



# LITTLE ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT

Little Rock, AR

Energy Leadership Program & Energy Savings Project



**Performance**  
Services



## **A two-phase program, which included energy conservation initiatives and physical improvements in six key schools, has saved the district \$7.8 million in avoided costs.**

The Little Rock School District serves 40,000 students across 40 school buildings. Central High School is a well-known historical landmark built in 1927. With an aging infrastructure, the District sought ways to reduce energy and operating costs and improve the learning environment. Working with the Arkansas Energy Office in 2017, the District issued a request for proposal and through a competitive process, Performance Services was selected to conduct a facility assessment and identify the most pressing needs.

### **Phase I: Energy Leadership Program**

Energy Leadership is a behavior-based energy conservation program implemented across the District. Utilizing a professional services agreement, the approach included selecting and training an on-site energy manager. This new position is focused on the operation of the building systems, building automation scheduling, and planning the efficient utilization of facilities without compromising the learning environment. The program is ongoing and fundamentally changed how the District operates facilities. The program is guaranteed to reduce utility consumption by 10-15% and at least \$6.5 million over ten years.

### **Phase II: Energy Savings Performance Project**

The project focused on six school buildings, including Central High, Parkview High, Stephens Elementary, Rockefeller Elementary, Washington Elementary, and Dunbar Middle School. The HVAC and lighting focused work impacted over 900,000 square feet. Energy conservation-focused capital improvements now allow the facilities staff to focus on preventative maintenance and reduced the number of thermal comfort alert calls.



Stephens Elementary School reduced energy consumption by 86% in 2021 compared to 2016.



# PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



- Replaced boilers and chillers past their life expectancy with high-efficiency boilers and chillers at Central High School and Dunbar Middle School
- Improved the function and operation of existing heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and building controls. Implemented an advanced temperature control system to enhance monitoring access and methods, reduce utility and service costs, and improve student and staff comfort
- Improved the interior lighting systems with LED to enhance the learning environment and control energy costs
- Upgraded exterior lighting at all District schools to enhance safety and lower energy costs
- Upgraded gymnasium lighting to high-efficiency LED lighting at the middle school and high schools

**\$14,797,672**  
Contract Value, Phase I & II

**\$7,868,449**  
Cumulative Cost Avoidance

**\$885,840**  
Utility Incentives/Rebates



“Our District and City treasure Little Rock historic school buildings. Performance Services was the right company to modernize our heating and cooling systems. The team made sure we had all systems operational on the first day of class. Their people and project management make a difference.”

**Kelsey Bailey**  
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER  
LITTLE ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT

# PROJECT & PROGRAM RESULTS

Little Rock has benefited by not wasting operating funds trying to repair old and inefficient systems. Instead, energy and operational savings are reinvested to replace other aging HVAC systems and capital projects. The District accomplished much without incurring capital costs by working with a cashflow-positive approach. Now, three years after the renovation project and five years after the energy leadership program was implemented, the District has achieved \$7,868,449 in cumulative cost avoidance. Electric utility costs for 2021-2022 were 32% less than in the 2016-2017 base year. Additionally, the Energy Use Index (EUI) of these facilities is now 50.9, which is a 42.5% reduction in energy intensity. Most importantly, Little Rock has a healthier and more comfortable learning environment.



## NAESCO 2022 Member of the Year Award

The National Association of Energy Services Companies (NAESCO), awarded Performance Services the NAESCO Member Award for the Little Rock School District energy leadership program and energy savings performance project at the 2022 Annual Conference.

*"The NAESCO recognition for the Little Rock project is indicative of strong leadership and an empowered team. The reason the Little Rock School District achieved the savings they did is because they approached the initiative strategically: as both a project and ongoing program. To make that happen, district leadership was open to new ideas and empowered the facilities team—making sure the team was equipped and staffed. Ultimately, the district sustained savings by implementing a disciplined and continuous measurement and verification of utility data and equipment runtime reporting."*



**Mike Lindsey**  
PERFORMANCE SERVICES  
PERFORMANCE ASSURANCE AND ENERGY LEADERSHIP MANAGER

## About Performance Services

We are a Design-Build engineering and construction company specializing in creating optimal learning and working environments. By valuing relationships and workmanship over change orders and shortcuts, Performance Services strives to earn a 100% Customer Satisfaction rating.

