

Newton County School System



Annual Report

2015-2016





Table of contents

Message from the Superintendent	4
Our Board of Education	6
Our Finances	7
Our Employees	11
Our Students	15
Test Results	17
Accolades	22
Partner of the Year Award	30
NCSS Book Bus	32
NCSS Alumni Spotlight	33
Stay In Touch with NCSS	34



Message from the Superintendent

“...our mission is always very clear — to provide educational excellence for all students.”

To the residents of Newton County:

I cannot believe that three years have passed since I was chosen by the Newton County Board of Education to be the district's school superintendent. I have truly enjoyed leading the Newton County School System (NCSS) over the last three 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 district. 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 2015-2016 school year was very successful. We definitely have much to be proud of!

Our school system continues to make significant progress as we strive to meet our mission of providing educational excellence for ALL students. Our district's SAT and ACT scores increased across the board last year and our graduation rate also improved in 2016. Despite the numerous technical issues NCSS students encountered during the administration of the state's online Georgia Milestones Assessments, we saw positive growth trends and numerous areas of improvement at all three levels—elementary, middle, and high school. Throughout the year, our students won several regional, state, and national awards. Many employees and departments also earned recognition at the state and national level, too.

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 in response to one question—what is best for our students? We are 100 percent focused on the success of our students. This report is designed to share with our many stakeholders just some of the highlights of the extraordinary accomplishments of our school system's students and staff during the 2015-2016 school 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



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 2015-2016 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.

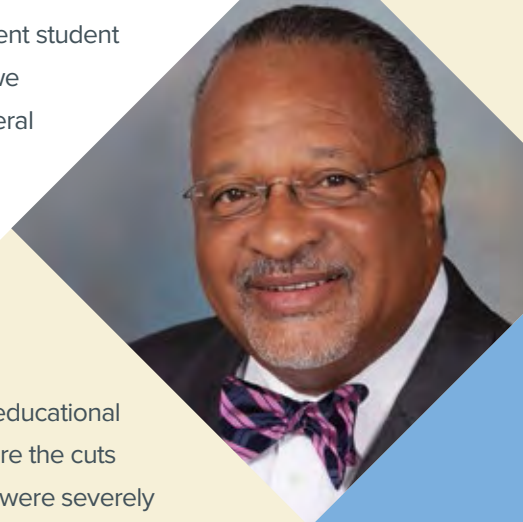
It has been a challenging task to maintain the quality programs, staffing and excellent student opportunities available in Newton County Schools given the economic downturn we experienced a few short years ago. Since that time, we have faced decreased federal funding, diminished tax revenues, increased 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.

We believe in our employees and support them as they work tirelessly to provide educational excellence for each of our students. As a board, we have worked together to restore the cuts we were forced to make when the economy crashed, as we know our employees were severely impacted. During the 2015-2016 school year alone, we restored three furlough days, continued step increases, added a one percent increase to employee 403b retirement accounts, surprised all employees with a 1.5 percent pay adjustment before the spring break and most importantly, restored the school system's salary schedule halfway to the 2009 rate (prior to the recession).

By continually focusing on our two non-negotiable goals—increased student achievement and more effective teaching—our school board, administrators, teachers, and staff are working together to ensure our students are the beneficiaries of a high quality, relevant, and engaging education. And that hard work is paying off. As you flip through the pages of this annual report, you will see just some of the many achievements and accomplishments of our students and staff highlighted. The 2015-2016 school year was truly a very successful year.

We are continually improving but we cannot do this work alone; parent and community support is vital. We are very 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



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 Board of Education

Newton County's 2015-16 board members include:

District 1 : Mr. Stan Edwards & Mr. Trey Bailey

District 2 : Mr. Eddie Johnson

District 3 : Mrs. Shakila Henderson-Baker

District 4 : Mr. Almond Turner

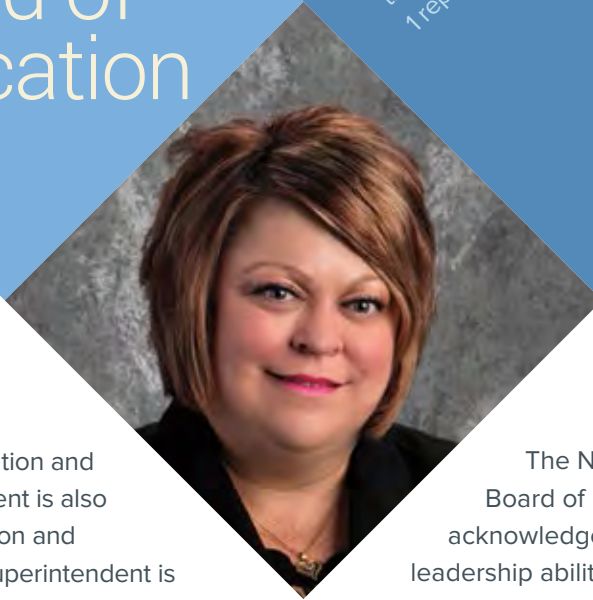
District 5 : Mrs. Abigail Coggin

Mr. Stan Edwards announced on March 8, 2016 his resignation from the school board to run for the District One seat on the Newton County Board of Commissioners. The Board of Education approved the appointment of Mr. Trey Bailey as the new District 1 representative on March 15, 2016.

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.

Mrs. Samantha Fuhrey was hired by the school board in 2013 to serve as the Superintendent of the Newton County School System (NCSS). Only three years into her tenure as Superintendent of the Newton County School System, the Georgia School Superintendents Association (GSSA) recognized Mrs. 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 Mrs. 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 Mrs. Fuhrey three separate contract extensions.

In July 2016, by unanimous vote, the Board of Education approved a contract extension for Mrs. Fuhrey that ensures her leadership of the Newton County School System through the completion of the 2018-2019 school year.

Newton County School System's Strategic Waiver Approved



Officially established in February 1871, the NCSS turned 145 years old in 2016. That year also marked a change in the district as it officially became a Strategic Waiver School System (SWSS).

The Georgia Board of Education approved Newton County School System's (NCSS) flexibility application under Georgia House Bill 1209, making it an SWSS. A SWSS is a local school district that operates under the terms of a contract between the State Board of Education and the local Board of Education. The System receives flexibility in the form of waivers of certain state laws, rules and guidelines over the life of a five-year contract with the Georgia State Board of Education in exchange for greater accountability for increased student performance.

After surveying board members and system staff, the four major challenges facing NCSS, ranked from most important to least important, were determined to be:

- Ensuring that NCSS can attract and retain effective teachers, leaders, and professional personnel to meet projected student growth for Newton County, the aging workforce, and current staffing deficits.
- Ensuring the financial stability of NCSS despite unstable and unpredictable revenue growth.
- Ensuring that NCSS can increasingly personalize the learning experience and environment for all students and advance student learning as indicated by student achievement measures.
- Ensuring that NCSS can meet the unique academic, resource, and support needs of all students.

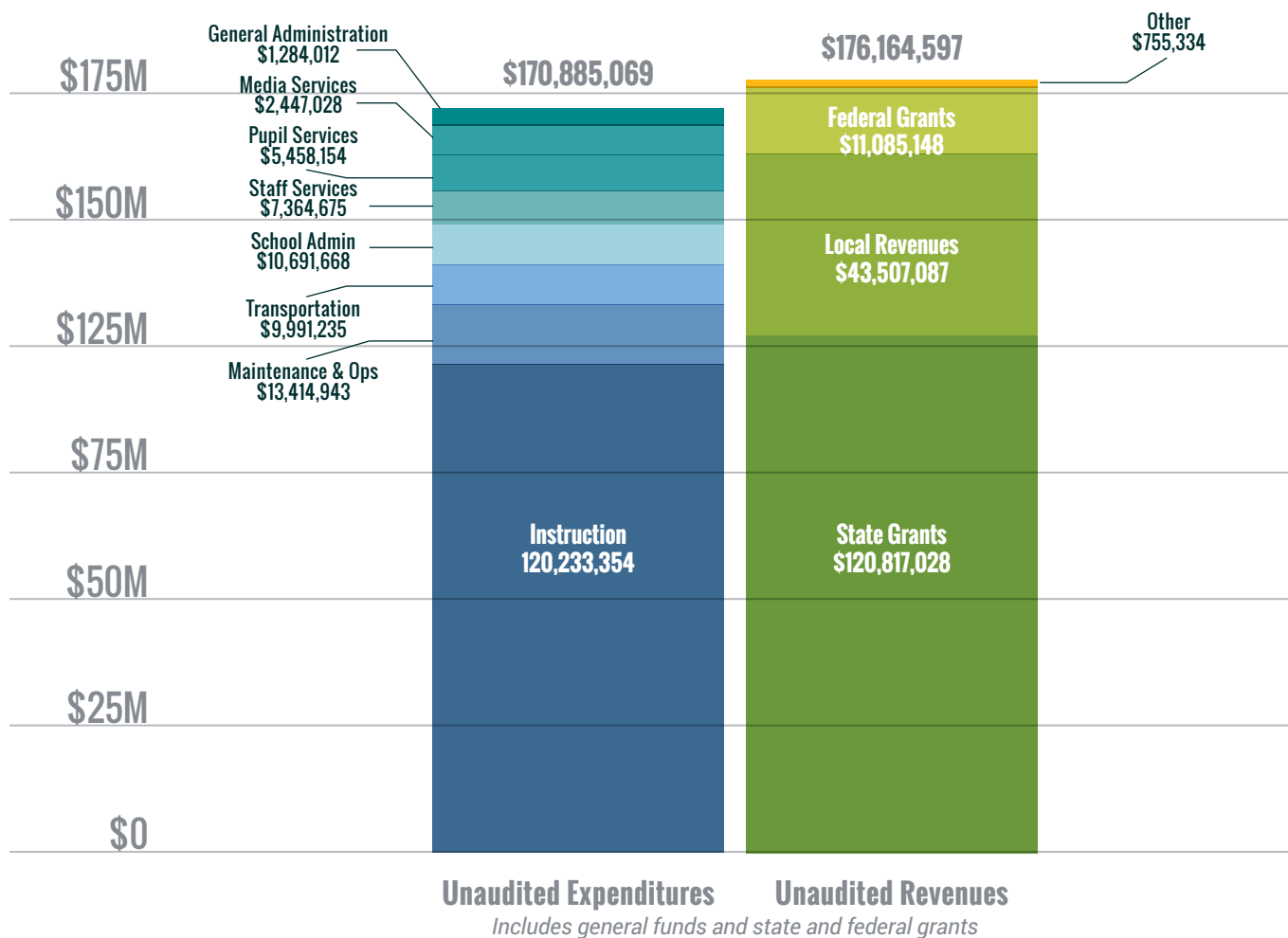
By utilizing the waivers the district requested in its SWSS application, NCSS will address these challenges as follows:

