



Newton County School System

Annual
Report
2016-2017





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Message from the SUPERINTENDENT

To the residents of Newton County:

I have enjoyed leading the Newton County School System (NCSS) the past four years and take great pride in the many accomplishments of our schools, students, and staff. Our motto is “Spirit, Pride, Excellence,” and I see that exemplified daily in our school system. In an era when many dismiss the quality and effectiveness of public schools, I can report that our students can and do excel regionally and at the state and national level. As you read our annual report you’ll see that the 2016-2017 school year was very successful.

Our school system continues to make significant progress as we strive to meet our mission of providing educational excellence for ALL students. In that effort, our district began administering Iowa Assessments at both the beginning and the end of the school year to better gauge the strength, weaknesses, and overall improvement over the course of the year of our students in grades one through five. Although our request to replace the Georgia Milestones with the Iowa Assessment was denied by the state we will continue to administer these tests as we believe the information gleaned from the Iowa is a more valid and reliable resource. In addition to our new Iowa Assessment program, our district launched efforts to combat the effects of poverty in our school system. Throughout the year, our administrators and employees became “poverty informed,” and we continue that work as we strive to become an Opportunity Community in 2018. We are collaborating with many organizations throughout the community to enhance the experiences of our children and families.

No matter what challenges we may face, our mission is always very clear—to provide educational excellence for all students. Every decision we make and everything we do is determined by one question—what is best for our students? We are 100 percent focused on the success of our students. As you read our 2016-2017 report you will see that our students were very successful last year, winning several regional, state, and national awards.

Many employees and departments also earned recognition at the state and national level, too. This report is designed to share with our many stakeholders just some of the highlights of the extraordinary accomplishments of NCSS staff and students last year. I hope you find it beneficial and informative.

As always, I thank you for your continued support of Newton County Schools.

Sincerely,
Samantha Fuhrey, Superintendent

Samantha Fuhrey
Superintendent, Newton County Schools



Almond Turner
Chair, Newton County Board of Education

Message from the BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dear Community Members,

It is with great pride that the Newton County Board of Education presents this Annual Report—filled with the outstanding achievements of our students and staff during the 2016-2017 school year.

As a School Board, we are entrusted by our community to define a vision of excellence in education. We set goals for our school system and hold our administration accountable for those goals. At the same time, we are required to maintain strict oversight of our school system's budget.

It has been a challenging task to maintain the quality programs, staffing and excellent student opportunities available in Newton County Schools given the economic downturn we experienced a few short years ago. Since that time, we have faced decreased federal funding, diminished tax revenues, increased state mandates and overwhelming cost increases in health care. Despite all this, our school system continued to maintain a balanced budget with adequate fund balance. By continually watching the bottom line, we have enabled a tremendous increase in technology in our classrooms. The board also budgeted money for teacher recruiting efforts, and both summer and STEM programming for students. We have worked hard to restore the cuts we were forced to make when the economy crashed as we know our employees were severely impacted. During the 2016-2017 school year alone, we completed salary study adjustments, provided all employees with a one percent pay raise, surprised employees with an additional one percent pay adjustment, continued step increases, added a half-percent increase to employee 403b contributions, and allocated new funds for recruitment efforts, STEM programming, literacy and math, and Alcovy High School's outdoor facilities. We believe in our employees and support them as they work tirelessly to provide educational excellence for each of our students.

Their hard work paid off in 2016-2017. As you flip through the pages of this report, you will see the numerous achievements, accolades, and accomplishments of our students and staff. It was truly a successful year.

The Board of Education recognizes we cannot do this work alone. It takes community support. As such, we are grateful that the Newton County community continues to support our students as they pursue their goals and dreams. Together we can meet our goal of providing educational excellence for ALL students.

Sincerely,

Almond Turner, Chair, Newton County Board of Education



NCSS Superintendent
Samantha Fuhrey

Our Board of Education

The Board of Education of Newton County is composed of five members elected to represent and serve the educational needs and interests of Newton County. The Board makes all major decisions regarding school policy, employment of personnel, expenditures, and new or expanded facilities.

Each member of the Board of Education is a county officer, but such official duties can only be performed in conjunction with other Board members. The Board functions only as a body and not by virtue of the actions of individual members. Board members appoint the Superintendent of Schools to manage the day-to-day operations of the school system.

Our Superintendent

The Superintendent is appointed by the Board of Education and functions as its chief executive officer. The Superintendent is also an advisor and keeps the board informed of the operation and progress of the various programs of the schools. The Superintendent is available to the board as a professional resource, and her recommendations normally precede action on questions relating to the operation, staffing, and financing of the various programs for the schools.

Ms. Samantha Fuhrey was hired by the school board in 2013 to serve as the superintendent of the Newton County School System (NCSS). She holds the distinction of being the Newton County School System's first female superintendent. Ms. Fuhrey previously served as the school system's Deputy Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction. She has extensive leadership experience at the executive level, having served as the Executive Director for Secondary Education, the Director of Secondary Education, and the Director of Professional Learning for NCSS. She

also has served as both a principal and assistant principal in the school district.

Only three years into her tenure as Superintendent of the Newton County School System, the Georgia School Superintendents Association (GSSA) recognized Ms. Fuhrey's outstanding leadership in both the school system and the community by presenting her with the 2016 GSSA President's Award.

The Newton County Board of Education has also acknowledged Ms. Fuhrey's leadership ability and commitment to not only the school system but the Newton County community. Initially offered a three-year contract in July 2013, the school board has provided Ms. Fuhrey four separate contract extensions. In July 2017, by unanimous vote, the Newton County Board of Education approved a contract extension for Ms. Fuhrey that ensures her leadership of the Newton County School System through the completion of the 2019-2020 school year.



DISTRICT 2
Mr. Eddie Johnson

DISTRICT 3
Mrs. Shakila
Henderson-Baker

DISTRICT 1
Mr. Trey Bailey

DISTRICT 5
Mrs. Abigail Coggin

DISTRICT 4
Mr. Almond Turner

GSBA Quality School Board Status

The Newton County Board of Education achieved the status of the Georgia School Boards Association's (GSBA) 2016 Quality School Board recognition.

The recognition program was designed to showcase best practices in school governance and leadership. GSBA recognizes good school board governance to foster educational community cultures in order to advance student learning and achievement.

"Being identified as a Quality School Board demonstrates the dedication and commitment of our Board to act on behalf of our students and community," said Samantha Fuhrey, Superintendent of Newton County School System. "I commend our Board for a job well done."

The Newton County Board of Education met and or exceeded the criteria set forth by GSBA to earn the honor of a 2016 Quality Board. The criteria included the following:

- Adoption and implementation of a Strategic Plan;

- Review the recommendations of the Vision for Public Education in Georgia report;
- Complete self-assessment and develop recommendations for improvement in Board Governance;
- Adopt a superintendent evaluation instrument that reflects state requirements and incorporates the system's strategic plan improvement goals;
- Meet state Board of Education training requirements, and comply with elected accreditation association standards; and
- Governance Team willing to assist other Governance Teams in seeking Quality Board Recognition

The GSBA Governance Team Recognition Program was developed by Georgia superintendents and board members based on the state BOE's standards for effective governance to recognize exemplary leadership.

In 1998, the Georgia School Boards Association was one of the first school board associations in the nation to develop a program of standards for local boards of education.

NCSS Tackles Poverty

Newton County School System (NCSS) launched a two-year poverty action plan to encourage community residents to get involved in tackling an issue that affects 70 percent of all NCSS students.

To aid in this important endeavor, the school system is collaborating with Dr. Donna Beegle of Communication Across Barriers, an Oregon-based organization that assists institutions to design plans to move and keep people out of poverty. The district's ultimate goal is to create an Opportunity Community, where people act as navigators to assist those in the grips of poverty.

School system administrators, school board members, local government and elected officials, and representatives from numerous community agencies, joined forces in this

endeavor. They began the school year by attending a two-day poverty awareness training session led by Dr. Beegle, a high school dropout who lived in grim economic conditions most of her childhood but eventually received her GED at age 26 and went on to get a doctorate. She used her own personal experiences to create a plan that assists communities in combating the effects of poverty. All NCSS teachers also attended a session with Dr. Beegle to ensure that all district employees are "poverty informed."

Throughout the school year, NCSS held community meetings to inform residents on the effects of poverty and what they can do to assist in our goal to become an Opportunity Community. The work will continue through the 2017-2018 school year with the goal of launching the Opportunity Community in 2018.



