

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE



Board of Education Meeting

October 13, 2008

The **I Care** character trait of the month for October is Self Confidence at the elementary level, Confident at the middle school level, and Courage at the high school level.

Adequate Yearly Progress Final Results

Initial AYP results were released in July. The final report, which was released on September 30th, takes into account retest scores from the **Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests** in grades 3, 5, and 8 and students who graduated over the summer.

AYP

The final report shows that 69% of the Dougherty County School System schools (18 of 26 schools) made AYP in 2008, while 80% of Georgia's schools made AYP. This is a fifteen-percentage-point increase for the DCSS over the first round and an eleven-point gain for the State. [See Attached]

In 2008, according to State School Superintendent Kathy Cox, it was harder for schools to make AYP for the following reasons:

- *the percentage of students that had to pass the **CRCT** and **GHS GT** in math went up for all grade levels
- *the percentage of students that had to pass the **CRCT** and **GHS GT** in reading went up for all grade levels
- *the percentage of students that had to pass the **CRCT** and **GHS GT** in English / language arts went up for all grade levels
- *students were doing more rigorous work and taking more rigorous tests, especially in math

Graduation Rate

The state's graduation rate in 2008 is 75.4% while Dougherty County's is 63.3%, an increase of 15.4 percentage points at the state level and a 13.2% increase at the system level since 2002.

Since 2002, there have been significant increases in the graduation rate:

- *12.5 percentage point increase among African American students
- *16.8 percentage point increase among Caucasian students
- *4 percentage point increase among the economically disadvantaged subgroup

*The ESP diplomas continue to have a negative impact on the rate in the DCSS.**

Graduation Rate Comparison	AHS	DHS	MHS	WHS
2008	53.3*	49.5*	68.7	79.4
2007	60.7	51	62	70.7
2002	46.4	41.4	51.8	64

The formula for calculating the graduation rate will change this year from a proxy to a cohort, but the GDOE has not finalized the plans at this point.

I Care Off to a Good Start

Schools have been holding **I Care** kickoff celebrations with their children, staff members, and parents at our various sites. The parent involvement program continues to be an emphasis in our schools to increase the collaboration with parents and community members.

Albany Early College Initiative

On October 3rd, Dr. Abiodun Ojemakinde, Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Will Campbell, Dean of the College of Education, Mr. Robert Youngblood, and I met at ASU with Mrs. Barbara Harvey, Albany Early College Coordinator, for an update on the program. Currently, there are 60 students (37 females and 23 males) enrolled in the program, which was the projected number. The collaboration with ASU has been exceptional, and the overall start-up of the program has gone extremely well. (Mrs. Harvey will make an update to the Board in November.)

FTE Count

The 10-day window for FTE was September 23rd – October 6th. October 7th is the actual count day, and the data will be uploaded to the Georgia Department of Education on October 27th.

Superintendent's Council

All four councils met during the last week in September: the Non-Instructional representatives (one from each department), the Elementary Council (a K-2 and a 3-5 representative), the Middle School Council (department chairs from each middle school), and the High School Council (department chairs from each high school) for a total of approximately 140 members.

The State of the Schools presentation was made to each council. Team-based improvement was discussed, and input was gathered from council members about strengths and deficiencies in the DCSS.

The next scheduled meetings will be held in December.

Georgia Leadership Institute for School Improvement

The GLISI leadership summit will be held October 27th-29th. The 14-person team will return for the final training this year.

Boys and Girls Club

There are four school-based sites for children to participate in Boys and Girls Club activities after school: Lamar Reese Elementary Magnet, Sylvester Road Elementary, Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary, and *new this year* Turner Elementary School.

MCLB Memorandum of Understanding

On September 30th, the Dougherty, Lee, and Worth County School Systems signed an MOU with the Marine Corps Logistics Base for guiding principles addressing issues of transitioning military students. The primary focus for the MOU is high school students transitioning from DOD schools to our school systems.

State of Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts

There was one finding in the audit report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007. The finding dealt with the need for increased accounting procedures for school activity accounts. During the exit conference, the state auditor commented that the accounting procedures had improved from the previous year, but more adequate procedures needed to be implemented.

State Superintendent of Schools' Distinguished Achievement Awards

There were three schools in the DCSS that were recognized as winners of the inaugural awards. These awards honored schools that had the highest achievement (the 10 schools that had the highest percentage of student scores in the exceeds category in each subject) and greatest improvement (the 10 schools that had the greatest improvement in the percentage of student scores meeting/exceeding standards in each subject) on state curriculum tests:

*Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary – 4th grade social studies improvement with a 29.65% gain over the previous year on the **CRCT**

*Southside Middle School – 6th grade science improvement with a 29.73% gain over the previous year on the **CRCT**

*Robert Cross Middle Magnet – social studies achievement with 33% of students exceeding standards on the **CRCT**

Congratulations!!!!

Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)

Second Round 2008

Number of Schools: 26
 Schools Meeting AYP: 18 (69.2%)
 Schools Not Meeting AYP: 8 (30.8%)
 Schools Meeting **Test Participation**: 26 (100.0%)
 Schools Meeting **Academic Performance**: 19 (73.1%)
 Schools Meeting **Second Indicator**: 25 (92.3%)

Schools	Test Participation		Annual Measurable Objective		Second Indicator
ELEMENTARY					
	Rdg/LA	Math	Rdg/LA	Math	Attendance
Morningside Elem.	√	√	√	No – 3 subgroups All Students Black Econ. Disadv.	√
Turner Elem.	√	√	√	No – 3 subgroups All Students Black Econ. Disadv.	√
MIDDLE					
	Rdg/LA	Math	Rdg/LA	Math	Attendance
Dougherty Int. Ed. Middle	√	√	√	No – 3 subgroups All Students Black Econ. Disadv.	√
Radium Springs Mid. Magnet	√	√	No – 1 subgroup SWD	No – 1 subgroup SWD	√
HIGH					
	Rdg/LA	Math	Rdg/LA	Math	Graduation
Albany High	√	√	No – 1 subgroup Econ. Disadv.	√	No
Dougherty Comp. High	√	√	√	√	No
Monroe Comp. High	√	√	√	No – 3 subgroups All Students Black Econ. Disadv.	√
Westover Comp. High	√	√	√	No – 2 subgroups Black Econ. Disadv.	√

Adequate Yearly Progress Results

Dougherty County School System

2007

**2008
First Round**

**2008
Second Round**

Number of Schools: 25

Georgia Schools Meeting AYP: 82.2%

DCSS Schools:

Meeting AYP: 84% (21)

Not Meeting AYP: 16% (4)

Meeting **Test Participation**: 100%

Meeting **Academic Performance**: 84%

Meeting **Second Indicator**: 88%

Number of Schools: 26

Georgia Schools Meeting AYP: 69%

DCSS Schools:

Meeting AYP: 54% (14)

Not Meeting AYP: 46% (12)

Meeting **Test Participation**: 100%

Meeting **Academic Performance**: 58%

Meeting **Second Indicator**: 88.5%

Number of Schools: 26

Georgia Schools Meeting AYP: 79.9%

DCSS Schools:

Meeting AYP: 69.2% (18)

Not Meeting AYP: 30.8% (8)

Meeting **Test Participation**: 100%

Meeting **Academic Performance**: 73.1%

Meeting **Second Indicator**: 92.3%