- Expand employment practices to consider professional practitioners in specialty fields including, but not limited to, technology, science and engineering, and child support roles. In addition, NCSS will work to ensure that all employees are compensated at competitive rates while valuing prior non-teaching responsibilities associated with an employee's teaching or support assignment.
- Align all spending priorities with the district's strategic plan to improve student achievement and leverage the reduction in spending constraints to support the core business of teaching and learning.
- Pursue innovative course design that accounts for varied paces of student learning and unique student interests and increase the use of digital resources, embedded courses, innovative instructional models, and advanced learning opportunities.
- Leverage flexibility in order to best advance teaching and learning at every school.

The Governor's Office of Student Achievement (GOSA) will monitor each of NCSS's schools with regard to its progress toward meeting its intermediate and five-year academic accountability goal. Schools meeting the equivalent of three years' of targeted improvement will be deemed as meeting the accountability requirements of the contract; GOSA will notify the State Board of Education and the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) of any NCSS school not in compliance with this goal. The GaDOE will provide support to any schools that are not performing in accordance with the accountability system.

Investing In Our Students

NCSS expenditures and revenues
for fiscal year ending June 30, 2016

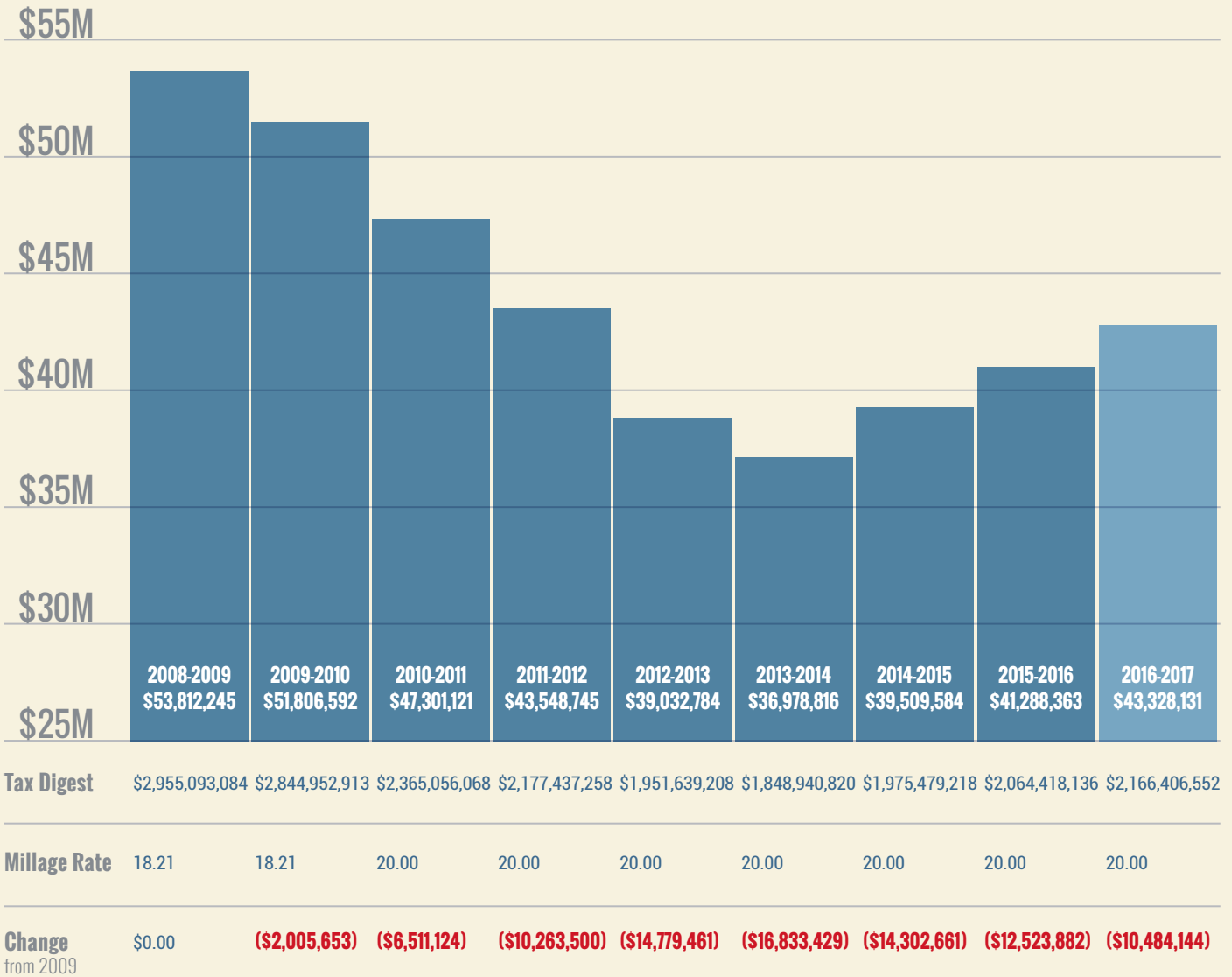


The Newton County School System (NCSS) takes its duty as a steward of taxpayer money very seriously. Our number one priority is the students that we serve. As a result, 70% of our expenditures, over \$120 million dollars, were allocated for one sole purpose in 2015-2016: student instruction.

NCSS has continued to provide a high quality education for students despite years of decreased tax revenues. As our M&O Tax Digest table clearly indicates, tax collections have decreased by millions of dollars over the past five years, even as the local millage rate was increased from 18.21 to 20 mills. In 2009, the school district's millage rate was 18.21, which brought in tax collections in excess of \$53 million. By the 2015-2016 school year, the millage rate had been at the maximum rate of 20 mills for several years. While revenue is slowly beginning to increase, tax collections for the 2015-2016 school year were still over \$12.5 million less than the amount collected in 2009. In other words, NCSS has continually had to do more with less. Despite this financial predicament, a quick glance through our 2015-2016 Annual Report indicates that our district is making great strides in its goal of providing educational excellence for all students.

M&O Tax Digest

Nine year history from
FY 2008-2009 to 2016-2017



NCSS Receives 4-Star Financial Efficiency Rating

Newton County School System (NCSS) received a 4-Star Financial Efficiency Rating from the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE). The ratings are based on data from the 2012-13, 2013-14, and 2014-15 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.

“The four star rating indicates clearly that we expend our resources on instruction for our students,” said NCSS Superintendent Samantha Fuhrey.



Newton County School System earned a 4-Star rating based on its three-year average of per-pupil expenditures and College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) scores.

“The four star rating indicates clearly that we expend our resources on instruction for our students,” said NCSS Superintendent Samantha Fuhrey. “We work diligently to ensure our instructional needs are the priority, and the data reflects that our laser-like focus has led to above average results considering our per-pupil expenditures. In terms of our percentile ranking, we rank among the bottom 16th percentile when it comes to available funds, yet, we have been able to post above average CCRPI scores. The Newton County Board of Education is tasked with approving a budget that puts students first; our four star rating reflects their commitment.”

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.” Next year, the state plans to release Financial Efficiency Star ratings for individual schools as well as districts.

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 student-focused budget process ensures tax-payers receive the maximum benefit for their investment,” added Fuhrey. “Our school and system staff are to be commended for their continued exemplary preparation of a fiscally responsible budget that meets the needs of our students. We monitor our budget throughout the year in an effort to make certain that we are always in good financial standing.”

NCSS HR Department Wins State Awards

The Newton County School System's (NCSS) Human Resources Department earned two Gold Awards from the Georgia Association of School Personnel Administrators (GASPA) in June, 2016. The department received a Gold Award in the area of Recruitment Process/Materials and a Gold Award in the area of Employee Handbooks. According to the award guidelines, GASPA reserves the Gold Award for submissions that represent exemplary evidence of human capital management practices in the selected Best in Class Awards category.