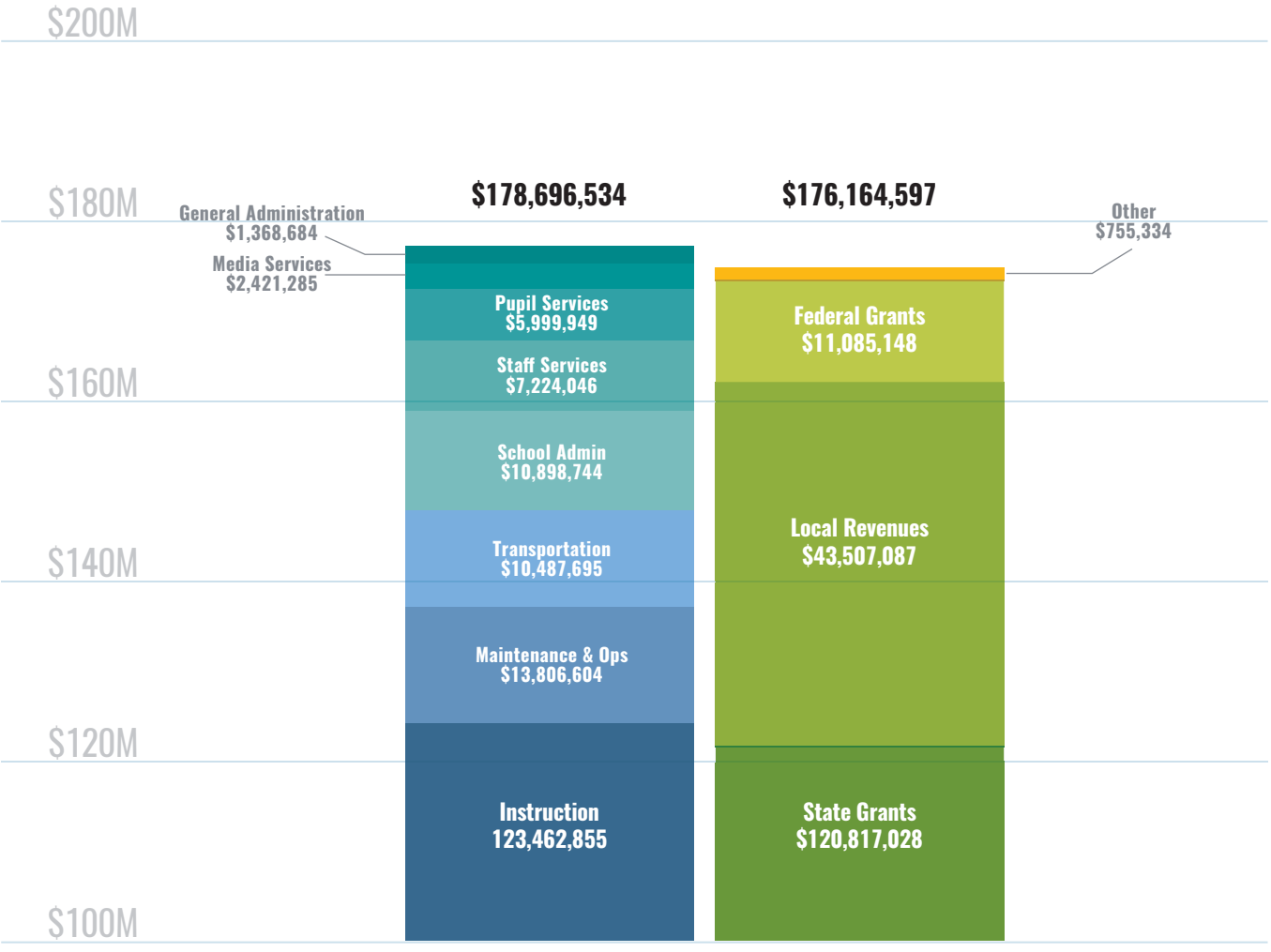


NCSS Expands Early Learning Initiative

Last year NCSS implemented an Early Learning Initiative to begin early academic development programs at participating day-care centers to help ensure success and progress when young children enter the school district. Approximately eight local day-care centers in the area signed up to partner with the school system. Meetings were held to determine the current needs of the daycare centers and how the school district could best partner with them. In 2016-2017, a free Saturday training session on March 25, 2017 was conducted for interested daycare employees with those in attendance earning 3 credits for Bright from the Start Early Childhood Education Competency Training. Plans are to continue to offer these training sessions and more so students transitioning from the daycare centers to the school district are prepared for elementary school on day one.

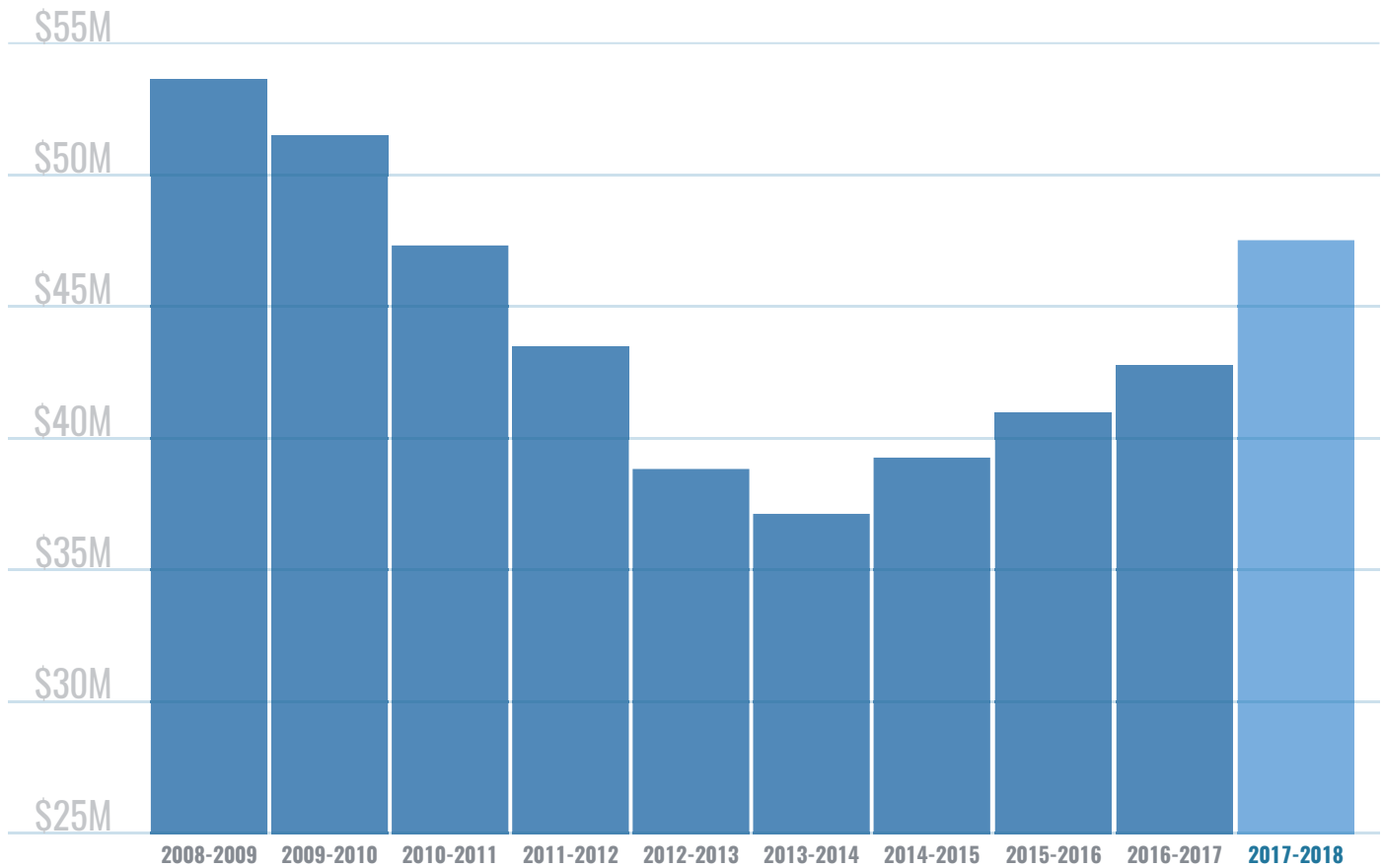
M&O Tax Digest

The Newton County School System (NCSS) takes its duty as a steward of taxpayer money very seriously. Our number one priority is the students that we serve. As a result, 70% of our expenditures, over \$120 million dollars, were allocated for one sole purpose in 2017-2018: student instruction.



Unaudited Expenditures Unaudited Revenues
Includes general funds and state and federal grants

Ten year history from
FY 2008-2009 to 2017-2018



Tax Digest	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
	\$2,955,093,084	\$2,844,952,913	\$2,365,056,068	\$2,177,437,258	\$1,951,639,208	\$1,848,940,820	\$1,975,479,218	\$2,064,418,136	\$2,166,406,552	\$2,367,935,183

Millage Rate	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
	18.21	18.21	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00

Gross Tax	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
	\$53,812,245	\$51,806,592	\$47,301,121	\$43,548,745	\$39,032,784	\$36,978,816	\$39,509,584	\$41,288,363	\$43,328,132	\$47,358,704

Change from 2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
	(\$2,005,653)	(\$6,511,124)	(\$10,263,500)	(\$14,779,461)	(\$16,833,429)	(\$14,302,661)	(\$12,523,882)	(\$10,484,113)	(\$6,453,541)

NCSS Received 3.5 Star Financial Efficiency Rating

Newton County School System (NCSS) received a 3.5-Star Financial Efficiency Rating from the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE), based on its three-year average of per-pupil expenditures and College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) scores from the 2013-14, 2014-15, and 2015-16 academic years.

The Financial Efficiency Star Rating measures an individual school district's per-pupil spending in relation to the academic achievements of its students. Each school district receives a rating ranging from one-half to five stars, with five-star districts being described as having strong academic outcomes and lower levels of expenditures, proportionate to the district's size, in comparison with other districts.

According to Georgia law, the Governor's Office of Student Achievement (GOSA), in coordination with the GaDOE, must create a financial efficiency rating. Specifically, it requires the development of "indicators of the quality of learning by students, financial efficiency, and school climate for individual schools and for school systems."

The law states that financial efficiency "may include an analysis of how federal and state funds spent by local school systems impact student achievement and school improvement, and components used to determine financial efficiency may include actual achievement, resource efficiency, and student participation in standardized testing."

"The Newton County School System's budget process is student-focused to ensure taxpayers receive the maximum benefit for their investment," said NCSS Superintendent Samantha Fuhrey. "Our staff, both at the school and system level, should be commended for their continued exemplary preparation of a fiscally responsible budget that meets the needs of our students. Our Board of Education also plays a major role in the financial efficiency of our school system as they monitor our budget throughout the year to make certain that we are always in good financial standing."



Joy Warren
Finalist for Georgia
Principal of the Year

ALL NCSS EMPLOYEES

1,504 | Certified staff

1,130 | Classified staff

251 | Substitutes

OUR CERTIFIED STAFF

443 | Bachelor degrees

608 | Masters degrees

314 | Specialist degrees

76 | Doctorates



Clements Middle School principal, Ms. Joy Warren, was named a finalist for Georgia Principal of the Year! The Principal of the Year recognition program is sponsored by the National Association of Secondary School Principals, the Georgia Association of Secondary School Principals and Association Member Benefit Advisor (AMBA). The Principal of the Year program recognizes principals who excel in educational leadership, resolving complex problems, developing self and others, and community service.

