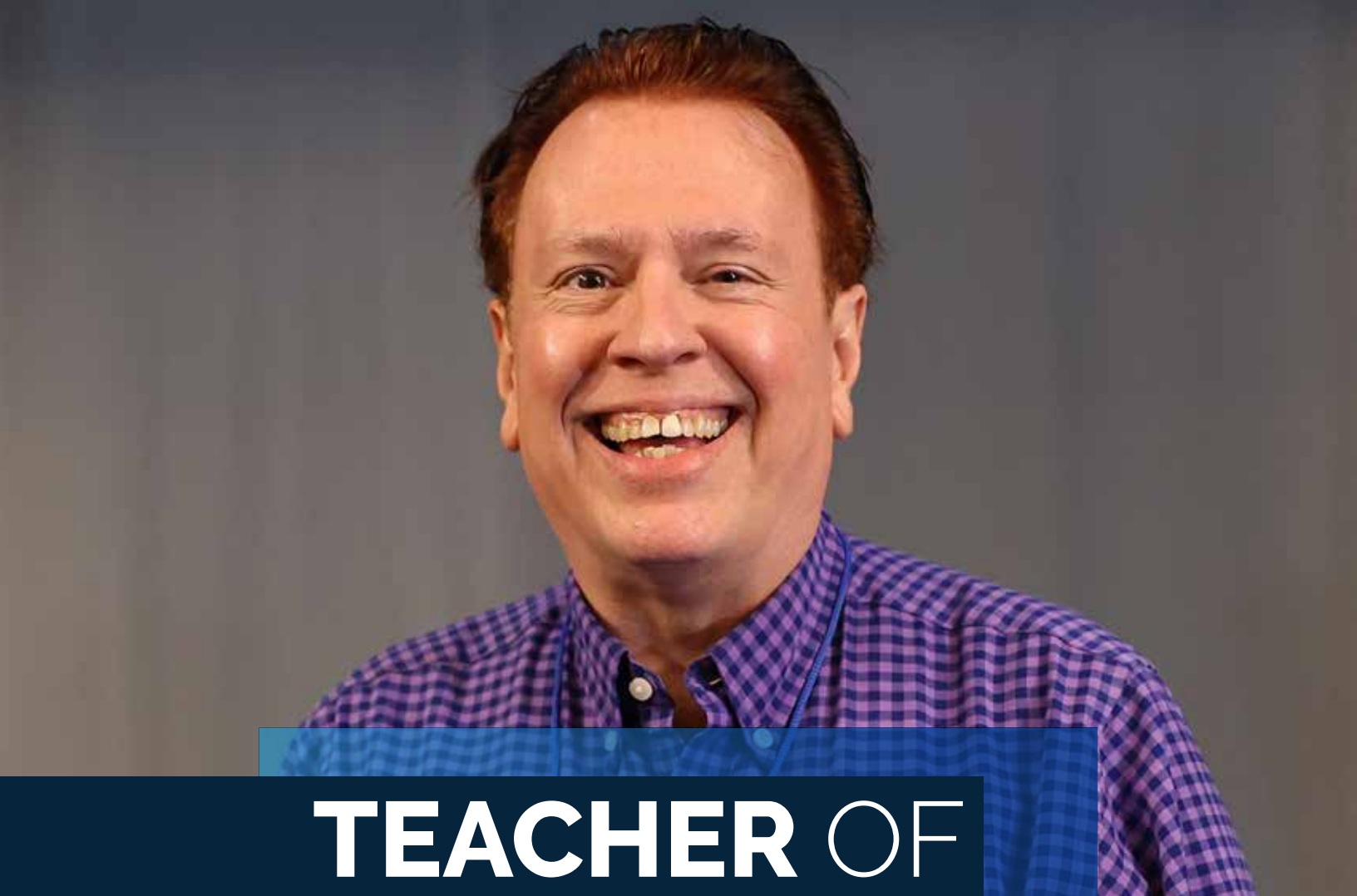


# CLASS OF 2023



## OUR STUDENTS GO HERE!

- Averett University
- Bowie State University
- Central Virginia Community College
- Christopher Newport University
- Clemson University
- College of Charleston
- College of William & Mary
- Emory & Henry College
- George Mason University
- Hampton University
- Howard University
- James Madison University
- Johnson & Wales University
- Liberty University
- Longwood University
- Morgan State University
- Norfolk State University
- North Carolina A&T State University
- North Carolina Central University
- North Carolina State University
- Old Dominion University
- Radford University
- Randolph College
- Shenandoah University
- Sylvian Melloul Academy
- Southern Virginia University
- Texas Southern University
- United States Coast Guard Academy
- University of Lynchburg
- University of North Carolina at Asheville
- University of Virginia
- Virginia Commonwealth University
- Virginia State University
- Virginia Tech
- Washington & Lee University



# TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Paul Laurence Dunbar Middle School for Innovation cultural arts teacher Albert Carter is the 2023 LCS Teacher of the Year. A beloved leader in the community, Carter has impacted the lives of countless students throughout his career with LCS.

Beginning as a music teacher in 1991, Carter first taught at Heritage, Perrymont, Sandusky, and Sheffield elementary schools. In 1994, he transitioned to Dunbar Middle, where he serves as the choral and theatre director, heading up multiple concerts and theatrical productions every year. Along with his wife and co-producer Lori Carter, he has built an award-winning theatre program at Dunbar Middle that is raising the bar for performing arts departments everywhere.