"It was an honor for our department and the work that we do to be recognized by GASPA," said Ms. Nyree Sanders, Director of Human Resources for Newton County School System. "We have an extremely dedicated team of employees so any opportunity for our work in personnel to be recognized with other school districts across the state is exciting."

About Our Employees By the Numbers



60	326	647	430	4
doctorate degrees	education specialists	masters degrees	bachelors degrees	trade & ind. certificates

Best of the Best! NCSS Teachers of the Year

In May 2015, each of our schools elected a new Teacher of the Year to represent their school during the 2015-2016 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 2015-2016 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 the scoring of the essays and interviews—Ms. Amanda Angulo, Indian Creek Middle School; Ms. Kristen Bagwell, Alcovy High School; and Mr. Bo Holder, South Salem Elementary 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 8, 2015, Mr. Ralph Staffins, president of the Newton County Chamber of Commerce, announced that Ms. Kristen Bagwell of Alcovy High School was Newton County School System's 2016 Teacher of the Year!



Leigh Pickrell | East Newton Elementary
Angie Dean | Fairview Elementary
Allison Norman | Flint Hill Elementary
Donna Thompson | Heard-Mixon Elementary
Tarsha Williams | Live Oak Elementary
Winston Palmer | Livingston Elementary
Vanessa Carter | Mansfield Elementary
Lee Ann Gourlay | Middle Ridge Elementary
Kimberly Wilber | Newton Co. Theme School - Ficquett
Brittany Temples | Oak Hill Elementary
Tameka Clark | Porterdale Elementary
Roxanne Estridge Hayes | Rocky Plains Elementary

Bo Holder | South Salem Elementary
Zandra Mapp | West Newton Elementary
Denise Walker | Clements Middle
Terry Badertscher | Cousins Middle
Amanda Angulo | Indian Creek Middle
Courtney Randle | Liberty Middle
Chandra Black | Veterans Memorial Middle
Kristen Bagwell | Alcovy High
Michael Poor | Eastside High
Marina Goddard | Newton High
Kemily Pattillo | Newton College & Career Academy

2016 NCSS Teacher of the Year Kristen Bagwell



Alcovy High School's Kristen Bagwell was elected as the Newton County School System 2016 Teacher of the Year and represented our school system in the Georgia Teacher of the Year Program. She 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. Amanda Angulo, of Indian Creek Middle and Mr. Bo Holder, of South Salem Elementary, were each awarded a crystal vase at the NCSS Teacher of the Year reception.

Ms. Bagwell began her teaching career in Newton County when she was hired as a literature teacher at Alcovy High School in 2012. She has worked there ever since.

Ms. Bagwell earned her Bachelor of Arts in English and a Bachelor of Science in English Education from the University of Georgia in 2012. She completed her Master of Education degree and Reading Endorsement from Georgia Southern University in December 2015.

In her Teacher of the Year essay, Ms. Bagwell wrote, "At the end of the day, my greatest contribution to or accomplishments in education are my students. They are why I arrive to school early every morning, why I stay late most days, and why I work on the weekends. I want my kids to succeed and know that someone cares about them like my teachers did for me; mostly, though, I want them to know that they can do anything they want to in this world.... The personal satisfaction that I receive from teaching students is, without a doubt, unsurpassed by any other job or career. Through their classroom, teachers change the world, and I am proud to be a world-changer."

Teacher Induction— BEST Program

Through the BEST Program (Building Excellence and Supporting Teachers), Newton County School System provides opportunities specific for teachers new to the district, including those new to the teaching profession, to network with their peers and extend their knowledge of topics important to effective teaching and learning. All new teachers are assigned mentors or coaches. Teacher support mentors are assigned to each school to work with newly hired teachers. In addition to the New Teacher Induction program at the beginning of the school year, teachers are provided opportunities for follow-up meetings throughout the school year at both the district and school levels. The program wraps up at the end of the school year with a celebration of the new teachers' first year with Newton County Schools.

NCSS 2016 Retirees



The end of the 2015-2016 school year marked the end of careers for 45 NCSS employees who retired from the district. Collectively they had 1,015 years of service to education! One employee retired with 40 years of service and fifteen others retired with 30 or more years of service.

Cathy Allen

Central Office

Linda BeKoe

Newton High

Norman Benfield

Livingston Elementary

Mary S. Brown

Cousins Middle

Ora J. Brown

Liberty Middle

Janice Butts

Indian Creek Middle

Vickie Cash

Livingston Elementary

Kathleen Clement

Cousins Middle

James Coleman

Indian Creek Middle

Jane Compton

Indian Creek Middle

Angela Cooper

Newton College & Career Academy

Tracey Curtis

Newton High

Kathleen Dalbec

Flint Hill Elementary

Maxine Driskell

Clements Middle

Angela Edwards

Indian Creek Middle

Elaine Ellis

Livingston Elementary

Barbara Fox-Fuller

Transportation

Alicia Fulton

Rocky Plains Elementary

Mary Ann Garmon

Porterdale Elementary

Sara Hamby

Indian Creek Middle

Douglas Harper

Veterans Memorial Middle

Kathryn Henderson

Veterans Memorial Middle

Charlie Mae Johnson

South Salem Elementary

Bobbie King

East Newton Elementary

Brenda King

Clements Middle

Errol King

Alcovy High

Annie Marks

Flint Hill Elementary

Jacqueline Mattison

Newton High

Larry Mattison

Veterans Memorial Middle

Bruce McColumn

Alcovy High

Beth Moore

Indian Creek Middle

Patricia Nolan

Livingston Elementary

Helen Phillips

West Newton Elementary

Thad Pirkle

Veterans Memorial Middle

Frances L. Prince

East Newton Elementary

Debra Ray

Eastside High

Hubert Ray

Transportation

Kathy B. Scott

Transportation

Glory Nell Smith

Newton High

Alicia Stewart

Central Office

Willie Stripling

Transportation

Linda C. Walden

Transportation

Ronald Wiley

Veterans Memorial Middle

Velma Worley

Alcovy High

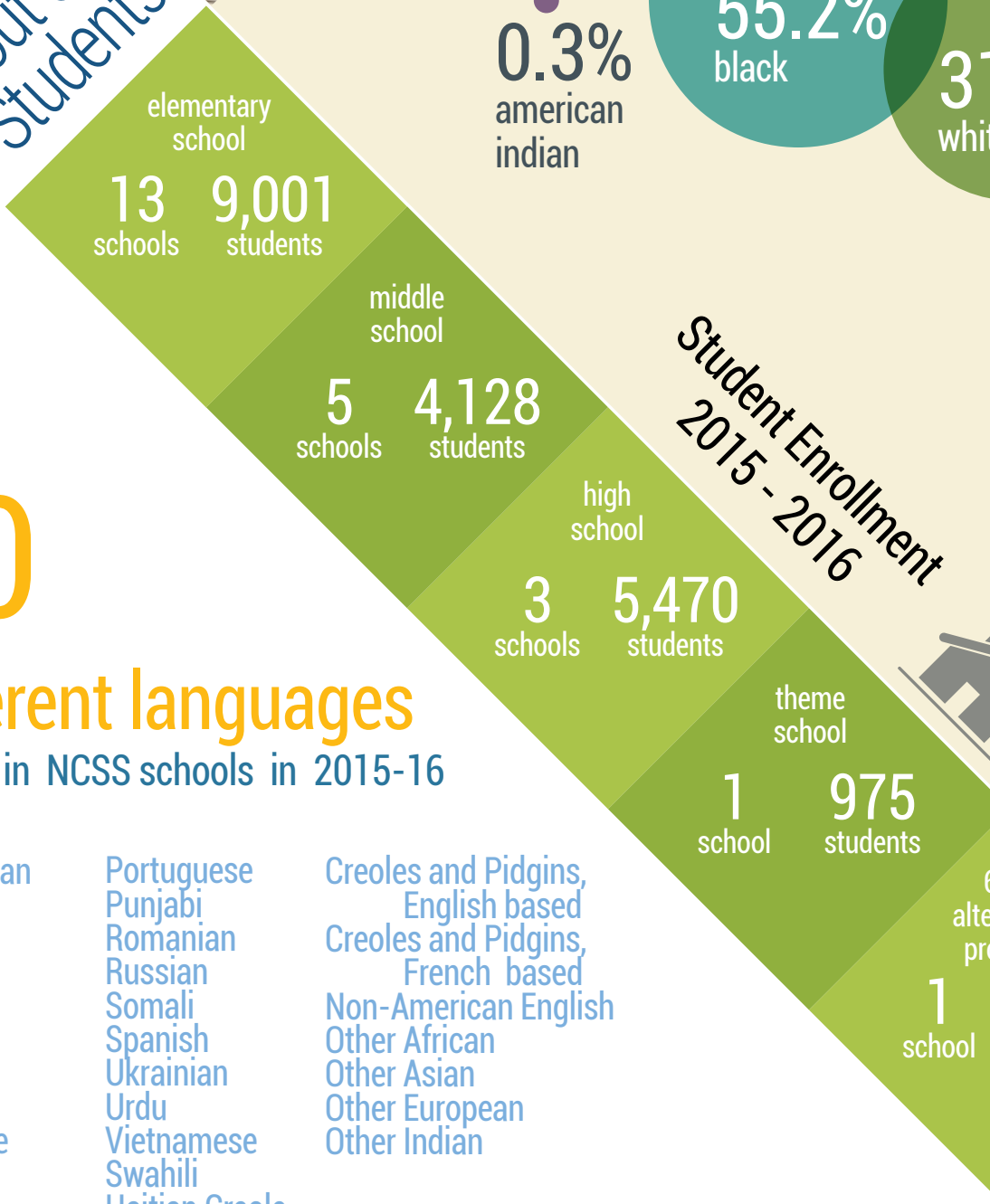
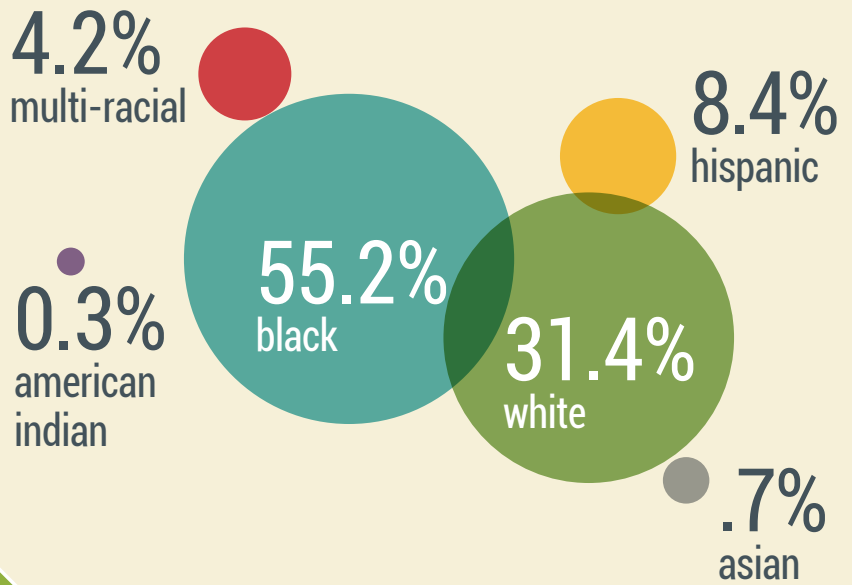
Christi Zelek