Ms. Warren was hired for the principal position at Clements Middle School in July 2010 and she has worked there ever since. She had previously served as an elementary assistant principal and later, principal at Fort Valley Middle School, in the Peach County School System. Before making the transition to leadership, Ms. Warren taught fourth grade in Bibb County Public Schools and sixth and seventh grade in the Washington County School System.



Ten NCSS Employees Nominated for National LifeChanger of the Year Award

Ten educators from Newton County School System were nominated for the 2016-17 National LifeChanger of the Year Award:

- **Gwen Goins** of Rocky Plains Elementary School,
- **Michael Poor** of Eastside High School,
- **Laura McNulty** and **Sharon Darley** of Flint Hill Elementary School,
- **Francene Breakfield** of Newton High School,
- **Tyrell Johnson** of Veterans Memorial Middle School,
- **Geri Hawkins** of East Newton Elementary School,
- **Patrick Carter**, Principal of Livingston Elementary School,
- **Joy Warren**, Principal of Clements Middle School and,
- **Samantha Fuhrey**, Newton County School Superintendent.

Sponsored by the National Life Group Foundation, the national LifeChanger of the Year program recognizes and rewards the very best K-12 public and private school educators and employees across the United States who are making a difference in the lives of students by exemplifying excellence, positive influence and leadership.

Each school year, the LifeChanger of the Year program receives hundreds of nominations from all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

NCSS Schools Attain “Asthma Friendly” Status

Thanks to Newton County School System’s school nurses, each school in the district was named a 2017 Asthma Friendly School. Each school nurse submitted an application and ultimately earned bronze recognition status as an Asthma Friendly School for their school. According to Ateya Harbin Wilson, Director of Health Promotions for the American Lung Association of the Southeast, NCSS has the distinction of being the only school district to have all schools apply for and receive the designation.





Teachers of the Year

In May 2016, each of our schools elected a new Teacher of the Year to represent their school during the 2016-2017 school year. Those teachers also participated in the Newton County School System Teacher of the Year program. They spent their summer working on the NCSS Teacher of the Year application and essay packet and shortly after the 2016-2017 school year began, they each sat for interviews with the Teacher of the Year judging panel. The three teachers with the highest point totals after scoring of the essays and interviews—Ms. Tanahia Benton, Liberty Middle School;

Ms. Cecily Bullock, Alcovy High School; and Mr. Jason Smith, Newton High School, were announced as finalists for NCSS Teacher of the Year. Our judges then traveled as a group to those three schools to observe each finalist do what they do best—teach! Observation scores were added to the essay and interview scores and on October 6, 2016, Mr. Ralph Staffins, president of the Newton County Chamber of Commerce, announced that Mr. Jason Smith of Newton High School was Newton County School System’s 2017 Teacher of the Year!

Pam Allen
East Newton Elementary

Leslie Edwards
Mansfield Elementary

Jessica Salmon
South Salem Elementary

Ijeoma Johnson
Veterans Memorial Middle

Jan Hudson
Fairview Elementary

Heather Hodge
Middle Ridge Elementary

Annette Prince
West Newton Elementary

Cecily Bullock
Alcovy High

Amy Miller
Flint Hill Elementary

Lindsay Wilson
Newton County Theme School at Ficquett

Meghan Roper
Clements Middle

Leo Mallard
Eastside High

Yolonda Watterson
Heard-Mixon Elementary

Juanita Stephens
Oak Hill Elementary

Phalanda Perriman
Cousins Middle

Jason Smith
Newton High

Elisa Gray
Live Oak Elementary

Marlena Holloway
Porterdale Elementary

Adrian Stone
Indian Creek Middle

Emmanuel Walter
Newton College & Career Academy

Natarshia Nolley
Livingston Elementary

Plachette Lewis
Rocky Plains Elementary

Tanahia Benton
Liberty Middle

Jason Smith

Newton High School 2017 NCSS Teacher of the Year



Newton High School band instructor, Jason Smith, was elected as the Newton County School System's 2017 Teacher of the Year and represented our school system in the Georgia Teacher of the Year program. He was awarded \$1,000 cash, a crystal vase, three month's free car rental from Covington Ford, and a dozen roses!

The two runners-up for NCSS Teacher of the Year, Ms. Tanahia Benton of Liberty Middle School and Ms. Cecily Bullock of Alcovy High School, each received a crystal vase award from the Newton County Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Smith began his teaching career at Stephenson High School in DeKalb County Schools in 2005 before joining Newton County School System as the band instructor at Newton High School in 2009. He has been teaching at Newton High School ever since. Mr. Smith is a member of the Georgia Music Educators Association, the Georgia Association of Jazz Educators, the National Association for Music Educators, and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity of America. He was named a quarterfinalist for the 2017 Grammy Foundation Educator Award that recognizes current educators who have made a significant and lasting contribution to the field of music education and who demonstrate a commitment to the broader cause of maintaining music education in the schools.

Mr. Smith is a very active volunteer for the Walk of Heroes Veterans War Memorial in Conyers, Georgia, where he serves as the unofficial bugler to play "Taps," for all Walk of Heroes programs. He also supports the Arts Association of Newton County and last year assisted the organization with their gala to raise funds for the local hospital.

In his essay, Mr. Smith wrote, "I believe every student has the ability to learn. I believe the great educator is the educator who has the ability to determine the best methods that will reach every student of all ability levels. Over the span of my career, I've taught kids ranging from students in the top 10% to the bottom 10%. I've taught student athletes and club presidents as well as students on behavior contracts on the verge of being expelled from school. I'm very fortunate and blessed to teach music because I'm able to reach such an expansive range of students. Regardless of their background, they all understand the power of coming together as one unit to achieve one common goal. This can sometimes be one of the most rewarding experiences of their lives. As the famous American singer/songwriter and music advocate John Denver once wrote, 'Music does bring people together. It allows us to experience the same emotions. People everywhere are the same in heart and spirit. No matter what language we speak, what color we are, the form of our politics or the expression of our love and our faith, music proves: We are the same.'"

NCSS 2017 Retirees



The end of the 2016-2017 school year marked the end of careers for 57 NCSS employees who retired from the district. Collectively they had 1,112 years of service to education! Eleven employees retired with 30 or more years of service and 18 more retired with over 20 years of service. Employees retiring during the 2016-2017 school year included:

Ms. Janice Alexander
Flint Hill Elementary School

Ms. Linda Berry
Special Education Department

Ms. Martha Bouts
Alcovy High School

Ms. Marie Bruce
Transportation Department

Ms. Karen Cash
Clements Middle School

Ms. Denise Christian
Fairview Elementary School

Ms. Laurie Crowley
Rocky Plains Elementary School

Mr. Mark Dannaker
Technology Department

Ms. Deborah Davis
Heard-Mixon Elementary School

Mr. Troy Davis
Newton High School

Mr. William Dolan
Newton High School

Mr. Roscoe DuBose, Jr.
Transportation Department

Ms. Leila Elkins
Cousins Middle School

Mr. Kenneth Goode
Transportation Department

Ms. Janet Goodman
Newton High School

Dr. Gloria Hancock
Middle Ridge Elementary School

Ms. Marilyn Harris
Cousins Middle School

Ms. Rita Hector
Newton High School

Ms. Cynthia Hensley
Mansfield Elementary School

Ms. Sandra Hilley
Transportation Department

Mr. Kirk Hoffman
Alcovy High School

Mr. Stacy Johnson
Porterdale Elementary School

Ms. Mary Alice Johnson
Service Center

Ms. Amanda Jones
Heard-Mixon Elementary School

Ms. Gloria Knapp
Clements Middle School

Ms. Glenda Knarr
Newton County Theme School

Ms. Martha Lawrence
Oak Hill Elementary School

Ms. Susan Lawson
Newton High School

Ms. Betty Jo Luna
Newton County Theme School

Ms. Brenda Maddox
Alcovy High School

Ms. Sherry Maddox-Ashby
Porterdale Elementary School

Ms. Eleanor Mask
Transportation Department

Ms. Lisa Matteen
Special Education Department

Ms. Mary Matthews
Heard-Mixon Elementary School

Ms. Debora Ondracek
Porterdale Elementary School

Mr. Kenneth Ondracek
Alcovy High School

Ms. Christie Pachura
Livingston Elementary School

Ms. Shirley Palecek
Flint Hill Elementary School

Mr. Charles Phillips
Indian Creek Middle School

Ms. Mary Roach
Indian Creek Middle School

Ms. Angela Robertson
West Newton Elementary School

Ms. Brenda Rolls
Flint Hill Elementary School

Ms. Kathleen Sanders
Eastside High School

Ms. Jeanette Scott
Transportation Department

Ms. Melanie Sheets
Heard-Mixon Elementary School

Ms. Theresa Shields
Newton High School

Ms. Robin Simmons
Heard-Mixon Elementary School

Ms. Judy Skinner
Mainstay Academy

Ms. Irene Smith
Rocky Plains Elementary School

Mr. Sherman Smith
Newton High School

Ms. Julie Teems
Livingston Elementary School

Mr. Scott Thomas
Technology Department

Ms. Ann Traylor
Flint Hill Elementary School

Ms. Kathi Turner
Livingston Elementary School

Ms. Sharon Vaughn
Live Oak Elementary School

Mr. Michael Wooten
Live Oak Elementary School

Ms. Kimberly Young
East Newton Elementary School

Enrollment

Elementary Schools **12** schools
8,739 students

Middle Schools **5** schools
4,113 students

High Schools **3** schools
5,766 students

Theme School **1** school
981 students

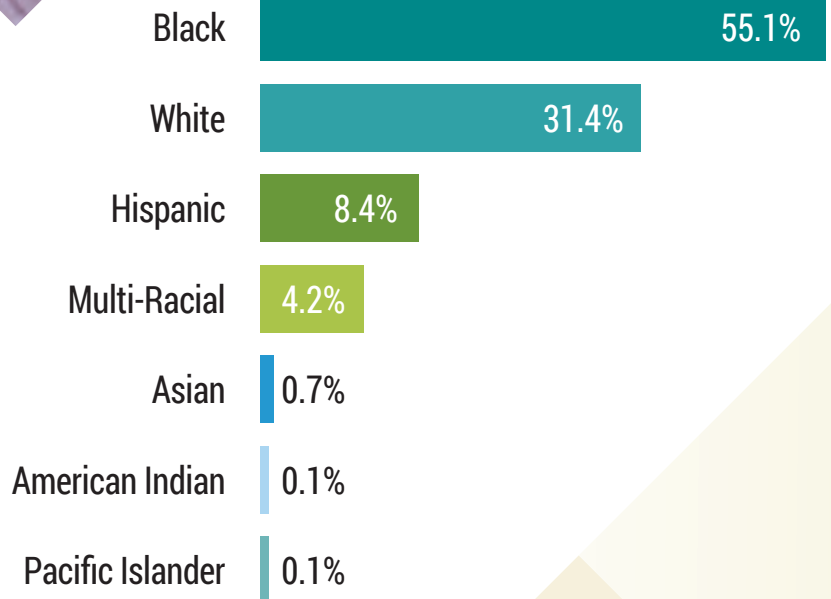
6-12 Alternative Program **1** school
55 students

