

GOBLIN ARENA AND
PERFORMING ARTS
CENTER

Harrison Public Schools Schools

Building the Future: Every
Learner. Every Day. Every Way.

Cover Story

In many American towns, the story of progress begins in a classroom. It starts with a small building, a few wooden desks, and families who believe that education can shape a community’s future. Over time, those classrooms grow. They reflect new ideas, new tools, and new expectations. Some school districts simply keep pace with change. Others lean into it. **Harrison Public Schools** belongs to the second group.

Its story reaches back to the 1860s, when Captain Henry W. Fick donated land for the town’s first school. That single act planted the seed for what would formally become Harrison Public Schools in 1876. At the time, the district served as a pioneer settlement. The lessons were simple, resources were limited, but the purpose was clear. The community wanted its children prepared for what came next. Nearly 150 years later, that purpose still guides the district.

Harrison Public Schools (HPS) now stands as a technologically advanced regional leader. The shift did not happen overnight. Over decades, the district moved beyond traditional instruction and rethought how students learn. At the secondary level, it built a high-innovation model that blends classroom teaching with digital tools and real-world industry partnerships. Leaders recognized that the modern workforce demands more than textbook knowledge. It requires adaptability, technical skill, and confidence.

The district’s mission captures that belief in plain language: *“Building the Future: Every Learner. Every Day. Every Way.”* The phrase does more than sound inspiring. It sets a daily standard. Every learner matters. Every day counts. Every way of learning deserves attention.

From a donated plot of land in the nineteenth century to a forward-looking educational system today, HPS continues to evolve with intention. The setting has changed. The tools have changed. The expectations have grown sharper. Yet the core commitment remains steady: prepare students not just for graduation, but for the world they are about to enter.

A Structure Designed Around Students

In many districts, structure follows convenience. At HPS, structure follows students. The school district serves as the educational cornerstone of the Harrison, Arkansas, community. It organizes learning across six specialized campuses, each built around a specific stage of growth. **Harrison Preschool** introduces the youngest learners to school life.

Harrison Kindergarten gives them a focused bridge into formal education. **Skyline Heights and Forest Heights Elementary** serve students in grades one through four. **Harrison Middle School** guides grades five through eight. **Harrison High School** prepares grades nine through twelve for college, careers, and life beyond graduation.

This intentional design allows the district to support approximately 2,700 students while preserving a close-knit atmosphere. Each campus feels manageable. Teachers know their students. Leaders understand their families. Though the district serves a broad community, it protects the feel of a small school at every level.

Programs That Grow with Each Student

HPS builds its academic programs around one clear belief: *growth looks different for every student.*

At the elementary level, the focus begins with literacy. Teachers use evidence-based interventions such as *“Build”* and *“Take Flight”* to strengthen reading skills early. Staff members identify gaps quickly and respond with targeted support. The goal is simple. Give students a strong foundation before they move forward.

At Harrison Middle School, academics remain rigorous, but curiosity expands. Students engage in core subjects while exploring robotics and technology programs that push them to think critically and solve problems. Classrooms feel active. Learning feels applied.

By the time students reach Harrison High School, choice becomes central. The school offers a comprehensive curriculum that allows students to earn industry certifications or concurrent college credits through a partnership with North Arkansas College. Students shape paths that match their ambitions, not someone else’s plan.

Leadership with a Students-First Focus

Leadership at HPS does not sit behind closed doors. It moves through hallways, classrooms, and community meetings with one shared priority: students.

At the center of that effort stands **Dr. Stewart Pratt**, whose leadership reflects both stability and forward thinking. Under his direction, teachers are encouraged to lead initiatives and refine instruction. Administrators examine systems and adjust when improvement is needed.



The culture rewards growth, not comfort. The result is steady but progressive leadership. Staff members feel supported. Students feel protected. And the district continues to move forward with purpose.

Defining Excellence with Purpose

HPS does not treat excellence as a slogan. It defines it with outcomes. Leaders ask a practical question when evaluating progress: *Are students truly prepared for what comes next?*

Preparation centers on what the district calls the “Three E’s”: **Employment, Enlistment, or Enrollment**. Every graduate should leave with a clear path toward one of those futures. That focus brings structure to long-term planning. Academic rigor stays nonnegotiable. Personalized learning pathways give students direction. Social-emotional support ensures they can manage challenges along the way.

The results reflect that clarity. Harrison Public Schools maintains a 96 percent graduation rate. More importantly, graduates leave with options. They carry skills, confidence, and the freedom to choose their next step with intention.

Creating Space for Every Learner

Walk into any classroom at Harrison Public Schools, and one thing becomes clear. No two students learn in exactly the same way.

The district plans for that reality. It uses a blended learning environment that combines direct instruction with digital tools and flexible pacing. Teachers adjust lessons to meet students where they are, not where a textbook assumes they should be.

Support systems sit firmly in place. A structured Response to Intervention framework identifies students who need additional help and responds with targeted strategies. Specialized literacy programs strengthen foundational skills so gaps do not widen over time.

