



Joshua W. Murfree, Jr., Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools

Statement from Superintendent Dr. Joshua W. Murfree, Jr. Regarding the
Dougherty County School System's Plan for Moving Forward Following the
CRCT Investigation Report

January 5, 2012 – Dougherty County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joshua W. Murfree, Jr. released the following statement regarding the school system's plan for moving forward following the recent CRCT investigation report.

“In light of the recent report of the investigation into the administration of the Criterion-Referenced Competency Test (CRCT) in the Dougherty County School System, we are taking an aggressive, pro-active approach to begin to repair the damage and restore our community's confidence in its school system. Outlined below are the initial steps to be implemented as approved by the Dougherty County Board of Education on January 4, 2012.

The Plan Forward: We Mean Business as a District

- Three (3) principals have retired.
- Three (3) principals will be placed in an administrative work setting awaiting due process and evidence.
- The remaining principals who were not implicated for cheating are waiting for further evidence. Each case will be handled individually with due process and corrective measures as needed.
- The remaining personnel will be handled based on evidence to be provided in the near future.
- Two (2) paraprofessionals are no longer employed in the district.
- One (1) office staff member is no longer employed in the district.

Based on the report, fewer than 3 percent of DCSS teachers were accused of cheating.

- Thirteen (13) teachers who confessed to cheating will be offered an opportunity for resignation or termination.
- Eight (8) teachers are no longer employed in the district.

- A letter was sent to the Professional Standards Commission (PSC) on January 3, 2012, describing the current state of affairs with Dougherty County School System personnel.

School Assignments

Early Intervention Program (EIP) teachers will be placed in classes where teachers have been removed. The Board of Education will assist with any needs for children.

Assistant principals will handle necessary administrative duties with cross-district support.

Our primary concern is ensuring that all children receive a quality education with excellent instruction. We will provide academic intervention for students who were directly impacted by cheating activities.

We want our school personnel, along with our community stakeholders and collaborators, to know that we are fully engaged in making sure that we do what is right for our children, the school district and the community at large.

Personnel

We will ensure that all staff members receive ethics training on an on-going basis.

Testing and Administration

We will begin statistical analysis of flagged classes which are 3% above the state average to determine what caused a higher percentage of wrong-to-right (WTR) answers.”