**NOTE: Career Academy students are counted at their base schools.*



Student

Racial/Ethnic Distribution



38 Different Languages

Spoken in NCSS in 2016-2017

Akan	Cambodian	Somali
Amharic	Korean	Swahili
Arabic	Lao	Ukrainian
Chinese	Tagalog	Urdu
Czech/Slovak	Portuguese	Englishes other than Standard American English
Dutch	Russian	Creoles and pidgins (Other)
English	Spanish	Creoles and pidgins, (English-based)
French	Vietnamese	Creoles and pidgins, (French-based)
German	Other African	
Greek	Other Asian	
Gujarati	Other European	
Haitian Creole	Other Indian	
Hebrew	Hmong	
Hindi	Punjabi	
Japanese	Romanian	



Newton County School System Earns Fourth Consecutive Golden Radish Award

For the fourth consecutive year, Newton County School System (NCSS) earned a Golden Radish Award, the prestigious state-wide farm to school distinction which acknowledges the outstanding leadership of school representatives building comprehensive farm to school programs. Fifty-three school districts—nearly one-third of all public school districts in Georgia with a reach of over 1 million students—are now participating in farm to school programs and recognized through the Golden Radish Awards.

The Golden Radish Award publicly recognizes school districts for all aspects of farm to school, from local food procurement to hosting taste tests to gardening with students, and is awarded at Gold, Silver, Bronze, and Honorary Levels. Districts were evaluated on their work in ten different activities of farm to school.

NCSS was recognized at the silver level for several accomplishments during the 2015-2016 school year, including: featuring locally grown produce on the daily school lunch menu; providing farm to school oriented lessons in the school curriculum; and taking students to Mitcham Farms to learn about and taste strawberries.

Student Transportation

school buses



211

student riders



12,285

miles traveled



2,995,708

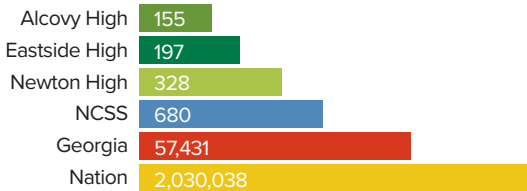
School Nutrition Numbers

meal	daily	annually
Student Breakfast	7,335	1,311,473
Student Lunch	14,144	2,553,168
After School Snacks	1,106	177,050

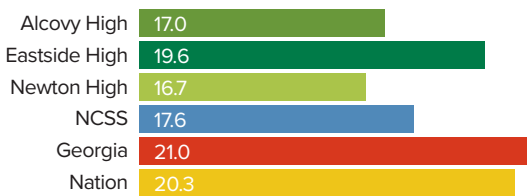
Summer Feeding	daily	total
Student Breakfast	277	6,651
Student Lunch	522	12,517

NCSS Announces 2017 ACT RESULTS

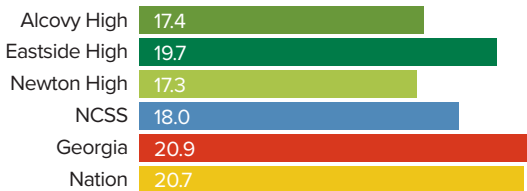
Number Tested



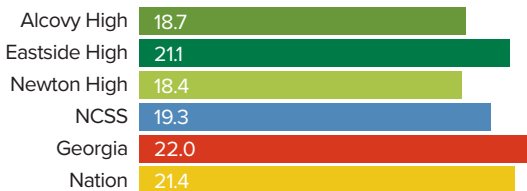
English



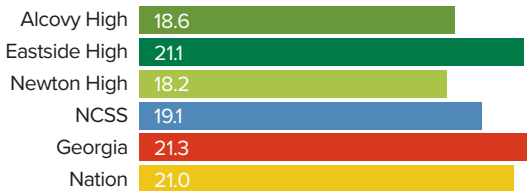
Math



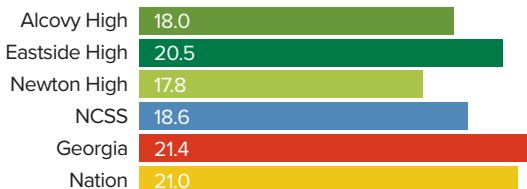
Reading



Science



Composite



Newton County School System maintained its average score on the ACT mathematics and science test in 2017 but dipped slightly in English and reading. As a result, the school district's composite score dropped two tenths of one point, going from 18.8 to 18.6 in 2017.

Unlike the SAT, a reasoning test that measures critical thinking skills and assesses how well a student analyzes and solves problems, the ACT is a series of curriculum-based, multiple choice tests that cover content knowledge in four basic skill areas: English (College English Composition), Math (College Algebra), Reading (College Social Science), and Science (College Biology). Students also receive a composite score on the exam, which is scored on a scale from 0 to 36. The ACT also has an optional writing test.

Through collaborative research with postsecondary institutions nationwide, the ACT has established college readiness benchmark scores for designated courses—the minimum score needed on an ACT subject-area test to indicate a 50 percent chance of obtaining a B or higher or about a 75 percent chance of obtaining a C or higher in the corresponding credit-bearing courses, which include English Composition, Algebra, Social Science and Biology. The College Readiness Benchmark Scores are:

- English Composition 18 on the ACT English Test
- College Algebra 22 on the ACT Mathematics Test
- Social Science 22 on the ACT Reading Test
- Biology 23 on the ACT Science Test

2017 SCHOOL LEVEL DATA

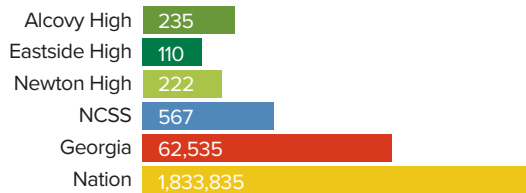
According to the official ACT report, Alcovy High School posted an increase of three tenths of one point on the science test, going from 18.3 to 18.6 in 2017. The school's English score did drop by four tenths of one point and math and reading each dropped by two tenths of one point in 2017. Alcovy's composite score dropped by just one tenth of one point, going from 18.1 to 18.0 in 2017.

Eastside High School bested the nation in science but saw a small decrease in average scores in all subjects and the composite in 2017. The school's English score dropped by eight tenths of one point, going from 20.4 to 19.6 in 2017. Eastside's reading, science, and composite scores each dropped by four tenths of one point while the math dropped just one tenth of one point in 2017, going from 19.8 to 19.7.

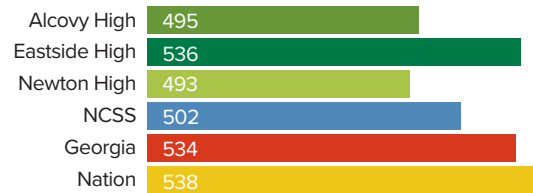
Newton High School increased its score in math in 2017, going from 17.1 to 17.3, and maintained its 18.2 score in science. The school did see a decline in English of eight tenths of one point and a four tenth of one point dip in reading, which resulted in the composite score dropping from 18.0 to 17.8 in 2017.

NCSS Announces 2017 SAT RESULTS

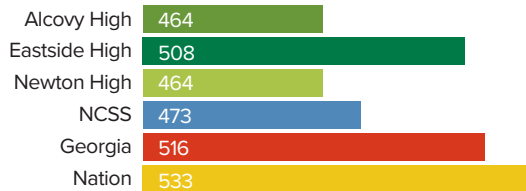
Number of Test Takers



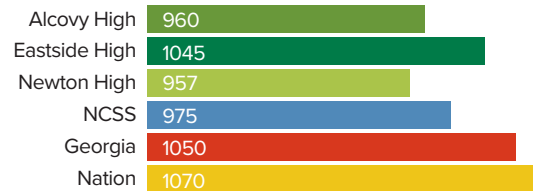
Reading and Writing



Math



Composite



The College Board released Newton County School System's 2017 SAT scores in late September. Due to a change in testing format, the 2017 scores cannot be compared to scores from previous years.

The SAT is a national college entrance exam some colleges and universities utilize to measure critical thinking skills students need for academic success in college. The SAT assesses how well students analyze and solve problems. It is typically taken by high school juniors and seniors.

"I am thrilled that our Eastside students outperformed the state in evidenced-based reading and writing," said Samantha Fuhrey, superintendent of Newton County

School System. "Although the SAT has changed this year, our previous scores demonstrated that we are working in the right areas as we experienced increases last year across the board. We will use the scores of this new exam as our baseline as we move forward. Overall, we are not where we wish to be, but we are heading in the right direction. I know our Newton County School System team is working hard to ensure our students reach their potential. Improving student outcomes on college-entrance exams requires a combination of high expectations of our students and staff, rigorous, engaging coursework starting in Pre-K, the continued use of highly effective instructional practices, and the commitment of our students to place a high importance on their education."