# BUILDING TEACHERS & SUPPORT PERSONS OF THE YEAR

## **BASS ELEMENTARY**

Brooke Andrews, Teacher  
Lisa Swisher, Support

## **BEDFORD HILLS ELEMENTARY**

Chantelle Deddens, Teacher  
James Brothers, Support

## **DEARINGTON ELEMENTARY**

Meagan Swithers, Teacher  
Antonyo Rose, Support

## **HERITAGE ELEMENTARY**

Wendy Ozmar, Teacher  
Jessica Korby, Support

## **LINKHORNE ELEMENTARY**

Janice Anderson, Teacher  
Tricia Edgar, Support

## **PAUL MUNRO ELEMENTARY**

Kerri Doremus, Teacher  
Mark Johnson, Support

## **PERRYMONT ELEMENTARY**

Brittany Dray, Teacher  
Jazmine Alexander, Support

## **R. S. PAYNE ELEMENTARY**

Amanda Wrightson, Teacher  
Tara Mayhew, Support

## **SANDUSKY ELEMENTARY**

Rebecca May, Teacher  
Darrell Smith, Support

## **SHEFFIELD ELEMENTARY**

Joanna Bourque, Teacher  
Ana Malcawiccz, Support

## **T. C. MILLER ELEMENTARY**

Samantha Cecil, Teacher  
Lisa Ortiz, Support

## **DUNBAR MIDDLE**

Albert Carter, Teacher  
Kristy Woodson-Payne, Support

## **LINKHORNE MIDDLE**

Sophia Parker, Teacher  
Latasha Hubbard, Support

## **SANDUSKY MIDDLE**

David Lively, Teacher  
Chrishonda Davis, Support

## **E. C. GLASS HIGH**

Andrew Kramer, Teacher  
Jill Connelly-Mays, Support

## **HERITAGE HIGH**

Jeff Pultz, Teacher  
Diane Padgett, Support

## **HUTCHERSON EARLY LEARNING CENTER**

Mackenzie Mount, Teacher  
Megan Davis, Support

## **EMPOWERMENT ACADEMY**

Rebecca Planiczka, Teacher  
Dora Landa, Support