At the high school level, flexibility expands further. Students choose from diverse vocational and academic pathways that match their strengths and goals. Some pursue technical certifications. Others focus on advanced academics.

The approach stays consistent across grade levels. Provide the right support. Offer meaningful choices. Make sure every learner has the tools to thrive, every day and in every way.

Rooted in the Community

HPS does not operate as a separate institution tucked away from the town. It sees itself as part of the larger fabric of Boone County.

District leaders treat family and community involvement as essential to student success.

Cover Story

Schools invite parents to participate in activities, attend events, and stay informed through consistent and transparent communication. That steady outreach has helped build what many refer to as the “*Goblin Family*,” a shared identity that connects students, staff, and households across the district.

Partnerships extend beyond families. The district works closely with the Harrison Regional Chamber of Commerce and local businesses to align curriculum with regional workforce needs. These relationships create direct career pathways for students while supporting local economic growth.

By collaborating with civic organizations and neighboring institutions, Harrison Public Schools strengthens its role as a trusted community partner. The district grows alongside the town it serves.

A Campus Life That Extends Beyond the Classroom

At HPS, the final bell does not signal the end of learning. In many ways, it marks the beginning of a different kind of growth.

Student life across the district feels active and inclusive. Athletics hold a proud place in that culture. The Goblins compete in 17 varsity sports and have earned numerous state championships in soccer, basketball, and cross country. Competition builds discipline, but it also builds unity. Students learn how to win with humility and lose with perspective.

Beyond athletics, opportunities widen. Students participate in award-winning FFA, Robotics, Theater, and “GobTV” television productions. These programs invite creativity and leadership. They give students space to discover interests that may shape future careers.

The district also champions inclusion. The Special Olympics team and the student-led HERO Camp bring varsity athletes and students of different abilities together. The result is simple and powerful: pride, mentorship, and genuine support across campuses.

A Structure That Keeps the System Moving

Strong schools require more than classrooms and lesson plans. They rely on coordinated leadership that keeps every part of the system aligned.

At HPS, that coordination begins with **Superintendent Dr. Stewart Pratt** and a seven-member Board of Education. Together, they set direction and maintain accountability. Their decisions reflect the district's mission to build the future with intention.

Behind that leadership stands a network of key departments. Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction teams shape academic standards and support teachers. Special Services ensures students with additional needs receive proper resources. The Technology department equips classrooms with modern tools that keep instruction current.

Specialized roles add another layer of stability. The Executive Director of Federal Programs safeguards fiscal responsibility. Instructional Technology leaders refine digital learning systems. School-Based Human Services staff address non-academic challenges that affect performance.

Each department operates with a shared purpose. The structure remains organized, responsive, and focused on student success.

Ensuring Opportunity Without Exception

HPS approaches equity with action, not rhetoric. The district understands that opportunity begins by removing obstacles that stand in a student’s way.

Its School-Based Human Services department works directly with underserved populations, including homeless and foster youth. Staff members identify needs early, connect families with essential resources, and ensure students maintain stable access to learning. When challenges arise outside the classroom, the district steps in with practical support.

Inclusion also shapes academic programming. A strong Special Education program provides individualized services that meet students where they are. Participation in the Special Olympics strengthens a culture of belonging and shared pride across campuses.

Mental health support remains a priority as well. Licensed professionals serve every campus, helping students manage emotional and social pressures. Combined with diverse academic pathways, these systems ensure that background does not limit possibilities. Every student receives a fair chance to grow and succeed.

Our mission is ‘Building the Future Every Learner. Every Day. Every Way.’





Support That Extends Beyond the Classroom

At HPS, support does not stop with academic instruction. Leaders recognize that preparation for life after graduation requires guidance, access, and consistent mentorship.

Career counseling plays a central role. Advisors help students navigate concurrent credit options and industry certification pathways with clarity. Instead of leaving students to figure out complex decisions alone, counselors map out choices and explain how each path connects to long-term goals.

Mentorship programs add another layer of direction. Initiatives such as the **“H2” Pre-Educator Pathway** introduce students to careers in education while pairing them with experienced professionals. Career and Technical Education partnerships connect students directly with local business leaders, giving them insight into real workforce expectations.

Emotional well-being remains equally important. Campus-based mental health professionals provide steady support so students can manage stress and stay focused. Together, these services create a system where ambition feels achievable, and guidance remains within reach.

Preparing for What Comes Next

Harrison Public Schools plans for the future with the same discipline it applies to the present. Leaders focus on initiatives that produce measurable, lasting impact.

For 2026, the district is deepening its commitment to the Science of Reading. Elementary campuses are expanding specialized early literacy interventions such as “Build” and “Take Flight.” These programs strengthen decoding, fluency, and comprehension at the earliest stages. The goal is direct and practical. Ensure every child masters foundational reading skills before moving into more complex academic work.

At the secondary level, expansion continues. The district is aligning new opportunities with the 2025 ACCESS Act, creating smoother pathways for students to earn associate degrees and industry certifications while still in high school. By modernizing career pathways and strengthening workforce partnerships, Harrison Public Schools ensures graduates leave prepared, credentialed, and ready to adapt to a changing economy.