NCSS Announces 2016-2017 College and Career Ready Performance Index Scores

State School Superintendent Richard Woods released the Georgia College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) for the 2016-2017 school year. The CCRPI measures schools and school districts on a 100-point scale.

A school and district's overall score is made up of three major areas: **Achievement (50 points possible), Progress (40 points possible) and Achievement Gap (10 points possible).** In addition to the three major areas, schools can receive "Challenge Points" to add to their score (up to 10 points). They receive these points if they have a significant number of Economically Disadvantaged students, English Learner students and Students with Disabilities meeting expectations. Schools can also receive points for going beyond the targets of the CCRPI by challenging students to exceed expectations and participate in college and career ready programs.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS:

Five Newton County School System (NCSS) elementary schools scored above the state average in 2017, including East Newton, Heard-Mixon, Mansfield, Newton County Theme School-Elementary, and Oak Hill.

MIDDLE SCHOOLS:

One middle school, Newton County Theme School, scored above the state average in 2017. In fact, out of a possible score of 100, the Theme School's middle school earned 96.8 points.

HIGH SCHOOLS:

Both Alcovy High School and Eastside High School topped the state's score in 2017 and out of a possible 100 points, Eastside scored a 91.4. In addition, the district's overall high school score bested the state score in 2017.

Schools	CCRPI Scores
Elementary School	2016-17
East Newton	82
Fairview	67.6
Flint Hill	63
Heard-Mixon	76.6
Live Oak	62.2
Livingston	63.8
Mansfield	80.7
Middle Ridge	60.8
NC Theme	76.4
Oak Hill	75.4
Porterdale	61.3
Rocky Plains	63.8
South Salem	60.5
West Newton	60.9
NCSS - Elementary Total	63.8
State - Elementary Total	72.9
Middle School	2016-17
Clements	66.2
Cousins	70.1
Indian Creek	65.8
Liberty	69
NC Theme	96.8
Veterans Memorial	62.5
NCSS - Elementary Total	68.2
State - Elementary Total	73
High School	2016-17
Alcovy	77.4
Eastside	91.4
Newton	73.8
NCSS - Elementary Total	78.5
State - Elementary Total	77
NCSS Overall Score	70.3
State Overall Score	75.5

2017 School CLIMATE STAR RATINGS

The Georgia Department of Education released the 2017 School Climate Star Ratings for all schools in the Newton County School System. The ratings reflect school climate data from surveys taken by students, teachers and staff, and parents during the 2016-2017 school year. Included in the final calculations are data from the Georgia Student Health Survey 2.0, Georgia School Personnel Survey, and Georgia Parent Survey, as well as student discipline data and attendance records for students, teachers, staff and administrators.

School climate refers to the quality and character of school life – the “culture” of a school. A sustainable, positive school climate fosters youth development and student learning, which are essential elements for academic success, career-skill improvement and overall quality of life. The School Climate Star Rating is one measure that helps assess whether a school is perceived to be moving forward.

School Climate Star Ratings are required by law; they also serve as a companion to the Department of Early Care and Learning’s Quality Rated program, which includes an assessment of the learning environment.

All schools received star ratings of 1 to 5, with five stars representing an excellent school climate, and one star representing a school climate most in need of improvement. School Climate Star Ratings are an informational tool for schools, administrators, and parents; they do not affect the school’s College & Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) score.

Star rankings are explained below:

‘5-star’ schools ranked *excellent*;

‘4-star’ schools ranked *above average*;

‘3-star’ schools ranked *average*;

‘2-star’ schools ranked *below satisfactory*, or

‘1-star’ schools ranked *unsatisfactory*.

According to the report, the majority of Newton County’s schools scored a three or four rating. Fairview Elementary, Heard-Mixon Elementary, and Mansfield Elementary each earned a perfect score of five stars in 2017. Each Newton County school’s final score and star rating is listed below:

School	Stars
East Newton Elementary	4
Fairview Elementary	5
Flint Hill Elementary	4
Heard-Mixon Elementary	5
Live Oak Elementary	4
Livingston Elementary	4
Mansfield Elementary	5
Middle Ridge Elementary	4
NC Theme-Elementary	4
Oak Hill Elementary	3
Porterdale Elementary	3
Rocky Plains Elementary	3
South Salem Elementary	3
West Newton Elementary	3
Clements Middle	3
Cousins Middle	4
Indian Creek Middle	4
Liberty Middle	4
NC Theme-Middle	4
Veterans Memorial Middle	4
Alcovy High	3
Eastside High	4
Newton High	3



NCSS Announces 2016-2017 Georgia Milestones Assessment Results

The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) released Newton County School System's (NCSS) results from the 2015-16 administration of the Georgia Milestones Assessment System (Georgia Milestones End-of-Grade (EOG) in grades 3-8 and Georgia Milestones End-of-Course (EOC) in grades 9-12).

"The Georgia Milestones is a more rigorous test, with different expectations set for student achievement," said Samantha Fuhrey, superintendent of Newton County School System. "Student learning is measured along four levels of performance: Beginning, Developing, Proficient, and Distinguished." The following designations focus on capturing the progression of student learning and aim to shift the focus away from the reporting of test scores only:

- **Beginning Learners** do not yet demonstrate proficiency in the knowledge and skills necessary at this grade level/course of learning, as specified in Georgia's content standards. The students need substantial academic support to be prepared for the next grade level or course and to be on track for college and career readiness.
- **Developing Learners** demonstrate partial proficiency in the knowledge and skills necessary at this grade level/course of learning, as specified by Georgia's content standards. The students need additional academic support to ensure success in the next grade level or course and to be on track for college and career readiness.
- **Proficient Learners** demonstrate proficiency in the knowledge and skills necessary at this grade level/course of learning, as specified in Georgia's content standards. The students are prepared for the next grade level or course and are on track for college and career readiness.
- **Distinguished Learners** demonstrate advanced proficiency in the knowledge and skills necessary at this grade level/course of learning, as specified in Georgia's content standards. The students are well prepared for the next grade level or course and are well prepared for college and career readiness.

In addition to multiple choice, Georgia Milestones includes constructed response and extended response items that require students to generate, rather than select, responses. The system also assesses writing at each grade level course.

Elementary End-of-Grade Assessment Highlights:

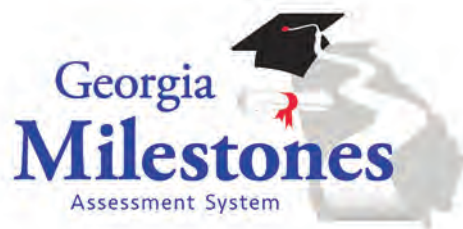
• **Third Grade:** Overall, NCSS third-graders outperformed the state in English language arts but trailed Georgia in mathematics. Nine elementary schools bested the state in English Language Arts, including East Newton, Fairview, Heard-Mixon, Live Oak, Mansfield, Newton County Theme School, Oak Hill, Rocky Plains, and South Salem. In addition, four of those schools—Heard-Mixon, Mansfield, Newton County Theme School, and Rocky Plains, also outperformed the state in mathematics.

In terms of improvement, the district and eight elementary schools—Fairview, Heard-Mixon, Mansfield, Newton County Theme School, Oak Hill, Porterdale, Rocky Plains, and South Salem—increased their pass rates in English language arts from the previous school year. Porterdale Elementary School also increased passage rate in mathematics in 2016-2017.

• **Fourth Grade:** NCSS fourth-grade students topped the state pass rate in English language arts and matched the state rate in mathematics in 2017. Nine elementary schools—East Newton, Fairview, Heard-Mixon, Live Oak, Mansfield, Newton County Theme School, Oak Hill, Porterdale, and Rocky Plains—bested the state in mathematics and eight schools topped Georgia in mathematics, including: East Newton, Heard-Mixon, Live Oak, Livingston, Mansfield, Newton County Theme School, Oak Hill, and Rocky Plains.

The district and twelve elementary schools—East Newton, Fairview, Heard-Mixon, Live Oak, Livingston, Mansfield, Middle Ridge, Oak Hill, Porterdale, Rocky Plains, South Salem, and West Newton—posted increased pass rates on both the fourth-grade English language arts and mathematics tests in 2017. Newton County Theme School saw an increased pass rate in mathematics this year.

• **Fifth Grade:** NCSS fifth-grade students topped the state pass rate in English Language Arts in 2016 but trailed Georgia in mathematics, science, and social studies. Three schools topped the state pass rates in all four subject areas for fifth-graders in 2016: East Newton, Mansfield, and Newton County Theme. Oak Hill and Flint Hill bested the state in three areas—English language arts, science, and social studies, and Rocky Plains outperformed the state in two subjects—English language arts and social studies. Heard-Mixon also topped the state in English language arts.



The district pass rate increased in English language arts but dipped in the other three subject areas although Mansfield Elementary School fifth-graders improved their pass rate across the board in 2017. East Newton, Live Oak, and Rocky Plains posted increased pass rates in three subjects—English language arts, mathematics, and social studies in 2017. Heard-Mixon improved in English language arts and mathematics; Livingston increased pass rates in mathematics and social studies; and Newton County Theme School improved pass rates in English language arts and science last school year. Both Flint Hill and Oak Hill increased their pass rate on the English language arts test in 2017.

Middle School End-of-Grade Assessment Highlights:

- **Sixth Grade:** NCSS sixth-grade students trailed the state in English language arts and mathematics in 2017; however, Clements and Newton County Theme School both topped the state pass rate in English language arts and the Theme School also bested the state in mathematics. Although the sixth-grade class did not top the state overall, every Newton County middle school posted increased pass rates on the English language arts test. Indian Creek Middle School sixth-graders also improved their mathematics pass rate in 2017.
- **Seventh Grade:** NCSS seventh-graders overall did not match the state pass rate in English language arts and mathematics in 2017; however, both Clements and Newton County Theme School did surpass the state pass rate in English language arts. Newton County Theme School also bested the state in mathematics on the seventh grade test in 2017. The NCSS seventh-grade class did increase their pass rate in mathematics in 2017. At the school level, both Clements and Cousins increased their pass rate on both the seventh-grade English language arts and mathematics tests. Newton County Theme School increased the seventh-grade pass rate in mathematics in 2017.
- **Eighth Grade:** NCSS eighth-grade students surpassed the state pass rate in English language arts but trailed the state in mathematics, science, and social studies in 2017. At the school level, Newton County Theme School topped the state in every category and even posted a 100 percent pass rate on the English language arts test last year.