## **FORT HILL COMMUNITY SCHOOL**

Erik Bachelles, Teacher  
Deborah Ware, Support

## **LAUREL REGIONAL SCHOOL**

Dr. Tiffany Stephens, Teacher  
Garnett McDaniel, Support

## **VIRTUAL ACADEMY**

Gretchen Morgan, Teacher  
Crystal Rosson, Support

## **TURNING POINT ACADEMY**

Zhakia Scott, Support

## **DIVISION SUPPORT**

Tracy Piestrak, Administration  
Kazan Johnson, Transportation



# BUDGETING FOR SUCCESS

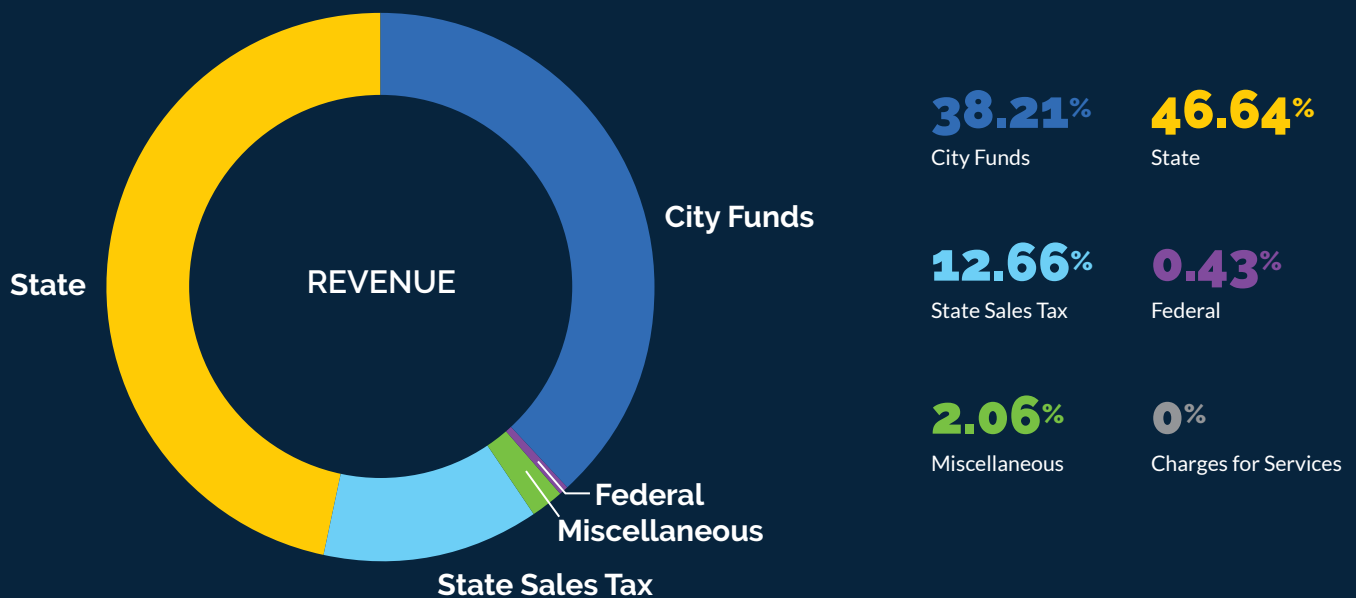
# OPERATING BUDGET

## 2022-23 OPERATING BUDGET

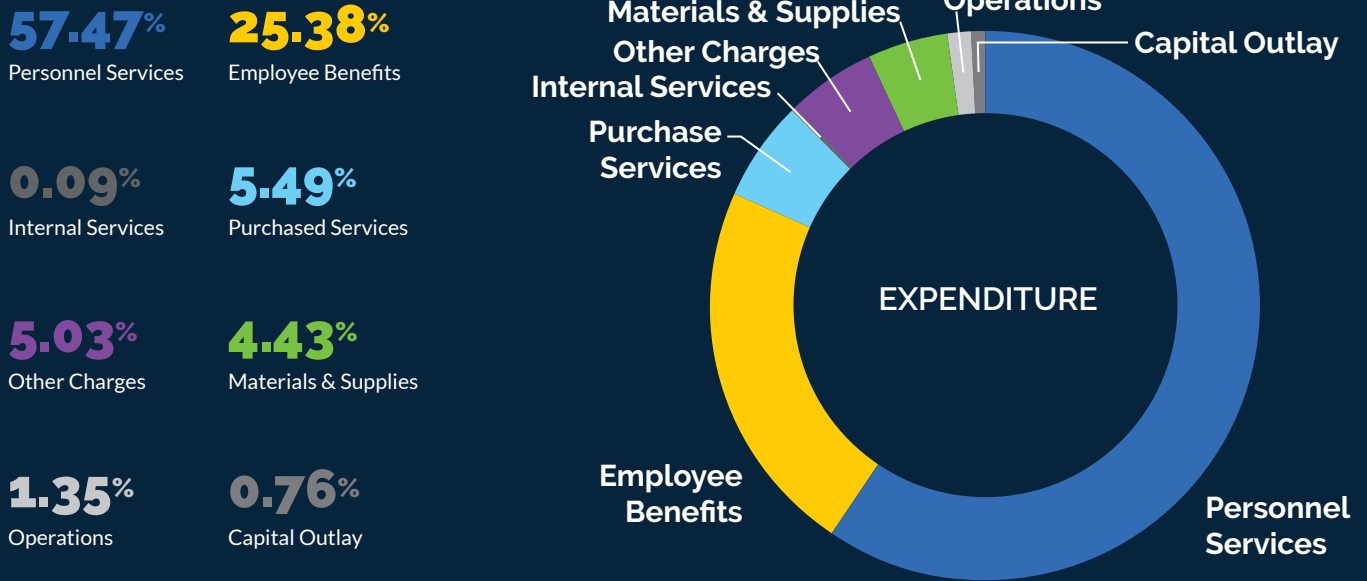
Adopted Budget: **\$106,312,231**

Amended Budget: **\$107,317,733**

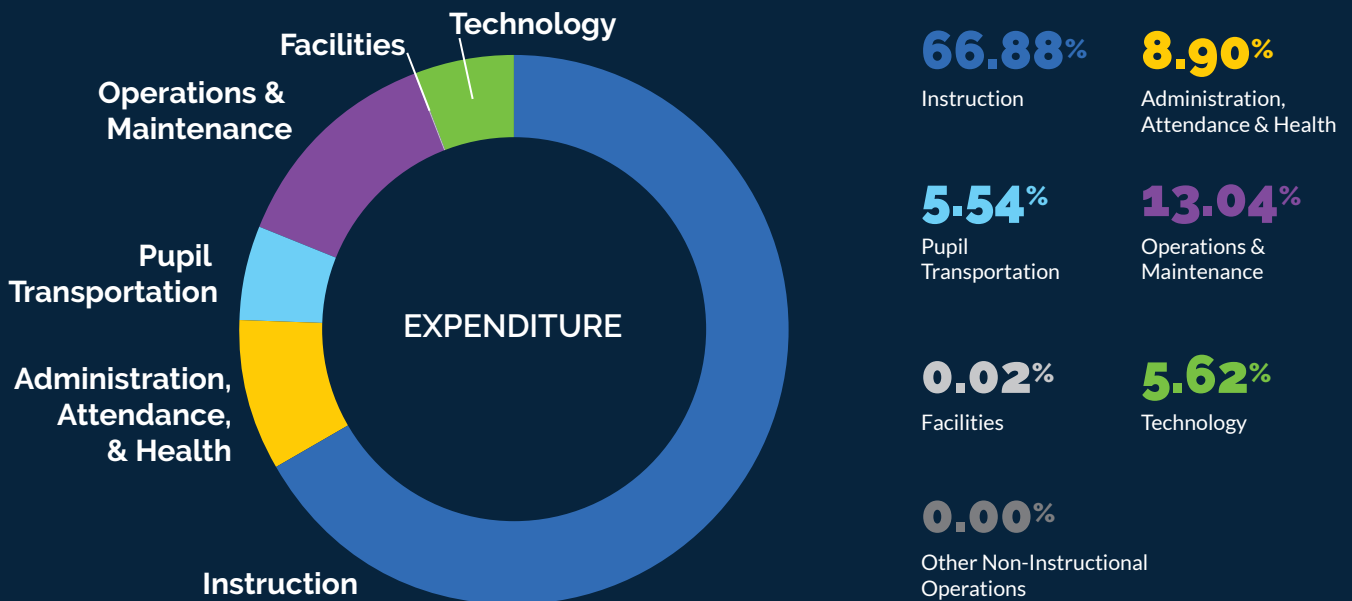
## AMENDED OPERATING BUDGET REVENUE



## AMENDED EXPENDITURE BY EXPENSE CODE



## AMENDED EXPENDITURE BY CATEGORY



The majority of the LCS budget covers costs associated with personnel and instruction.

# NEW HORIZONS

With the help of grant funding, LCS invested in safety, mental health, academics, and more over the past year. Here are a few of the ways these contributions helped our school division shine.

## CLASSROOM INNOVATION

Since its inception, the LCS Education Foundation has awarded more than \$1.2 million in Classroom Innovation Grant funding to support teachers' out-of-the-box learning initiatives across the division. Last year, more than \$80,000 in grant funding enabled students to produce and perform original music, explore science through outdoor experiences and gardening projects, try their hands at vocational careers, experience local history through the play "Buried Deep," and more.