Clements Middle



About Our Students

Student Racial/Ethnic Distribution



30

different languages

spoken in NCSS schools in 2015-16

- Cambodian
- Filipino
- French
- German
- Greek
- Gujarati
- Hebrew
- Hindi
- Japanese
- Korean
- Lao
- Hmong
- Portuguese
- Punjabi
- Romanian
- Russian
- Somali
- Spanish
- Ukrainian
- Urdu
- Vietnamese
- Swahili
- Haitian Creole
- Creoles and Pidgins, English based
- Creoles and Pidgins, French based
- Non-American English
- Other African
- Other Asian
- Other European
- Other Indian



NOTE: Career Academy students are counted at their home schools.

NCSS School Nutrition Program Earns Golden Radish Award



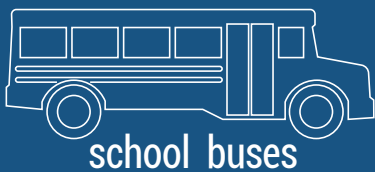
Newton County School System's (NCSS) School Nutrition Program was recognized with the 2015 Golden Radish Award, a prestigious state-wide farm to school distinction acknowledging the outstanding leadership of school representatives building comprehensive farm to school programs.

The school district was recognized at the Bronze level, for efforts to educate students on nutrition and agriculture, which included featuring locally grown produce, coordinating six edible gardens in the district, and offering approximately 50 cooking and food activities during the school year. This marked the third consecutive year the NCSS School Nutrition Program received Golden Radish recognition.

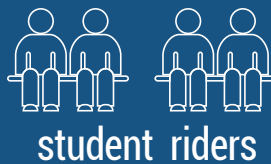
The Newton County School System Pupil Transportation Department offers a free app for parents of children in the district that allows them to track the current location of their child's school bus and obtain its estimated time of arrival. The My Stop app is available for download via iPad, iPhone, Tablet, or Android mobile device and is also accessible on any computer with internet access.



Student Transportation



210



11,775



miles traveled

16,462

not including summers

16,808

summers included

School Nutrition Program

meal	daily	annually
Student breakfasts	6,768	1,222,021
Student lunches	14,534	2,621,279

Did you know? The School Nutrition web page provides nutrition, wellness and physical activity information for students and parents. The School Nutrition menus are also posted on the web page for student and parent access. The School Nutrition Program also offers a free "Mobile Menu App," that offers an easy way to view menus and nutrient information for products right from your smart phone.

The School Nutrition & Fitness Mobile "Web Menu" App is available in the App Stores!



Our ACT Test Results

Newton County School System (NCSS) district scores increased across the board on the 2016 ACT college entrance exam. The district also saw an increase in the number of test takers. The school system's average score for English increased from 17.9 to 18.2 and the average math score increased from 17.9 to 18.0 in 2016. The district posted a large increase in reading as well, going from 18.9 to 19.5. Science scores rose from 18.6 to 19.1. As a result, the NCSS composite score increased from 18.4 to 18.8 in 2016.

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.

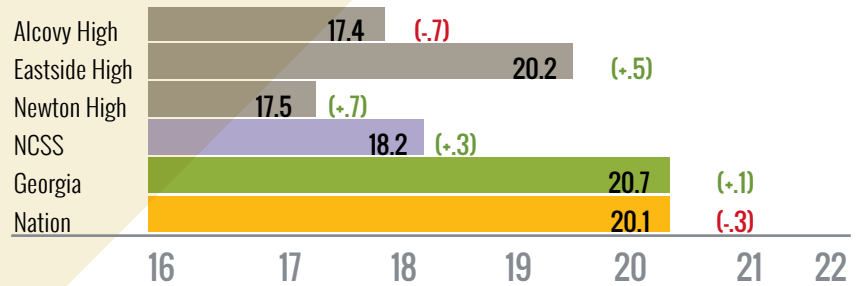
School Highlights

Alcovy High School saw an increase in the number of test takers in 2016 and also posted a gain on its reading score.

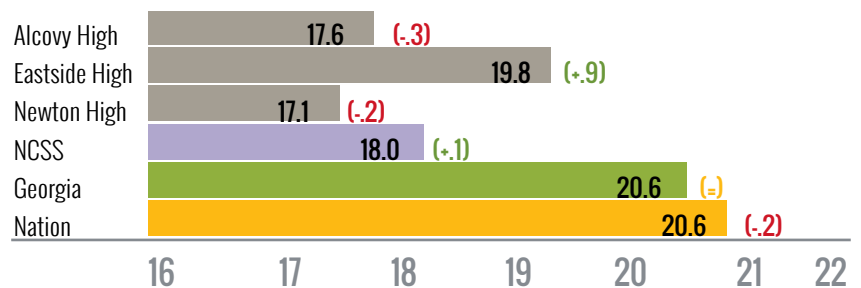
Eastside High School not only had more test takers but also posted gains across the board on the 2016 ACT. Eastside outperformed the nation in four categories—English, reading, science, and the composite.

Newton High School saw an increase in test takers in 2016 and the school posted gains in English, reading, science, and the composite.

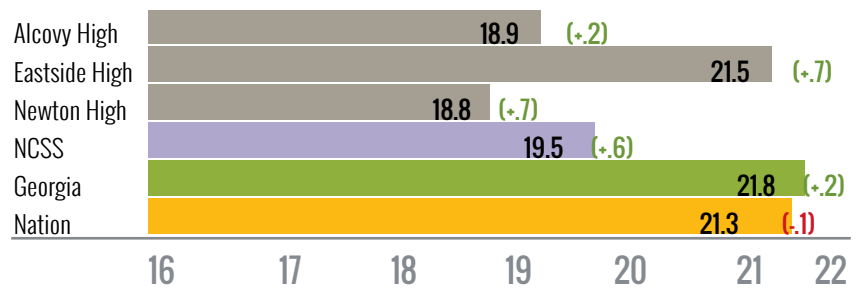
English Scores



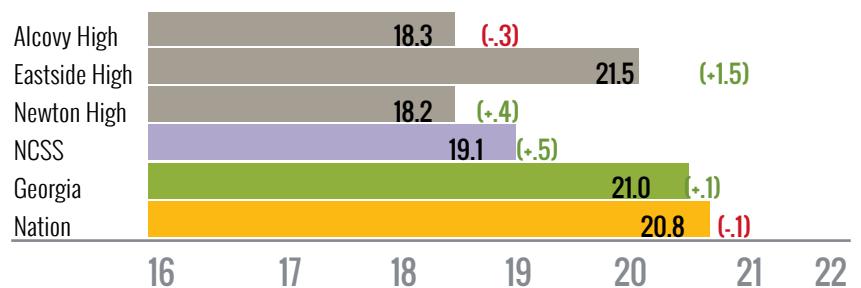
Math Scores



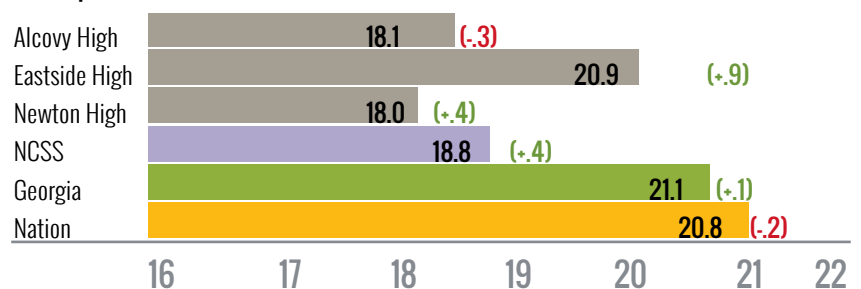
Reading Scores



Science Scores



Composite Scores



Our SAT Test Results

Newton County School System's (NCSS) overall scores on the SAT increased across the board in 2016. The district posted an 11-point increase in both reading and math and a six-point improvement in writing. As a result of the increases in each category, NCSS posted a 28-point increase on the SAT composite score. Although national SAT scores decreased in every category, both NCSS and Georgia showed improvement in each subject and the composite in 2016.