Cousins bested the state pass rates in English language arts and mathematics while Indian Creek outperformed the state in English language arts and science. Liberty Middle eighth-graders topped the state in mathematics and Veterans Memorial Middle School eighth-graders outperformed the state in English language arts.

NCSS eighth-graders overall improved their pass rate on the English language arts exam in 2017 and at the school level, Cousins showed improvement in three of the four subjects—English language arts, mathematics, and social studies. Newton County Theme School improved in English language arts and mathematics and maintained their pass rate in social studies in 2017. In addition, the school's eighth-grade class posted a 100 percent pass rate on the English language arts test. Indian Creek showed improvement on the English language arts and science tests while Liberty and Veterans Memorial posted increased pass rates on the mathematics and English language arts tests respectively.

High School End-of-Course Assessment Highlights:

- NCSS high school students topped the state in economics and ninth-grade literature and matched the state in physical science in 2017. At the school level, Eastside High School bested the state in biology, physical science, U.S. history, economics, American literature, geometry, and ninth-grade literature. Alcovy topped the state in physical science and economics and Newton High School surpassed the state on the ninth-grade literature test.
- In terms of improvement, NCSS overall increased pass rates on both the ninth-grade literature and the American literature tests. Alcovy High School posted gains on the ninth-grade literature exam and matched their pass rates on both the American literature and biology tests in 2017. Eastside students showed improvement in ninth-grade literature, American literature, and economics and Newton High School posted gains in ninth-grade literature, American literature, and biology. Eastside bested the state pass rates in seven of the eight content areas while Alcovy and Newton topped the state in two and one subject areas respectively.

NCSS Graduation Rate

Remains Steady, Continues to Top State

Newton County School System's (NCSS) four-year cohort graduation rate remained steady at 83 percent in 2017. The district's graduation rate is approximately two points higher than the state's 81 percent graduation rate.

The four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate defines the cohort based on when a student first becomes a freshman. The rate is calculated using the number of students who graduate within four years and includes adjustments for student transfers.

Graduation rates for the schools, district, and state, are listed below:

School/Group	2014	2015	2016	2017
Alcovy High	75%	82%	80%	82%
Eastside High	86%	86%	91%	90%
Newton High	80%	82%	83%	82%
NCSS	77%	81%	83%	83%
State	73%	79%	79%	81%

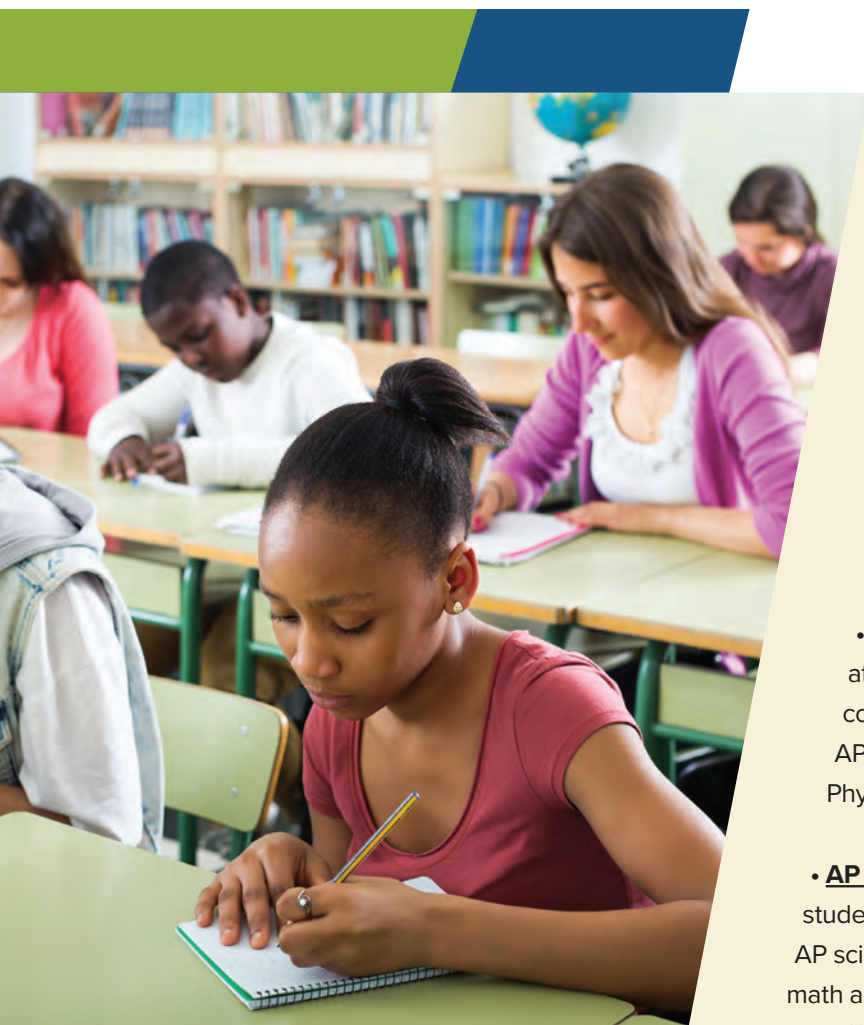
Alcovy High School's graduation rate increased by two points this year, going from 80 percent in 2016 to 82 percent this year. Eastside High School and Newton High School each saw a slight decrease of one point in 2017. All three high schools outperformed the state's 81 percent graduation rate.

DID YOU KNOW?

Newton County School System's Class of 2017 earned over \$30 million in scholarships!

NCSS High Schools Named 2017 Advanced Placement Honor Schools

All three Newton County School System (NCSS) high schools—Alcovy, Eastside, and Newton—were named 2017 Advanced Placement (AP) Honor Schools by Georgia School Superintendent Richard Woods. The 2017 Honor Schools are named in six categories, based on the results of the 2016 AP classes and exams.



ALCOVY HIGH

AP Humanities School
AP STEM School
AP Access and Support School

EASTSIDE HIGH

AP Humanities School
AP STEM School
AP STEM Achievement School

NEWTON HIGH

AP Humanities School
AP STEM School

HONOR SCHOOL CATEGORIES

- **AP CHALLENGE SCHOOL:** Schools of 900 or fewer students testing in four of the core areas (English, math, science, and social studies)

- **AP ACCESS & SUPPORT SCHOOLS:** Schools with at least 30% of their AP exams taken by students who identified themselves as African-American and/or Hispanic and 30% of all AP exams earning scores of 3 or higher.

- **AP MERIT SCHOOLS:** Schools with at least 20% of the student population taking AP exams and at least 50% of all AP exams earning scores of three (3) or higher.

- **AP STEM SCHOOLS:** Schools with students testing in at least two (2) AP math courses and two (2) AP science courses (AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, AP Statistics, AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP Environmental Science, AP Physics B, AP Physics C, AP Computer Science).

- **AP STEM ACHIEVEMENT SCHOOLS:** Schools with students testing in at least two (2) AP math courses and two (2) AP science courses and at least 40% of the exam scores on AP math and AP science exams earning scores of three (3) or higher.

- **AP HUMANITIES SCHOOLS:** Schools with students testing in all of the following AP courses: at least one (1) ELA course, two (2) social science courses, one (1) fine arts course and one (1) world language course.

Newton County Theme School Named 2016 National Blue Ribbon School



Newton County Theme School at Ficquett (NCTS) was officially recognized as a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School at a special ceremony in Washington, D.C. on November 7. NCTS principal Dr. Naomi Cobb, assistant principals Dr. JoAnna Fish and Ms. Ashante Everett, and Newton County School System superintendent Samantha Fuhrey, attended the ceremony to represent the school and district.

“Congratulations to the students, teachers, staff and leaders of Newton County Theme School at Ficquett,” said Fuhrey. “It was an absolute honor to accept the National Blue Ribbon Award on behalf of those whose hard work, focus, and dedication led to this fantastic recognition. To be identified as one of seven public schools in Georgia to receive this distinguished honor is incredible. I am so proud of the work of everyone affiliated with Newton County Theme School at Ficquett.”

National Blue Ribbon Schools are on education’s cutting edge, pioneering innovative educational practices from professional learning communities and project-based learning to social and emotional learning and positive behavior systems. Schools are nominated by the state department of education and then complete a comprehensive application about school practices. Schools may be nominated as Exemplary High Performing—among the top schools in a state—or Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing—schools making the fastest progress in their state in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. NCTS earned Blue Ribbon status in the “Exemplary High-Performing Schools” category.

“To be named a National Blue Ribbon School is indeed an

honor, and I feel privileged to be a part of a school such as this,” said Dr. Naomi Cobb, principal of NCTS. “Although this award was based on last year’s performance, it is actually a culmination of several years of dedication and hard work. Newton County Theme School has developed from two separate campuses (elementary and middle) into one, fully functioning kindergarten through eighth grade campus over the course of the last seven years. Parents, teachers, administrators, and county office personnel have forged through new territory and have come together to make decisions and develop procedures that are very different from the traditional elementary or middle school setting. This award is a validation of that dedication and hard work. It just shows what can be accomplished when schools and families truly work together.”

While at the annual National Blue Ribbon Schools recognition ceremony, school administrators had the opportunity to attend sessions lead by leading educators from across the nation, including Mr. John B. King, Jr., U.S. Secretary of Education; Russell Quaglia, founder of the Teacher Voice & Aspirations International Center; Thomas Dodd, 2017 National Principal of the Year; and Sean McComb, 2014 National Teacher of the Year.

