

Superintendent's Advance

SUPERINTENDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE

November 4, 2011

FIRST ROBOTICS TEAM SPONSORED AT DOUGHERTY COMPREHENSIVE HIGH SCHOOL

For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) is a group of extra-curricular activities that was begun in 1989 to forge partnerships between business, community and students interested in learning science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Dougherty Comprehensive High School is beginning a partnership with 100 Black Men of Albany and the local J.C. Penney store who will support a FIRST Robotics Competition Team for the school. The robotics team will compete in state design and engineering events and use robotics as a focus of study for engineering and technology. Dougherty High principal Jose Roquemore and Superintendent Joshua W. Murfree, Jr. announced the partnership and signed the agreement at a press conference hosting the sponsors at the central administration building at 10:30 this morning.

IMPROVING PERFORMANCE ON FINAL AYP REPORT

The Dougherty County School System is making gains in academic performance beyond all expectations. In the final report for the last school year, 20 of our 26 schools met all requirements for annual yearly progress (AYP). Across the state, 73.7% of schools made AYP. Here in the DCSS, 77% of our schools made the mark.

Three of our four high schools made the AYP requirement for academic performance and one made the requirement for the ever-increasing graduation rate which was 85% last year. Our high schools have improved our graduation rate by nearly 20% over the last five years. (06=57.5%; 11=76.7%) State Superintendent John Barge is concerned about the unrealistic goals for high school graduation for the coming years and has petitioned the U.S. Department of Education for more appropriate measures of school performance.

All six of our middle schools met all requirements for AYP for the 10-11 school year and thirteen of our sixteen elementary schools made AYP. The three elementary schools that didn't quite make the mark were left off the list only because of the annual measurable objective for English Language Arts.

Our goal is to continue to improve performance and much work is being accomplished by curriculum improvements and teacher training. We will apply what we are learning through federal School Improvement Grant initiatives and performance enhancing directions gained through the Race To The Top action.