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.

Each section of the SAT is scored on a scale of 200–800, with two writing sub-scores for multiple-choice and the essay. Students may take the test multiple times over multiple years. Colleges and universities will use, for admission purposes, the highest score from a testing category; regardless of how many times the student has taken the test. The College Board, however, only reports collectively the most recent scores achieved by students.

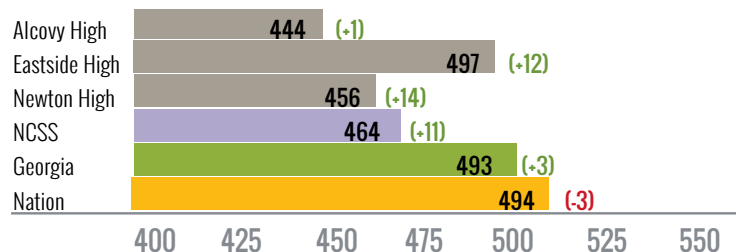
School Highlights

Alcovy High School students boosted their reading, math, and composite scores in 2016. This continued Alcovy High School's upward trajectory on the SAT since 2014, when the school posted significant gains in every category. In 2015 the school increased scores again in math and writing and held steady in reading. As a result of Alcovy High School's three consecutive years of improvement, the school's overall SAT composite score has increased by 26 points since 2013.

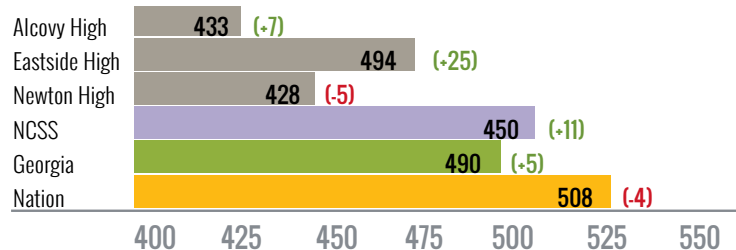
Eastside High School posted huge gains on the SAT in 2016, besting the state's score in math and writing and both the state and national score in reading. Eastside increased scores in every category in 2016, which resulted in a 47-point rise on their composite score. Eastside High School posted significant increases in every category on the SAT in 2014, 2015, and 2016, and as a result, the school's SAT composite score has rocketed 70 points since 2013.

Newton High School also showed marked improvement on the SAT in 2016. Both the writing and reading scores increased significantly in 2016 which resulted in a 13-point rise in the school's composite score.

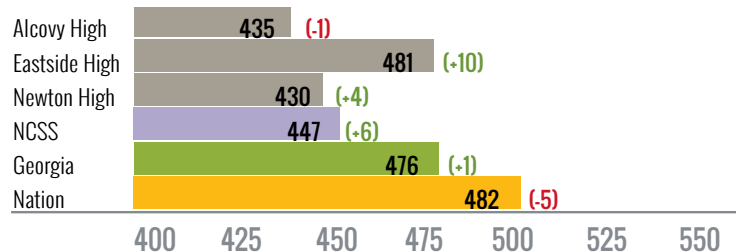
Reading Scores



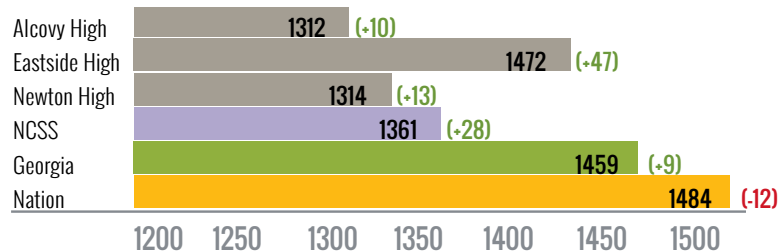
Math Scores



Writing Scores



Composite Scores



2015-2016 College and Career Ready Performance Index Scores

The Georgia College and Career Ready Performance Index (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.

While Newton County School System's elementary school total score equaled the 2014-2015 elementary school total score, the district's middle, high school, and overall score all increased in 2015-2016. In addition, the school system's high school level total score surpassed the state's high school score in 2015-2016. The school system's increased scores also pushed the district's overall score to just six tenths of one point below the state's overall score.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS:

Nine NCSS elementary schools—East Newton, Flint Hill, Heard-Mixon, Live Oak, Livingston, Newton County Theme School (elementary), Oak Hill, Rocky Plains, and South Salem all posted increased scores in 2015-2016. In addition, five of those schools—East Newton, Flint Hill, Newton County Theme School (elementary), Oak Hill, and South Salem, also topped the state's total elementary school score of 71.7. East Newton, Newton County Theme School (elementary), and Oak Hill all posted scores of 80-plus points in 2015-2016.

MIDDLE SCHOOLS:

Five NCSS middle schools—Cousins, Indian Creek, Liberty, Newton County Theme School (middle), and Veterans Memorial, increased their total scores in 2015-2016 and Newton County Theme School (middle) bested the state's overall middle school total score of 71.5 with a total score of 90.6.

HIGH SCHOOLS:

All three high schools—Alcovy, Eastside, and Newton, posted increased scores in 2015-2016 and both Alcovy and Eastside surpassed the state's total score as well. In fact, Eastside's almost four-point gain in 2015-2016 pushed the school above the 90-point total score mark for the first time since the state implemented the CCRPI system.

Newton County School System's College & Career Readiness Performance Index (CCRPI) Results for the 2015-2016 school year are as follows:

School	CCRPI Score	
	2014-15	2015-16
Elementary Schools		
East Newton	77.4	82.9
Fairview	66.5	62.3
Flint Hill	72.1	73.9
Heard-Mixon	59.2	64.8
Live Oak	63.4	71.0
Livingston	58.6	60.1
Mansfield	72.0	67.0
Middle Ridge	66.9	65.2
NCTS @ Ficquett	75.7	83.7
Oak Hill	72.3	84.5
Porterdale	68.5	61.0
Rocky Plains	69.4	69.9
South Salem	73.5	78.5
West Newton	69.5	61.8
NCSS Total	68.7	68.7
State Total	76.0	71.7

School	CCRPI Score	
	2014-15	2015-16
Middle Schools		
Clements	72.4	71.3
Cousins	63.6	65.5
Indian Creek	61.1	68.2
Liberty	62.6	69.3
NCTS @ Ficquett	89.6	90.6
Veterans Memorial	64.6	66.2
NCSS Total	65.4	67.6
State Total	71.2	71.5

School	CCRPI Score	
	2014-15	2015-16
High Schools		
Alcovy	73.1	81.5
Eastside	85.9	90.5
Newton	71.1	72.4
NCSS Total	74.8	79.1
State Total	75.8	75.7

NCSS Overall	70.3	73.0
State Overall	75.5	73.6

2015-2016 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 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.

Despite the numerous technical issues NCSS students encountered while taking the tests, the school district saw numerous areas of improvement over scores from the previous year.

Elementary End-of-Grade Assessment Highlights:

- **Third Grade:** Overall, NCSS third-graders outperformed the state in English Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies in 2016. They also posted improvement on their pass rates in Math, Science, and Social Studies compared to their 2015 results. East Newton, Live Oak, Mansfield, Newton County Theme, Oak Hill, and Rocky Plains third-graders outpaced the state pass rate in all four test categories this year. In terms of improvement, school system third-graders bettered their pass rates in Math, Science, and Social Studies in 2016. Live Oak, Mansfield, Middle Ridge, and South Salem third-grade students improved their pass rates across the board this year, while East Newton and Oak Hill third-graders showed improved pass rates in three of four subjects.
- **Fourth Grade:** NCSS fourth-grade students topped the state pass rate in English Language Arts and were just one point below the state rate in the remaining subjects in 2016. East Newton, Flint Hill, Mansfield, Newton County Theme, Oak Hill, and Rocky Plains fourth-



graders topped the state pass rates in all content areas this year and Heard-Mixon bested the state in three of four categories.

Overall, four elementary schools posted across-the-board pass rate gains in fourth grade in 2016:

East Newton, Live Oak, Newton County Theme, and Oak Hill. Flint Hill, Heard-Mixon, and Rocky Plains fourth-graders improved their pass rate in three of the four content areas.