Two NCSS Elementary Schools Named Georgia Department of Education Title I Reward School

East Newton Elementary and South Salem Elementary were named 2016-2017 Title I Reward Schools. Reward Schools are Title I schools that fall into one of two categories:

- A **Highest-Performing School** is among the five percent of the state's Title I schools with the absolute highest performance, over three years, for the "all students" group on the statewide assessments. A school may not be classified as a Highest-Performing School if it has been identified as a Priority or Focus School.
- A **Highest-Progress School** is among the 10 percent of the state's Title I schools making the most progress in improving the performance of the "all students" group over three years on the statewide assessments. A school may not be classified as a High-Progress school if it has been identified as a Priority or Focus School.

East Newton and South Salem each earned the Reward School designation in the "Highest-Progress School" category. The Georgia Department of Education used data from the 2015-2016, 2014-2015, and 2013-2014 school years to determine this year's Title I Reward Schools.

"Congratulations to East Newton and South Salem on a job well-done," said Newton County School System superintendent Samantha Fuhrey. "Their scores have placed them among the top 10 percent of Title I schools in Georgia to have demonstrated improved results for students. This recognition is a testament to the targeted and detailed work of the students, faculties, and leaders."



Four NCSS Schools Named 2017 National Beta Schools of Merit

The National Beta Club announced that four Newton County School System schools achieved 2017 National Beta School of Merit status! Oak Hill Elementary School, South Salem Elementary School, Clements Middle School, and Liberty Middle School earned this recognition by offering National Beta to all eligible grades on their campus.

According to Bob Bright, chief executive officer of the National Beta Club, the prestigious honor is indicative of the schools' "dedication to academic excellence, leadership development, and commitment to celebrating students' achievements."

"Congratulations to Oak Hill, South Salem, Clements, and Liberty," said NCSS superintendent Samantha Fuhrey. "This is a tremendous honor and I commend each of the four schools' leadership teams and faculties for ensuring their students have access to a program as prestigious as the National Beta Club. This is something they can be very proud of."

CONGRATULATIONS

Oak Hill Elementary

South Salem Elementary

Clements Middle

Liberty Middle



2017

NATIONAL BETA
SCHOOLS OF MERIT

Porter Performing Arts Center Officially Opens

After years in the making, the newly renovated Porter Performing Arts Center officially opened in October 2016. The new civic center was a collaborative effort of the Newton County School System, the Newton County Board of Commissioners, the Arts Association in Newton County, and of course, Newton County residents who approved a Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax in 2005 that garnered \$5 million used to convert old Newton High School's former Porter Auditorium to the new performing arts center.





Eastside High School Receives 2016 Platinum Level Greatest Gains School Designation

Eastside High School (EHS) was named a 2016 Platinum Level Greatest Gains School by Governor Nathan Deal. The Governor's Office of Student Achievement (GOSA) announced that Eastside High School was one of only six high schools in the state recognized at the Platinum Award level. Eastside jumped to the Platinum Level after earning a Gold Level award the previous year.

"We at Eastside High School are extremely proud to receive this honor," said EHS Principal Jeff Cher. "It affirms the hard work and dedication on the part of our faculty and staff to strive for continual growth and achievement for all students."

The school awards, developed by GOSA and approved by the State Board of Education, are part of Georgia's Single Statewide Accountability System. Highest Performing schools must earn a three-year average College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) Achievement Score that ranks in at least the 93rd percentile. Greatest Gains schools must earn a three-year average CCRPI Progress Score that ranks in at least the 93rd percentile. As a Platinum Level Greatest Gains school, Eastside High School's CCRPI Progress Score ranks in at least the 99th percentile.

NCSS Spelling Bee Champ Wins Regional Spelling Bee...Again!

Being a super speller can pay off and Jet Rawls has the cash—and trophies—to prove it. The Indian Creek Middle School eighth-grader earned \$200, a Chick-fil-A gift card, and a gift basket for winning the District 5 Regional Spelling Bee. This marked the second consecutive year Rawls bested the competition at the regional bee, which included contestants from Bremen City, and Butts, Clayton, Coweta, Fayette, Griffin-Spalding, Heard, Henry, and Rockdale county school systems. As a result, he is now the proud owner of five school spelling bee champion trophies, three Newton County School System spelling bee champion trophies, and two regional champion trophies. He represented Newton County and the region at the Georgia Spelling Bee.



Liberty and NC Theme School Robotics Teams Compete at World Championships

Two Newton County School System middle school robotics teams secured invitations to the 2017 VEX IQ World Championships after stellar performances at the Georgia VEX IQ Robotics State Championships. Liberty Middle School's Team won the Teamwork Champion Award and Newton County Theme School's Team 11028F (Girl Code) took home top honors in the STEM Research Project category. Both teams earned trips to participate in the World Championships in Louisville, Kentucky on April 23-25, where they competed with and against others from all over the U.S. as well as teams from China, Canada, United Kingdom, Australia, Finland, Chile, Turkey, and more from all across the globe.



Eastside High School Band Student Selected to Participate in 2017 Tournament of Roses Parade

Eastside High School and Newton College and Career Academy junior Austin Huffman, who plays clarinet for the Pride of Eastside Marching Band, was selected to perform with the 2017 Bands of America Honor Band in the 2017 Tournament of Roses Parade!

Huffman submitted a video audition for the Tournament of Roses Parade in January 2016 and learned in March that he was one of only 300 selected by Music for All to be a member of the prestigious 300-piece national ensemble, which includes winds, percussion and a flag and dance team.



Two NCSS Students Selected for State Superintendent's Student Advisory Council

Two Newton County School System high school students were selected to serve on Georgia School Superintendent Richard Woods' 2016-2017 Student Advisory Council. Of the more than 800 students in Georgia who applied for the prestigious council, only 108 were selected to serve, including Zackary Fallah, a junior at Newton High School, and Ralph Brown, a junior who attends both Eastside High School and the Newton College and Career Academy STEM Institute.



Newton County Special Olympics Equestrian Team Excels at 2016 State Horse Show

The Newton County Special Olympics Equestrian Team brought home numerous awards from the Special Olympics Georgia State Horse Show at the Chicopee Woods Agriculture Center in Gainesville, Georgia. Overall the team won 18 gold, 11 silver, and eight bronze medals, as well as two fourth-place ribbons.



Eastside High School Senior Makes All-State Cheerleading Squad

Eastside High School student Mackenzie Mallard was one of only 16 students in Georgia to make the 2016 4-AAAA All-State Cheerleading Squad. Over 200 high school students from across the state applied to compete in the 2016 All-State Cheerleading Competition and Mackenzie was one of the top 40 applicants who qualified to move on to the finals competition at Columbus State University.



Newton High School Senior Receives Full-Tuition POSSE Leadership Scholarship

Unlike most students, college loans won't be too much of a worry for Newton High School senior Molly Cady, who received a four-year, full-tuition scholarship as part of the Posse Foundation's national program that sends teams – or posses – of students to top colleges and universities.

Founded in 1989, Posse identifies public high school students with extraordinary academic and leadership potential who may be overlooked by traditional college selection processes. Posse extends to these students the opportunity to pursue personal and academic excellence by placing them in supportive, multicultural teams—Posses—of 10 students. These student teams receive professional guidance before and throughout college and provide support to one another.

Cady, the Newton High School class of 2017 salutatorian, will attend Brandeis University, just outside of Boston, Massachusetts, where she plans to major in the health science track. Her goal is to become a behavioral scientist and focus on autism research.

Veterans Memorial Middle School Wins Regional Math Team Contest

Veterans Memorial Middle School's math team won top honors in the Division I, Griffin RESA 2017 Regional Middle School Math Contest. All Newton County School System (NCSS) middle and high schools participated in the event. NCSS teams competed against schools from Butts, Fayette, Henry, Lamar, Pike, Spalding, and Upson counties.



The math contest includes a one hour written test followed by a group-ciphering event. According to Dr. Stephanie Gordy, Executive Director for Griffin RESA, awards for the top three teams in each division are based on a total team score comprised of the top four highest scores on the written test and the team score on the ciphering event. Competitive divisions are determined by school enrollment.

Veterans Memorial Middle School's team, coached by Mr. Donald Helm, included eighth-graders, Brennen Reilly, Julia Kolt, Noerine Gray, and Natalia Sanchez.



NCSS Students Win Awards at State Science Fair

Five Newton County School System (NCSS) middle and high school students brought home awards from the Georgia Science and Engineering Fair (GSEF)! In order to participate in the State Science Fair, students must first have won at both their local school system science fair and their regional science fair.

At GSEF, the exhibitors have the opportunity to share their research with some of the top scientists in Georgia and compete for awards and scholarships.

Below is a complete listing of NCSS students and their awards:

Student	School	Grade	Award	Category	Project
JUNIOR DIVISION					
David Bryke & Russell Danilchuk	Liberty Middle	8 th	4 th Honors	Physical Science	"Magnets & Motors"
SENIOR DIVISION					
Braxton Buff	Eastside High	9 th	3 rd Honors & Director's Choice Award	Biological Science	"How Diction & Syntax Can Influence Behavioral Outcomes"
Seth Carpenter & Najee Tillman	Alcovy & NCCA Stem Institute and Newton & NCAA STEM Institute	11 th	4 th Honors	Biological Science	"Do You Recall?"



NCSS Students Win Numerous Awards at Griffin RESA 2017 Regional Literacy Days Competition

Newton County School System (NCSS) students brought home numerous awards from the Griffin RESA (Regional Educational Service Agency) 2017 Regional Literacy Days Poetry Recitation, Ready Writing, and Drama Competition.

In the poetry recitation contests, competitors were judged on a number of criteria, including stage presence, articulation, interpretation, memory and accuracy, and difficulty of the piece.

