

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE



Board of Education Meeting

June 25, 2008

Revised

Accomplishments for 2007-08

- The Dougherty County School System was approved for SACS CASI District Accreditation in September 2007.
- On the **CRCT**'s administered in grades 1-8 in 2008, there were 28 grade levels/content areas that could be compared to performance on the 2006-07 **CRCT** scores. In 18 of those 28 grade levels/content areas, performance of students in the Dougherty County School System increased over their performance from 2006-07.
- The 2007-08 **GHSGT** scores for Dougherty County School System Regular Program students in all content areas are as follows:

	State	DCSS
English/Language Arts	90%	89%
Mathematics	90%	93%
Social Studies	86%	76%
Science	86%	81%

- The retention rate (students not being promoted to the next grade) decreased from 20.32% **BEFORE** summer school in 2007 to 9.72% in 2008 as a result of the emphasis placed on credit recovery throughout the entire school year.
- The percentage of students with 15 or fewer absences increased from 88% in 2001-02 to 95.3% in 2007-08.
- The dropout rate for grades 9-12 decreased from 7.5% in 2001-02 to 4.6% in 2007-08. (The dropout rate in 2006-07 was 4.8%.)
- The graduation rate (**BEFORE** summer school **graduation**) is 61.5% in 2008. The graduation rate **AFTER** summer school graduation in 2007 was 61.5%.
- Early release days were implemented once per semester for parent teacher conferences at the middle school and high school levels *for the first time*.
- A parent involvement program, *I Care*, was implemented in every school (16 elementary schools, 6 middle schools, and 4 high schools). The City of

Albany implemented a community component to support *I Care*, which will enable the community to support our efforts to build stronger relationships between parent, child, school, and community.

- Live Oak Elementary School had a successful first year of operation.
- The mobility rate for student movement decreased from 47% in 2005-06 to 42% in 2006-07. However, as a result of the mobility policy implemented by the DCSS in 2007-08, the mobility rate decreased to 14%.
- The DCSS participated in the Georgia Leadership Institute for School Improvement.
- An elementary alternative education program was implemented to provide students with multiple retentions the academic support that they need to be successful in fourth and/or fifth grade.
- As of June 2008, the Child Nutrition deficit totaled less than \$50,000. The deficit in December of 2004 was \$4.1 M.

Honors & Achievements

- Magnolia Elementary named one of 34 “No Excuses Schools” by the Georgia Public Policy Foundation
- International Studies Elementary Charter School chosen as a feature school for the 2008 Georgia Partnership Bus Trip through South Georgia
- Monroe Comprehensive High School awarded a Title IID Teachers, Teamwork Technology Competitive Grant by GaDOE for \$98,342
- Advanced Placement Honor Schools - 2 of only 86 high schools in Georgia
Albany High School – AP Challenge School
Westover Comprehensive High School - AP Access & Support School
- 2007 Georgia School of Excellence – Robert A. Cross Middle Magnet School
- 2007 National Blue Ribbon School – International Studies Elementary Charter School
- Governor’s Office of Student Achievement Awards – 2 elementary; 1 middle school
- 2007-08 Title I Distinguished Schools – 13 elementary and middle schools making AYP 3-8 consecutive years

- 2007-08 non-Title I Distinguished Schools – 3 elementary and middle schools making AYP 5 consecutive years
- State Superintendent of Schools' Advisory Councils
Middle School Principal
High School Student
- Kiwanis State Art Competition
2 middle school students placing 1st and 2nd
2 high school students placing 2nd and 3rd
- 2008 Georgia Woman's Club State Art Competition
1 high school -1st Place
- State Literary Meet
1st Place in Dramatic Interpretation
- Governor's Honors Program
5 high school students
- Duke Talent Identification Program (TIP)
Grand Recognition (top 2%) 1 middle school student
State Recognition (top 30%) 3 middle school students
- National Achievement Scholarship Program
Finalists - 3 high school students
- National Merit Scholarship Program
Finalist – 1 high school student

Plans for 2008-09

- Plans will continue for the elementary and middle school feeder programs to the centers of excellence at AHS, DHS, MHS, and WHS:
 - AHS: Honors, Law, and Multimedia
Sherwood and Albany Middle
Fundamental Magnet / Honors
Lincoln Elem. Magnet and Robert Middle Magnet
 - DHS: International Baccalaureate
International Studies Elem. Charter and Dougherty
International Charter
Performing Arts
Lamar Reese Elementary Magnet and Radium Springs
Middle Magnet

MHS: Pre-Engineering, Math, and Technology
West Town Elem. and Southside Middle

WHS: Medical Arts
Lake Park and Merry Acres Middle

- In an effort to maximize instructional time, a three-tier plan for school start times will be implemented:

Elementary School	8:00 – 2:30
Middle School	8:15 – 3:15
High School	8:45 – 4:00

- The new structure for the Transportation Department will be implemented. The four districts, based upon the high school and their feeder elementary and middle schools, will strengthen the department and ensure a higher level of efficiency of operation.
- Albany Early College, which will be implemented this year, is a collaboration between the DCSS and Albany State University. In its first year of operation, 60 seventh graders will be housed on the campus at ASU, and each year a grade will be added until enrollment consists of grades 7-12. The primary purpose of the program will be to target children whose families are under represented in college.
- Efforts to increase parent participation in the *I Care* Program will continue. Additionally, community participation in *I Care* will be a priority.
- An emphasis will be placed on parent-teacher conferences at the secondary level again this year in the second year of early release days for elementary, middle, and high school students.
- Credit recovery will continue to be emphasized in an effort to promote that *failure is not an option*.
- **From the Department of Curriculum and Instruction:**
 - A new approach to supervision for instructional improvement will be implemented through an instructional coaching initiative. All supervisors and district instructional coaches will receive training from ASCD consultant/author Sue Beers.
 - Instructional technology support staff members (Title II A, improving teacher quality) will assist teachers in the development of technology integration in order to maximize the impact of the model classrooms on achievement. Teachers will actually receive help in developing technology integrated lessons.

- A Pre-K-12 emphasis on differentiated instruction will continue:
 - A new group of teachers will receive year-long training on differentiating instruction to support all learners.
 - Administrators will also receive additional training on how to identify differentiated instruction.
- New teacher induction will be redesigned to provide more instructional coaching from the district level, in addition to mentoring at the building level.
- The deficit in Child Nutrition will be eliminated, and the healthy operation of the program will continue.