## MUSIC

Sandusky Middle School's band program will soon receive new musical instruments, thanks to The Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation, a national organization supporting music education in schools.

The grant will provide 18 brass, woodwind, and percussion instruments valued at \$25,390 in total. This contribution will allow more LCS students to experience the benefits of music education. In addition to this grant, LCS schools received nearly \$300k for new musical instruments over the past school year.

## TRANSPORTATION SUSTAINABILITY

LCS is slated to receive \$9.8 million in federal funding to purchase 25 electric school buses. A crucial step toward the LCS commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, this funding was made possible through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

## SAFETY

LCS launched a School Security Officer (SSO) program in its elementary schools in February, funded by a four-year grant



through the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services. SSOs are retired law enforcement officers whose extensive field experience and school-specific training equip them to protect staff and students. Three SSOs were hired in 2023, and soon, each of the 16 elementary schools in the division will have an SSO. The program will bring elementary schools the same level of protection afforded to secondary schools, each of which has a dedicated School Resource Officer.

As SSOs work to keep LCS elementary schools safe, a new safety initiative is brewing at E. C. Glass High School. In partnership with LCS and the LPD, the volunteer-led committee Safe Schools Lynchburg started raising funds for their pilot “Every Second Counts” project in June 2023.

The organization plans to install security film on school windows. In the event of an emergency, this added defense mechanism would give those inside the building more time to recognize the threat and take appropriate safety measures.

## MENTORSHIP

Launched in June 2022 with funding from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, the P’Awesome Leadership mentoring program at Linkhorne Middle School is helping students excel academically and behaviorally despite lingering impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic. The program connects students with local adults who are active in youth organizations like the Young Women’s Empowerment Academy and the Jubilee Family Development Center.

Mentors form supportive relationships with the students through regular check-ins, weekly group meals, and collaborative art projects. In May 2023, the group created three full-sized murals and one geometric sculpture that have become permanent installations on Linkhorne Middle’s campus, encouraging the student body with positive messages.