- **Fifth Grade:** NCSS fifth-grade students topped the state pass rate in English Language Arts in 2016 and improved pass rates in three categories overall—English Language Arts, Math, and Science. Three schools topped the state pass rates in all four subject areas for fifth-graders in 2016: East Newton, Newton County Theme, and Oak Hill; Fairview surpassed the state pass rate in three content areas. Three schools—Flint Hill, Live Oak, and Oak Hill posted increased pass rates in all categories this year; Heard-Mixon, Livingston, Middle Ridge, and South Salem netted gains in three subject areas in 2016.

Middle School End-of-Grade Assessment Highlights:

- **Sixth Grade:** While the district as a whole did not best the state in pass rates on the sixth-grade tests in 2016, Newton County Theme School sixth-graders topped the state in all content areas. District sixth-graders did increase their pass percentage in Math in 2016 and Cousins Middle School boasted gains on their sixth-grade pass rates in three subjects—Math, Science, and Social Studies.

- **Seventh Grade:** Although NCSS seventh-graders did not top the state in the four content areas in 2016, they are definitely headed in the right direction as they increased their pass rate in all four content areas this year. Newton County Theme School seventh-graders did outperform the state across the board in 2016. Cousins, Liberty, and Veterans Memorial posted increased pass rates in all four subjects while Clements and Indian Creek seventh-graders improved their pass rate in three of four categories.
- **Eighth Grade:** NCSS eighth-grade students topped the state pass rate in Science in 2016 and overall saw improvement in three of the four content areas this year. Newton County Theme School seventh-graders surpassed the state in all categories of the EOG in 2016. Three middle schools—Clements, Indian Creek, and Cousins, posted improved pass rates in all four subject areas and Veterans Memorial showed improvement in three of four.

High School End-of-Course Assessment Highlights:

- NCSS high school students bested the state pass rates in five out of eight subjects in 2016: 9th-Grade Literature; American Literature; Physical Science; U.S. History; and Economics. The district also increased pass percentage rates in six of the seven possible categories (2016 marked the first year of testing for Algebra 1 so there are no comparison scores): 9th Grade Literature; American Literature; Analytic Geometry; Biology; Physical Science; and U.S. History. Eastside bested the state pass rates in seven of the eight content areas while Alcovy and Newton topped the state in five and two subject areas respectively. In addition, all three high schools showed gains in numerous content areas in 2016. Alcovy improved in all seven subjects and both Eastside and Newton increased their pass rates in six of seven.

NCSS Graduation Rate Improves, Tops State

Newton County School System's (NCSS) 2016 four-year cohort graduation rate increased by two percent, moving from 81 percent in 2015 to 83 percent in 2016. The district's graduation rate is approximately four points higher than the state's 79 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:

Newton County School System's district graduation rate increased by two percentage points this year, going from 81 percent in 2015 to 83 percent in 2016. Alcovy High School's graduation rate decreased slightly this year, dropping 2 points from 82 percent in 2015 to 80 percent in 2016. Newton High School's rate increased one point from 82 percent to 83 percent this year. Eastside High School posted a five-point increase as the school's graduation rate jumped from 86 percent in 2015 to 91 percent in 2016. All three high schools outperformed the state's 79 percent graduation rate.

Alcovy High School Student Wins Trip to Compete in Intel International Science and Engineering Fair

Alcovy High School junior, Luke Campbell, blew away the rest of the high school competition at the 2016 Griffin RESA Regional Science Fair by walking out with not only a first place award but also several of the most prestigious awards available, including the Intel Science Talent Search Award; the Office of Naval Research Award; and the United States Air Force Award. In addition, he became the first Newton County School System student to ever earn the all-expenses paid trip to compete at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair that's up for grabs each year at the Griffin RESA Regional Science Fair.

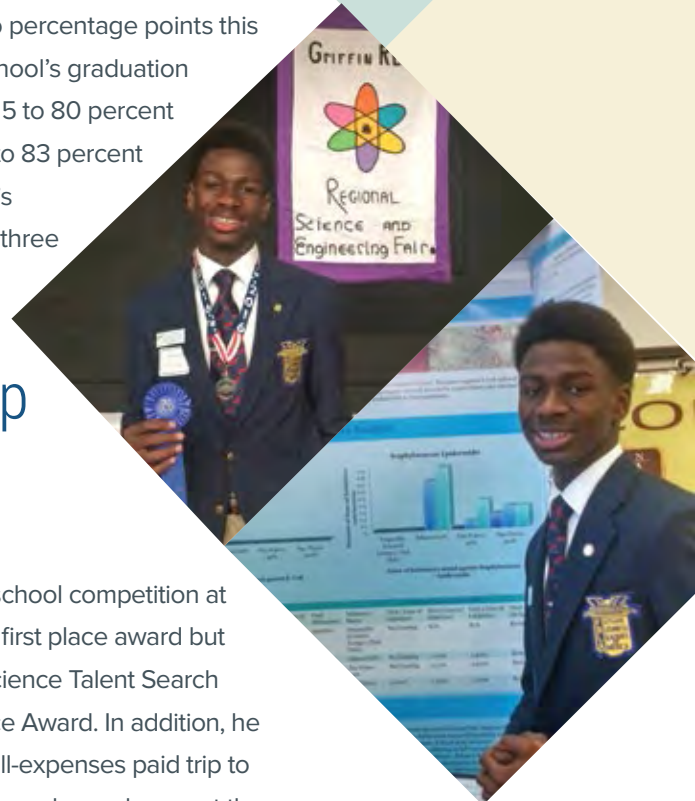
In addition to his school system and regional science fair awards, Luke's project, "Testing the Validity of Pea D'Alcosan Antimicrobial Agent," also won fourth honors and the Student-Inspiring Excellence Award at the 2016 Georgia Science and Engineering Fair.

SCHOOL/GROUP
Alcovy High
Eastside High
Newton High
NCSS
State

2014 GRAD RATE
75%
86%
80%
77%
79%

2015 GRAD RATE
82%
86%
82%
81%
79%

2016 GRAD RATE
80%
91%
83%
83%
79%



NCSS Superintendent Wins 2016 GSSA President's Award

The Georgia School Superintendent Association (GSSA) named Newton County School Superintendent, Samantha Fuhrey, the recipient of the 2016 GSSA President's Award.

"I am honored to have been selected to receive GSSA's President's Award," said Fuhrey. "I am proud to be a member of an organization made up of superintendents and other school system and state leaders who are focused on meeting the needs of students throughout our state."

Fuhrey added, "I am thrilled to be a part of an amazing school system team led by a school board focused on improving student outcomes. Together we are working to ensure that Newton County School System adheres to its mission of providing educational excellence for all students."

During her tenure as Superintendent of Newton County Schools, Ms. Fuhrey has increased communication and support to schools. She established a school chat initiative based on teacher feedback, indicating a need for teacher interaction with their superintendent. As a result, each year, Superintendent Fuhrey now schedules a chat at each school in the district to meet with each faculty personally to not only provide them with information that impacts the school system, but most importantly, to solicit their ideas on how the district can improve. In fact, she has already implemented several of their suggestions.

Ms. Fuhrey has also implemented new programs to enhance student learning and improve student achievement. Under her direction, Newton County Schools opened the Newton College and Career Academy STEM Institute (NCCASI). The institute recruits rising freshmen with a strong interest in engineering or healthcare as a future career choice. While students may vary in their background and represent the diversity of Newton County's population, they are similar in their motivation to achieve academically and in their determination to prepare for professional careers and positions of leadership. Students will achieve this through exposure to a unique curriculum combined with project-based/problem-based learning.

John Zauner, the GSSA Executive Director, said, "Ms. Samantha Fuhrey consistently displays a passion for the children of this community. She works tirelessly in providing the best education environment for the children of the Newton County Schools. It is evidenced in the rising student achievement results the Newton County School System is producing."

Dr. Stephanie Gordy, Executive Director of Griffin RESA, stated, "I am fortunate to have the honor and privilege of working with this exemplary school superintendent. Our entire region benefits from her professional prowess and excellent leadership."



Newton County Theme School Robotics Team

Wins State VEX IQ Middle School Excellence Award and Opportunity to Compete in 2016 World Championship

Newton County Theme School's (NCTS) Robotics Team won the Middle School Excellence Award at the Georgia VEX IQ Robotics State Championship in Cumming, GA and as a result, a trip to compete in the 2016 World Championships in Louisville, Kentucky. The Excellence Award is the highest award presented at a VEX IQ event and was awarded to NCTS because of their outstanding performance in all portions of the competition.

The NCTS team, along with 1,100 robotics teams from more than 30 countries, travelled to Louisville in April 2016 for the VEX Robotics World Championships. Of the 1,100 teams participating, 199 competed in the VEX IQ middle school division. After all was said and done, NCTS finished 112th out of 199 teams in the Teamwork Challenge and finished 48th in the Programming Skills Challenge.



“As a first year robotics team, these results are outstanding,” said Dr. Tim Schmitt, NCSS Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education Coordinator. “Through the course of the event, NCTS competed in 10 Teamwork Skills Challenges, pairing with international teams from Puerto Rico, Chile, and Mexico as well as U.S. teams from Indiana, Texas, Michigan, Maryland, Arkansas, Arizona, and Tennessee. Rarely do our students get to collaborate and work with such diverse groups and the experience is one that will stay with them for a lifetime.”

