

SURRY COUNTY SCHOOLS

NEWS RELEASE

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16th in the State in Academic Performance in 2017-18 and Highest Graduation Rate in Surry County Schools' History at 91.7%

Surry County Schools continued to outpace the rest of the state in academic achievement according to the *2017-18 Performance and Growth Data of North Carolina Public Schools* report presented to State Board of Education members on September 5, 2018.

In addition to the traditional end-of-grade and end-of-course proficiencies parents have come to expect, the state also released ACT, ACT WorkKeys, cohort graduation rates, the percentage of graduates passing rigorous math courses, academic growth target measures, progress of English Language Learners, and school performance grades.

Surry County Schools ranked 16th of 115 school systems in the state in Overall Academic Performance with 66.2 percent of all tests in all subjects at Achievement Level 3 or higher.

"I am extremely proud of the hard work and effort of our 1,100 employees on a daily basis to meet the needs of each individual student who enters our classrooms. We have a college and career going culture in Surry County Schools that nurtures our students to grow academically, socially, and emotionally. Within this culture, we promote experiential learning outside the walls of the classrooms and want our students to connect to our community through paid internships and future apprenticeships. We focus on educating the whole child by promoting the arts and helping our students grow as leaders. We continually strive to impact student learning so every student has the potential to reach their dreams and become a responsible citizen," commented Superintendent, Dr. Travis L. Reeves.

Across all grade levels (3-8) on the Reading, Mathematics, and Science End-of-Grade assessments, 66.8 percent of Surry County students scored at Achievement Level 3 (grade level proficiency) and above compared to 58.8 percent across the state. Surry County Schools had nine End-of-Grade subject areas ranked in the state top 20: 5th grade Mathematics (6th), 6th grade Mathematics (10th), 8th grade Science (10th), 5th Grade Reading (12th), 4th grade Mathematics (15th), 4th grade Reading (15th), 5th grade Science (15th), 6th grade Reading (15th), 8th grade Mathematics (17th).

Similarly, on the English II, NC Math I, and Biology End-of-Course assessments, 63.6 percent of Surry County students scored at Achievement Level 3. Proficiencies across the state averaged 58.5 percent. As in the End-of-Grade results, Surry County had an End-of-Course ranking in the state top 20: NC Math I (13th).

As for high school graduation rates, Surry County graduated a record 91.7 percent of students from the 2014-15 9th grade cohort in the spring of 2018, with the 15th highest district graduation rate in the state. The state graduation rate for the cohort was 86.3 percent. Individual school rates within the Surry County School System continued to excel: the Surry Early College graduated over 95 percent of all students; East Surry's rate was 91.3; Surry Central's rate was over 95 percent (an all-time school high), and North Surry graduated 85.0 percent of all students.

Two schools across the district, in addition to high performance, also had high academic growth. Westfield Elementary and Surry Early College exceeded state academic growth targets this year. In fact, Surry Early College exceeded growth for the fourth consecutive year. Additionally, twelve schools met the state academic growth targets.

In addition to the other academic factors, North Carolina also released the fifth annual School Performance Grades to the State Board of Education, showing that 77.8 percent of traditional public schools earned grades of C or better. In Surry County Schools, 100 percent received grades of C or better. The Surry Early College received a School Performance Grade of A; one of only 31 schools to receive an A out of 451 schools in the Piedmont/Triad.

Superintendent Reeves further stated, "The positive results of the 2017-18 school year did not happen by chance but through a very focused, deliberate, and strategic instructional plan that is supported by ongoing professional development from our Central Office staff and implemented by our school administrators and teachers in our classrooms. Our teachers and administrators are educational professionals who are dedicated to their students and schools and take great pride in the community and the success of their students. We are extremely pleased with the results of 2017-18 and will continue to work diligently in our schools and in our community to ensure students are prepared to go to college or enter the workforce/military. Our team of dedicated professionals are hard at work into the 2018-19 school year

and are focused on impacting all and are focused on our impact so each student has an opportunity to achieve success.”

To access the *2017-18 Performance and Growth of North Carolina Public Schools Executive Summary*, visit www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/reporting. For more information about the specifics of the READY accountability model, please review the *READY Accountability Background Brief* at www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/reporting. To view released test questions, visit www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/testing/releasedforms.