Rosa Abraham of West Newton Elementary School won third place in the third-grade recitation contest with her performance of, *“Dreambeast”* and **Alainah Jackson** of Heard-Mixon Elementary School won third place in the fourth-grade recitation competition with her performance of, *“Making Sarah Cry.”* **Amaya Williams** from the Newton County Theme School took second place honors in the fifth-grade poetry recitation contest with her performance of *“I Give Up.”* In the middle school competition, **Julian Crockett** of Liberty Middle School won second place in the eighth-grade recitation contest with his performance of the poem, *“Wolves.”*

Newton County School System students also earned several awards in the Ready Writing Competition during which students are given a writing prompt and one hour to complete an essay. In the elementary division, **Megan McElhane**y from the Newton County Theme School won second place in the third grade competition. All three NCSS middle school contestants, all from Newton County Theme School, brought home awards in the Ready Writing Competition. **Jaimoni Parker** won first place in the sixth-grade contest, **Morgan Fannin** earned third place at the seventh-grade competition, and **Cheyenne Washington**, brought home top honors in the eighth grade writing contest.

In addition to the Poetry Recitation and Ready Writing Contest, Newton County School System’s drama team from Porterdale Elementary School won second place in the elementary division with their performance of, *“Sleeping Ugly.”* Team members include: **Dylan Lollar, Jarell Miller, Alaysia Phillips, Janiyah Wallace, and Christopher Rolle.**



NCSS Elementary Students Win 2017 Young Georgia Authors Regional Writing Competition

The Newton County School System (NCSS) is pleased to announce that three NCSS elementary school students won first place at the 2017 Griffin RESA Regional Young Georgia Authors Writing Competition. Each of the students won their grade-level in the district competition and then competed with grade-level winners from the following school systems assigned to the Griffin Regional Educational Services Agency (RESA): Butts, Fayette, Henry, Lamar, Pike, Spalding, and Thomaston-Upson.

Student submissions, which could be in the form of short stories, poetry, essays, journals, personal narratives, reports, or other original student writing, were judged on four domains as reflected in the Georgia Performance Standards—ideas, organization, cohesiveness, and language.

The Young Georgia Authors Writing Competition, sponsored by the Georgia Council of Teachers of English (GCTE), is open to students in grades kindergarten through twelfth grade. Newton County School System’s regional winners, whose winning entries moved on to the state-level competition for another round of judging, included:



Grade	School	Student	Title of Work
Kindergarten	Oak Hill	Tanner Jaynes	<i>The Boy & the Two-Headed Dragon</i>
2 nd Grade	Oak Hill	Lashauna Nelson	<i>Visiting Heaven for a Day</i>
3 rd Grade	South Salem	Allie Danilchuk	<i>Alice in Winterland</i>



According to the GCTE, “the purpose of Young Georgia Authors writing competition is to encourage students to develop enthusiasm for and expertise in their writing, to provide a context to celebrate their writing successes, and to recognize student achievement in arts and academics.”



Snapping Shoals EMC Named 2017 NCSS Partner of the Year

Newton County School System (NCSS) and the Newton County Chamber of Commerce announced that Snapping Shoals EMC was named the 2017 NCSS Partner of the Year. NCSS has approximately 160 individual school-business partnerships and each year the district selects one business partner that stands above the rest as the Partner of the Year.

Snapping Shoals EMC officially partners with two schools in the district—Veterans Memorial Middle School and Newton College and Career Academy (NCCA) and each school's principal nominated the company for the Partner of the Year Award. Both principals noted that Snapping Shoals EMC provides not only significant financial support but also numerous volunteer hours at the schools.

According to Veterans Memorial Middle School principal, Dr. Takila Curry, each year, Snapping Shoals EMC provides a back-to-school breakfast for staff to show how much they are appreciated. Company representatives provide gifts for every staff member and also raffle off numerous door prizes.

“Snapping Shoals supports Veterans financially,” said Curry. “Each year they donate over \$2,000 to the school.” She noted that the funds are used to support the school's band, staff, and also to purchase monthly incentives for students.

In addition, the company also supports the students by providing job shadow opportunities to those interested in that field of study.

“They transport the students from Veterans to their facility where they learn a wealth of information about energy and engineering,” Curry explained.

Snapping Shoals EMC employees also spend a large amount of time at the school conducting learning lessons with the students in the school's S.T.E.M. enrichment program. This year, the company has also partnered with Veterans Memorial through the Junior Solar Sprint Competition, a classroom based hands-on, disciplinary program designed to teach principles of energy and science in an atmosphere that is fun and exciting for the students.

According to Curry, Snapping Shoals member services representatives will help students build small, solar-powered model cars using identical solar panels and motors. One car will be chosen from the school to compete against cars from other schools and districts in the competition.

“Students will gain a new level of confidence in the area of technology, math, engineering, science, and team building from the experience,” said Curry.

She added, “Snapping Shoals EMC understands the importance of exposing our students to S.T.E.M. on a consistent basis and having students make real world connections. With the support of such a phenomenal business partner, we are able to give our students experiences that they otherwise would not have been given. In addition, with their support, we are also able to shower our entire staff with praises, gifts and esteem boosters each year. We are proud to be in partnership with Snapping Shoals EMC and feel wholeheartedly that they deserve to be recognized for their long-term, consistent and heartfelt dedication to Veterans Memorial Middle School.”

Chad Walker, principal of Newton College & Career Academy also nominated Snapping Shoals EMC for the Partner of the Year award. According to Walker, Snapping Shoals EMC “has been a tremendous help to my program.”

He noted, “They are a true community partner because they have assisted me in multiple pathways, not just the obvious connection in agricultural mechanics.” The company’s assistance has allowed Walker to “train students to be more successful at the FFA Career Development Event that Georgia EMCs host.

Snapping Shoals has hosted or co-hosted a regional training for the contest for the past four years and at the training event, they provide hundreds of dollars’ worth of tools to the students who perform the very best at the event.

“It’s safe to say that over the four years I have been at NCCA, my students have walked away with over \$1,000 worth of tools.”

The company also recently strengthened the real-life experience of electrical wiring for the students by providing materials needed to safely wire electrical outlets throughout Chimney Park.

“Students wired them in agricultural mechanics class and then assisted with the installation at Chimney Park,” Walker explained.

According to Walker, the company’s assistance has benefitted multiple programs at the school.

“Snapping Shoals also assisted with the installation of a bird platform to be monitored in Wildlife Management class and they have made the addition to our livestock facility possible by donating and setting poles for our structure,” said Walker. “I can’t begin to count the number of dump truck loads of wood shavings that they have brought for use in our livestock facility.”

The company even donated a Ford F150 truck to be used for both classroom content as well as FFA/livestock related activities.

Moreover, Snapping Shoals does not limit their support to financial donations. Members of the company are often in the schools volunteering their time to support programs like the NCCA Work-Based Learning and Entrepreneurial Business Incubator program, the school’s College and Career Expo, and both the NCCA Networking Luncheon and the Aspiring Young Professionals Work-Based Learning Dinner.

Both principals noted that Snapping Shoals EMC has not limited their support strictly to the school level. For many years, they have supported the school system’s New Teacher Induction/Orientation program by providing numerous gift cards and other door prizes for the event. They have also donated funds for the NCSS Book Bus and provided several thousand dollars in classroom grants to Newton County School System teachers. Snapping Shoals EMC has truly made a difference not only at the school but system level in Newton County.

Stay In Touch with Newton County Schools

Infinite Campus (<https://campus.newton.k12.ga.us/campus/portal/newton.jsp>)

Infinite Campus provides parents and guardians real-time grades, attendance, and more straight from the teacher's gradebook to students and parents.

NCSS Website (www.newtoncountyschools.org)

The district site features general information, current news, links to school websites, Board of Education meeting information, the superintendent's news page, and so much more. Stay on top of current news by checking our website daily.

School Websites

Each school in the district has a dedicated website where announcements, documents, and contact information are easily accessible for students, parents, and community members. School websites may be accessed through the NCSS district website.

Canvas (<https://newton.instructure.com/login/ldap>)

All NCSS teachers have access to their own Canvas webpage. Canvas is a one-stop shop for all the best learning tools we have to offer. It bundles assessments, grading, state standards, messaging, learning analytics and more – while keeping everything simple, easy and in one place. Teachers post homework assignments, daily lessons, and general information about their classes on their class page. Check with your child's teacher to see if he/she has a Canvas account.

Facebook (Newton-County-Schools)

Visit our Facebook page for news updates, inclement weather announcements, pictures and photo albums, and even videos of events taking place in our district.

Twitter (NewtonCoSchools)

Check out our Twitter page, where the district, administrators and even teachers are posting important news information, daily school pictures, and if needed emergency information regarding our district. Go even further and check out our hashtag, #ncssbethebest, for great pictures in the classrooms of our schools. Watch the learning taking place in our schools every day!

Instagram (newtoncountyschools)

Visit our new Instagram page, where we share pictures of our students and staff to highlight their achievements.

YouTube (NewtonCountySchools)

NCSS records important events in our district, such as the county Spelling Bee; Poetry Recitation, Drama, and Ready Writing Contests; Teacher of the Year reception; Retirement Dinner; all school board meetings, and much more. Watch them any time day or night on our YouTube Channel.

School Messenger

School Messenger is the emergency contact system for the school district. School Messenger allows school and district administrators to send important mass telephone and email messages to parents. Please update your phone number and email address each school year to ensure you receive these messages.

Constant Contact

NCSS utilizes Constant Contact to distribute news in electronic format straight to parent email. Publications include Thursday Folder, Board Notes, and any emergency messages from the school system. You can subscribe to this service by clicking on the "Stay Informed" link on our homepage.

MyPaymentsPlus

MyPaymentsPlus.com is your portal to convenient, secure meal account management. Approximately 15 percent of enrolled students use MyPaymentsPlus. Visit the NCSS website to apply for an account.

NCSS utilizes a variety of electronic tools to communicate with students, parents, and the community at large.

Use them often to stay in touch!



Thank you for choosing the Newton County School System!

For more information
visit the Newton County School System website:
www.newtoncountyschools.org

Federal law prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin (Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964); sex (Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 and the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Act of 2006); or disability (Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990) in educational programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance. Students, parents, employees and the general public are hereby notified that the Newton County Board of Education does not discriminate in any educational programs or activities or in employment policies.



Newton County School System

www.newtoncountyschools.org

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