NCSS High Schools Named 2016 Advanced Placement Honor Schools

All three Newton County School System (NCSS) high schools—Alcovy, Eastside, and Newton—were named 2016 Advanced Placement (AP) Honor Schools by Georgia School Superintendent Richard Woods. The 2016 Honor Schools are named in six categories, based on the results of the 2015 AP classes and exams. Those categories are:

- **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 2 AP math courses and 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 1 ELA course, 2 social science courses, 1 fine arts course and 1 world language course.

Each NCSS high school earned recognition in multiple categories, as follows:

▶ Alcovy High School
AP Access & Support School
AP STEM School

▶ Eastside High School
AP STEM School
AP STEM Achievement School
AP Humanities School

▶ Newton High School
AP STEM School
AP Humanities School

“Congratulations to our high schools’ faculty, students, leaders, and staff,” said NCCS Superintendent Samantha Fuhrey. “I am very proud of their accomplishments and this recognition. Our Advanced Placement program provides students with rigorous course options that expose and prepare them for the types of experiences they will face in college. Additionally, there are academic and financial advantages for students who score a three or higher on their AP exams, as many colleges accept those scores in lieu of comparable college courses. I look forward to continued

accolades from the College Board as we strive to be the best and achieve our mission of academic excellence for all students.”

Advanced Placement (AP) classes and exams are administered by the College Board, which also administers the SAT. AP classes offer rigorous college-level learning options to students in high school. Students who receive a 3, 4 or 5 on AP exams may receive college credit.



Eastside High School Academic Team Wins State Championship

For the second consecutive year, and the fourth time in the last six years (2016, 2015, 2012, and 2011), the Eastside High School Academic team won the Division 4 State Championship after cruising through the competition at the Georgia Academic Team Association (GATA) Varsity State Championship Tournament held at Flowery Branch High School on March 19. Members of the team included: Dillon Diamond, Jackson Hall, Brantley Proffitt, Nicholas Anderson, and Matthew Briscoe.

Academic Team or Quiz Bowl as it is commonly known, is a competition featuring buzzers (like Jeopardy) in which teams of four to five students compete against others answering questions over the entire spectrum of a high school curriculum. Unlike Jeopardy, the questions are much greater in depth and lack the trivia aspect with which the game is often mis-associated. It combines a blend of individual competition and team collaboration.

Just like the Georgia High School Association (GHSA), the GATA groups the high schools of Georgia into six divisions/classifications based on school populations and as a result, crowns six state champions. Approximately 50 teams participated in the state championship tournament with Eastside competing in Division 4. Over the course of seven rounds, Eastside emerged with a perfect record, defeating Buford, St. Pius X, Chamblee Charter, Starrs Mill, South West DeKalb, Thomas County Central, and Stephens County.

The state champions traveled to Chicago in June 2016 to compete in the national championship at the Partnership for Academic Competition Excellence National Scholastic Tournament. Overall, 96 teams competed in the tournament and the Eastside High School Academic Team placed 42nd in the nation!

Newton High School Student Wins Grand Prize in 2015 Congressional Arts Competition



Newton High School junior, Demetria Coffee, won the grand prize in Rep. Hank Johnson's 2015 Congressional Arts Competition. As a result, Demetria was presented a \$12,000 scholarship to The Savannah College of Art & Design (SCAD) for her work, "Depression."

Miss Coffee was invited to Washington, D.C., in June to see her art displayed in the Capitol, where it will hang with other award winners from around the country for an entire year. Miss Coffee also won two roundtrip airline tickets from Southwest Airlines to Washington, D.C., for the National Recognition Ceremony.

"We are extremely proud of Demetria," said Newton High School principal, John Ellenberg. "She is a very talented young lady and her submission in the Congressional Arts Competition was absolutely phenomenal! We were excited to learn that her artwork will now be displayed at the U.S. Capitol. She has definitely represented not only Newton High School but our entire community well."

Governor Names Eastside Gold Level Greatest Gains School

Eastside High School was named a 2015 Gold Level Greatest Gains school by Governor Nathan Deal and the Governor's Office of Student Achievement (GOSA). Eastside was one of only 187 Georgia schools recognized as either a Greatest Gains or Highest Performing school.

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 Gold Level Greatest Gains school, Eastside's CCRPI Progress Score ranked in at least the 97th percentile in 2015.

"This recognition affirms the work of our students and staff members over the previous three years," said Eastside High School principal Jeff Cher. "The accomplishment confirms that sustained, comprehensive school improvement is possible with a team of dedicated professionals who want to make a positive difference in the lives of students. We are extremely proud of this honor."



East Newton, Mansfield, and Oak Hill Elementary Schools Named 2015-2016 Title I Reward Schools



East Newton Elementary, Mansfield Elementary, and Oak Hill Elementary were named 2015-2016 Title I Reward Schools by the Georgia Department of Education. 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, Mansfield, and Oak Hill each earned the Reward School designation in the “Highest-Progress School” category.

“The students have been recognized for their progress at East Newton, Mansfield, and Oak Hill Elementary Schools,” said Newton County School Superintendent Samantha Fuhrey. “Their scores place 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 East Newton, Mansfield, and Oak Hill students, faculties, and leaders.”

Middle Ridge Elementary School Media Specialist Named 2015 South Metro District Media Specialist of the Year



Middle Ridge Elementary School media specialist Tammy Privette, Newton County School System's 2015 Media Specialist of the Year, was named the 2015 South Metro District Library Media Specialist of the Year by the Georgia Library Media Association!

"I am honored and humbled to receive the South Metro District Media Specialist of the Year award," said Privette. "As a member of Newton County Schools, I feel that I have the privilege of continually learning and being mentored by some of the most amazing media specialists. The continued effort and dedication of this group of professionals has encouraged and inspired me to reach for more; to stretch and grow. This in turn enables our students and faculty to embrace all that being an engaged learner in tomorrow's world entails—reading, learning, creating, and thinking."

Indian Creek Middle School Student Wins Regional Spelling Bee

For several years now, Jet Rawls has demonstrated that he is, without a doubt, the top speller in the Newton County School System; he has won his school spelling bee each year he was eligible. He was the East Newton Elementary School Spelling Bee champion during his fourth and fifth grade years and the Indian Creek Middle School Spelling Bee champion during sixth and seventh grade. And 2016 marked the second consecutive year that Rawls won the Newton County School System Spelling Bee. As a result, he represented NCSS in the Regional Spelling Bee both years.

Rawl's ultimate goal is to participate in the Scripps National Spelling Bee and he moved one step closer in 2016 when he added to his trophy collection by winning the District 5 Regional Spelling Bee, where he competed against the very best spellers from Bremen City, Butts, Clayton, Coweta, Fayette, Griffin-Spalding, Heard, Henry, and Rockdale County school systems. His win at the regional spelling bee earned him the chance to compete in the 2016 State Spelling Bee, where he tied for fifth place.

Rawls still has one year of eligibility left and he has his eyes on the ultimate prize this time, a trip to the 2017 National Spelling Bee.



Newton Federal Bank was named the 2016 NCSS Partner of the Year

NCSS has approximately 150 individual school-business partnerships and each year the district selects one business partner that stands above the rest as the Partner of the Year. The award was presented by Covington/Newton County Chamber of Commerce president Ralph Staffins, to Newton Federal Bank, at the annual NCSS Partners in Education Reception/Chamber Coffee Call.

Newton Federal Bank officially partners with four schools in the district—Middle Ridge Elementary; Porterdale Elementary; Liberty Middle; and Eastside High, and all four principals nominated the bank for the Partner of the Year Award. Each school principal noted that Newton Federal Bank provides not only significant financial support but also numerous volunteer hours at the schools.

“Newton Federal Bank has provided monetary support as well as volunteers to support a number of our school events,” explained Middle Ridge Elementary School principal, Ms. Rhonda Battle. “Faculty and staff have been treated with special baked goods, caramel apples, doughnuts, valentine candies, and morning muffins. And Newton Federal Bank associates have volunteered time working at our fall festival,



book fairs, and our annual literacy night. It is important to note that these plentiful donations and volunteer efforts from Newton Federal Bank have taken place without a single request for anything in return. Their kindness and generosity have been given out of a genuine desire to support teachers and build up educators; that in turn supports and builds our students—our future.”

Battle added, “What makes Newton Federal Bank stand out as a partner in education is the fact that their family (associates) has become a part of our Middle Ridge Elementary family this year.”

Porterdale Elementary School principal, Ms. Nikkita Warfield, noted in her nomination that Newton Federal Bank representatives have attended school council meetings and made frequent contact with her school to volunteer and provide any assistance, which enabled the school to meet several goals for the year, including increasing the level of education for the students.

“They volunteered at the annual PTO Fall Festival and our book fair and provided refreshments and supplies for events such as our Father/Daughter Dance and the Spelling Bee contest,” said Warfield. “Most importantly, Newton Federal assisted us with our goal of improving academic achievement in science and increasing technology integration. It was Newton Federal that accepted the daunting task of cleaning up and renovating our courtyard. They provided all of the manpower and materials needed to clean out the debris, build tables, and construct raised flowerbeds. As a result of their efforts, our students now have an area to participate in STEM and other learning activities; they were so excited about their new learning space!”

But Newton Federal didn't stop there, according to Warfield.

“To further help with our academic needs in science, they asked our teachers to make a wish list of supplies needed to have hands-on experiments and other activities in the classrooms,” she explained. “To our surprise, Newton Federal Bank purchased and delivered to the school all of the items on our wish list! The charity of Newton Federal Bank makes a positive impact on the education of our students each and every day; in fact, Newton County Schools needs more partners like Newton Federal Bank.”