## MENTAL HEALTH

In January, LCS secured \$8.4 million in funding from the Department of Education’s School-Based Mental Health (SBMH) grant program. LCS will

use these funds over the next five years to hire and retain skilled professionals to support student mental health needs, including a Board Certified Behavioral Analyst (BCBA), four Registered Behavior Technicians (RBT), two school social workers, and eight Restorative Clinicians (QMHP-Cs). The grant also covers retention bonuses for current mental health professionals, contracted services, and professional development.

With this funding, LCS opened the Restorative Suspension Center (RSC) in February. An alternative to traditional short-term suspension, the program allows middle and high school students to continue focusing on their academic progress instead of missing school.

In September, LCS received the three-year Student, Teachers, and Officers Preventing (STOP) School Violence grant from the U. S. Bureau of Justice Assistance, which will help further the division’s emphasis on restorative practices. Providing nearly a million dollars in funding, the grant will fund restorative behavior training for teachers as well as three restorative interventionist positions in LCS alternative schools.

# GET CONNECTED TO LCS



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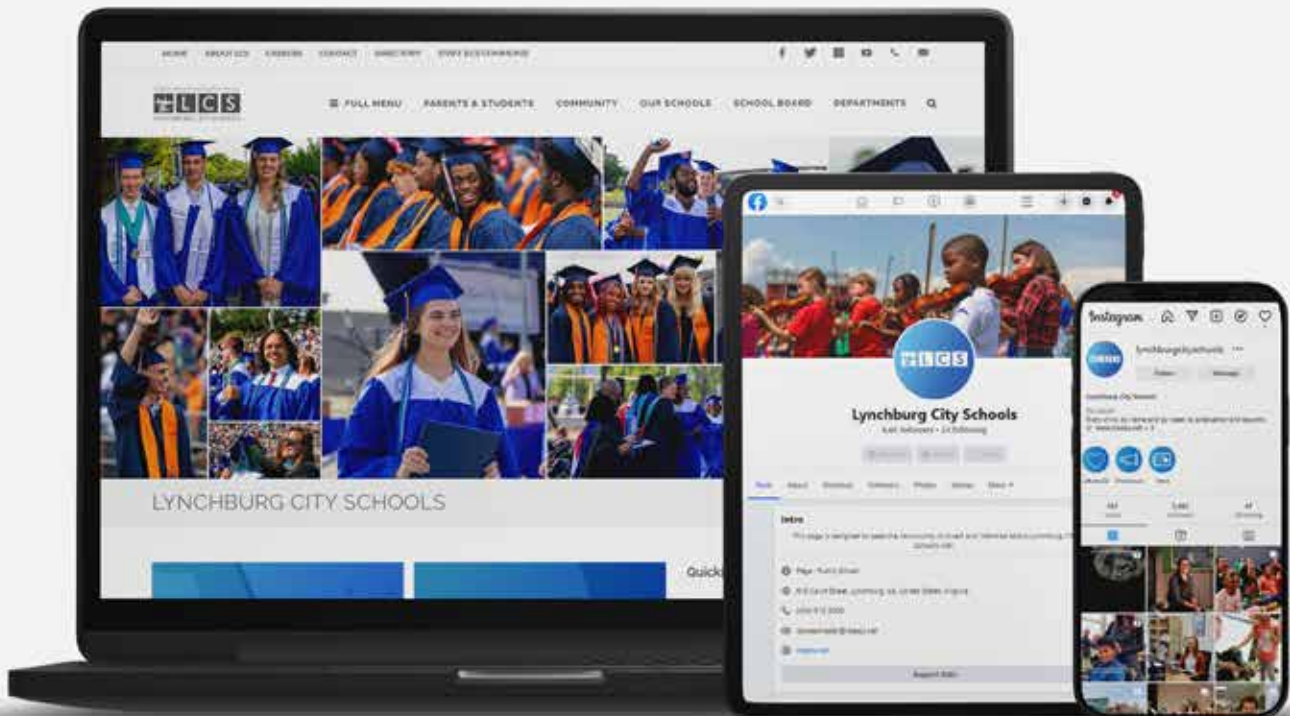
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