



## PRESS RELEASE

Tracey H. Lewis, Ed.D.  
Director of Communications  
P.O. Box 364  
Dobson, North Carolina 27017  
336/386-8211 Cell: 336/401-1873  
Fax: 336/386-4756  
E-Mail: lewist@surry.k12.nc.us

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### **For Immediate Release**

September 6, 2019

### **20th in the State in Academic Performance in 2018-19 and Highest Graduation Rate in Surry County Schools' History at 93%**

Surry County Schools continued to outpace the rest of the state in academic achievement according to the *2018-19 Performance and Growth Data of North Carolina Public Schools* report presented to State Board of Education members on September 4, 2019.

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 20th of 115 school systems in the state in Overall Academic Performance with 64.9 percent of all tests in all subjects at Achievement Level 3 or higher. This is the fourth consecutive year Surry County Schools has ranked in the top 20 school systems in the state.

Across all grade levels (3-8) on the Reading, Mathematics, and Science End-of-Grade assessments, 67.6 percent of Surry County students scored at Achievement Level 3 (grade level proficiency) and above compared to 60.4 percent across the state. Surry County Schools had seven End-of-Grade subject areas ranked in the top 20 in the state: 3rd grade Reading, 4th grade Reading, 6th grade Reading, 8th grade Science, 5th grade Mathematics, 6th grade Mathematics, and 7th grade Mathematics. Additionally, 6th grade Reading and 6th Grade Mathematics ranked 10th in the state.

For several years the Surry County School System has experienced a steady climb in graduation rates. The 2018-2019 school year was no different. Surry County graduated a record 93 percent of students from the 2015-16 9th grade cohort in the spring of 2019, with the 10th highest district graduation rate in the state. The state graduation rate for the cohort was 86.5 percent. Individual school graduation rates within the Surry County School System continued to excel. The Surry Early College graduated over 95 percent of all students; East Surry's graduation rate was 92.4 percent; Surry Central's rate was over 95 percent, and North Surry graduated 88.5 percent of all students, (an all-time school high). Surry County School System high schools also continued to outperform the state in NC-End-of-Course assessments.

"I am extremely proud of the persistence, direction, alignment, and commitment of our 1,100 employees who work hard each day to ensure our youth are engaged and empowered to grow as citizen leaders and to achieve their dreams for achievement, leadership, and life. This direction begins with our Board of Education, who commit to funding, implementing, and executing a strategic plan for excellence based on putting the needs of students first. Additionally, consistent academic achievement in Surry County Schools is the result of a solid, research-based instructional plan supported by ongoing professional development

from our central office staff, and implemented by administrators and teachers in the classrooms. Moreover, through relationships and partnerships with all students, families, and the community, our educators do a great job meeting the evolving needs of next-generation students who are growing, excelling, and learning at high levels, stated Superintendent, Dr. Travis L. Reeves. “The next-generation culture in Surry County Schools is designed to give students choice, flexible scheduling, and options so students can drive their own education. Consequently, I believe there is a direct correlation between the next-generation culture that is the norm in Surry County Schools to our having the highest graduation rate in the Surry County School System’s history.”

Six schools across the district, in addition to high performance, also had high academic growth. Cedar Ridge Elementary, Copeland Elementary, Dobson Elementary, Franklin Elementary, Pilot Mountain Middle, and White Plains Elementary exceeded state academic growth targets for the 2018-2019 school year. The Surry County Schools System had an additional 10 schools meet the state academic growth targets.

North Carolina also released the sixth annual School Performance Grades to the State Board of Education, showing that approximately 74 percent of traditional public schools earned grades of C or better. In Surry County Schools, 100 percent of schools 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. Nine Surry County Schools received a School Performance Grade of B: Copeland Elementary, Dobson Elementary, East Surry High, Flat Rock Elementary, Gentry Middle, Mountain Park Elementary, Pilot Mountain Middle, Shoals Elementary, and White Plains Elementary. Nine schools received a C: Cedar Ridge Elementary, Central Middle, Franklin Elementary, Meadowview Magnet Middle, North Surry High, Pilot Mountain Elementary Rockford Elementary, Surry Central High, and Westfield Elementary.

Superintendent Reeves further stated, “Each day we make a promise or covenant to all 7,700 of our students and their families that we will equip them to accomplish their educational pursuits and empower them with relevant skills that will transfer to college and careers. Each day our teachers provide students a world-class education that serves them as they live, learn, and lead as highly competent and capable young people who will be ready to go out into the world to make a difference in our local and global economy. I am grateful to serve alongside our team of professional educators, and for the stellar teaching and learning occurring each day in classrooms across all of our 19 schools. We are extremely pleased with the results of the 2018-19 school year and will continue to work diligently in each of our schools and in our community to ensure students are well-prepared for college, to enter the workforce or the military. Our team are hard at work and are focused on ensuring each student has the tools to not just design their dreams but to achieve them. . . #Promise4ALL.”

To access the *2018-19 Performance and Growth of North Carolina Public Schools Executive Summary*, visit [www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/reporting](http://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](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/reporting). To view released test questions, visit [www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/testing/releasedforms](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/testing/releasedforms).

To learn more about the exciting educational opportunities in the Surry County School System, schedule a tour on the Surry County Schools or individual school websites, install the Surry County Schools mobile app, like us and follow us on social media.

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