In her nomination, Keisa Taylor, principal of Liberty Middle School, noted that Newton Federal Bank representatives proudly serve as members of the school council. She added that Newton Federal Bank has also been a key player in promoting and encouraging student success.

“One of the most important contributions of Newton Federal to Liberty Middle School is highlighting student achievements by supplying recognition awards for Student of the Month; providing iPad Minis for students with the highest number of accelerated reader points and Beats for Dre for students with the second highest number of AR points; and providing a backpack for our Spelling Bee winner. As a result of Newton Federal Bank acknowledging student academic success, Liberty Middle School students are inspired to dream bigger, strive for excellence, and to become better prepared for the future.”

Eastside High School principal, Jeff Cher, stated in his nomination that Newton Federal Bank has been a proud partner in education with his school for numerous years, adding that their support, “has resulted in countless recognitions and accolades provided for students and

teachers. Their generosity has enabled our school to highlight the accomplishments of our students through Honors Day and Honors Night activities each year. They have also supported the teachers through holiday gifts and teacher appreciation week treats.”

Cher added that most importantly, Newton Federal Bank's partnership has helped “better educate the graduating seniors of Newton County.”

According to Cher, while Newton Federal officially partners with Eastside High School, the bank spearheaded the implementation of the EverFi program at all high schools in the district to promote student financial literacy. The program exposes students to multiple learning modules to generate awareness and to equip students for important financial decisions they will be making as independent young adults.

Just at Eastside alone, Cher noted that over 200 graduating seniors have received their EverFi financial literacy certification prior to embarking upon the next phase of their life.

And Newton Federal Bank hasn't limited their support strictly to the school level. For many years, the bank has supported the school system's New Teacher Induction/Orientation program by providing thousands of dollars in gift cards for door prizes each year. Newton Federal has also sponsored both the NCSS Technology Department's Innovation Expo and Teach for Tomorrow Conferences. They also supported the NCSS Book Bus by conducting a book drive that resulted in the donation of hundreds of books to be distributed to children in the Newton County community.

Speaking on behalf of the four nominating schools at the reception, Cher said, “Newton Federal truly has established a network of support for each of our schools as well as the entire school system. It is just an amazing commendation to them for who they are as citizens, who they are as an organization, and who they are for Newton County. Students at all ages throughout life are touched by their support and their generosity, which allows our life-long learners that we are trying to grow and develop here in our school system to truly be impacted. We thank you for all that you have done for each of our schools and our school system in making our community a place for all of us to live, work, enjoy, and grow and develop.”



NCSS Book Bus Provides Free Books to Children

The NCSS Book Bus officially hit the road at the beginning of the 2015 summer break for students and in its maiden run, delivered over 2,000 free books to children in the community. The Book Bus was so popular that parents and students continually asked when it would visit their neighborhoods again. After restocking, the Book Bus made a second run during the December 2015 holiday break. Two thousand additional books were provided to Newton County residents of all ages—from infant to adult. With donations from numerous partners in education and a \$1,000 grant from Walmart on Industrial Boulevard, the Book Bus was restocked once more. By then the program had become so popular, more stops and two additional delivery days had to be added. The NCSS Book Bus has now delivered over 10,000 books to children of all ages in our community.

The NCSS Book Bus was the brainchild of NCSS Superintendent Samantha Fuhrey, who not only encourages children to read daily, but is also an avid reader herself.

“The ability to read is fundamental to a child’s success in school,” says Fuhrey. “There is a strong correlation between reading and academic success. In addition, reading is fundamental to function in today’s society and it is a vital skill in finding a good job. And of course, reading is also fun. We want to promote the love of reading and encourage our students to pick up a good book whenever they can.”

NCSS Alumni Spotlight

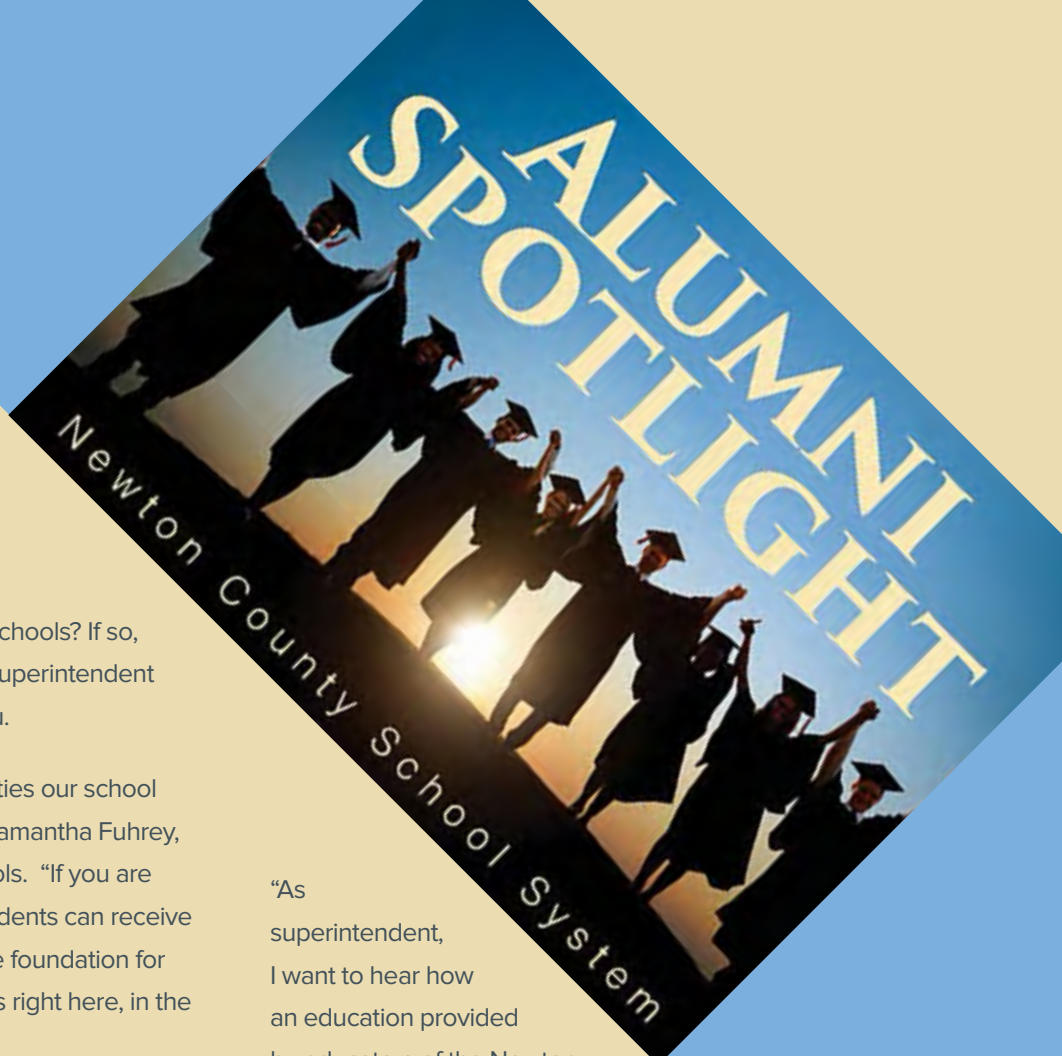
Are you an alumnus of Newton County Schools? If so, Newton County School System (NCSS) Superintendent Samantha Fuhrey wants to hear from you.

“I am proud of the educational opportunities our school system provides for our students,” said Samantha Fuhrey, Superintendent of Newton County Schools. “If you are willing to put forth the effort, I believe students can receive a high quality education that provides the foundation for an endless variety of career opportunities right here, in the Newton County School System.”

And Fuhrey said that’s where school system alumni come in. “We want to hear from them,” said Fuhrey. “We want them to tell us their stories. We know right now there are doctors, nurses, engineers, mayors, educators, business leaders, and others who are successful, in part, due to the education they received in Newton County Schools. We want our graduates to tell their stories.”

As such, Newton County School System is asking all alumni to complete a brief survey detailing where they are now in their lives—where they live, where they work, if they went to college, etc. The district will use this information to tell the story of Newton County Schools. Personal contact information will be kept strictly confidential.

All Newton County School System alumni are encouraged to visit the NCSS website at www.newtoncountyschools.org and download the brief survey (the link to the survey can be found in the picture slideshow at the top of the website). Surveys may also be picked up at the Newton County Board of Education. All surveys should be returned to Ms. Sherri Davis-Viniard, Director of Public Relations at 2109 Newton Drive NE, Covington, Georgia 30014. Surveys may also be faxed to 770-385-6915 or emailed to alumni@newton.k12.ga.us.



“As superintendent, I want to hear how an education provided by educators of the Newton County Schools prepared the way for success in college and beyond or even a career right out of high school,” said Fuhrey. “I encourage all of our alumni, no matter when they graduated, to complete the brief survey. We know, as a district, we have touched the lives of thousands of students over the years. Our motto is ‘Spirit, Pride, and Excellence’ and I’m certain we have thousands of NCSS graduates out there who, as a result of their education, exemplify that motto. I want to hear from them so I can share their stories.”

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
2109 Newton Drive NE
Covington, Georgia 30014

