

Annual Report

2017-2018



Newton County School System

NEWTON COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM





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Message from the SUPERINTENDENT

Samantha Fuhrey
Superintendent, Newton County Schools

To the residents of Newton County:

I cannot believe that five years have passed since I was selected by the Newton County Board of Education to serve as your school superintendent. I have absolutely enjoyed the experience 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 district. Our students can and do excel regionally and at the state and national level and our employees have also been recognized in Georgia and nationwide. As you read this annual report, you’ll see that the 2017-2018 school year was truly one in which we all can be proud!

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 reached its highest level ever. We saw positive growth trends and areas of improvement at all three levels of the Georgia Milestones Assessments and our students won several regional, state, and national awards along the way.

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 that we do is determined by one question—what is best for our students? We are always 100 percent focused on the success of our students. This annual report is designed to share with our many stakeholders just some of the highlights of the 2017-2018 school year. I hope you find it beneficial and informative.

As always, I thank you for your continued support of the Newton County School System.

Sincerely,
Samantha Fuhrey, Superintendent



2017 2018

“We are always 100 percent focused on the success of our students.”



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

Newton County Board of Education Achieves 2018 GSBA Quality School Board Status

The Newton County Board of Education was designated a 2018 Quality School Board by the Georgia School Boards Association's (GSBA). 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.

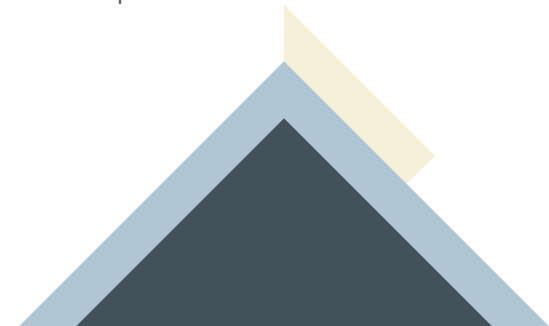
"Being identified as a Quality School Board demonstrates the dedication and commitment of our Board to act on behalf of our students and community," said Samantha Fuhrey, Superintendent of Newton County School System. "I commend our Board for a job well done."

The Newton County Board of Education met and or exceeded the criteria set forth by GSBA to earn this honor of a 2018 Quality Board. The criteria included the following:

- Adoption and implementation of a Strategic Plan
- Approved the Vision Resolution and Incorporated five of the Vision Project's school district recommendations into the system's strategic plan
- Conduct a 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 standards of all selected accreditation associations
- All Board members abide by local Code of Ethics Policy
- Annually adopt a balanced budget

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





NCSS Inducts TK and Louise Adams into Educator Hall of Fame

Mr. Timothy K. (T.K.) Adams, Sr. and Mrs. Louise Adams were celebrated as the first-ever inductees into the Newton County School System's (NCSS) Educator Hall of Fame. The induction celebration was held on Monday, November 13, 2017 at the Porter Performing Arts Center.

The school system established the NCSS Educator Hall of Fame to honor and recognize the outstanding and memorable retired educators who significantly influenced and made a difference in the lives of their students and whose professional capability and integrity inspired the admiration and respect of not only students but also fellow staff and the community. Nominees must have maintained exemplary standards of behavior and ethics, exhibited leadership, demonstrated competency in their subject matter, worked well with colleagues and administrators, and encouraged and motivated students, thereby leaving a lasting influence on the Newton County School System. The NCSS Educator Hall of Fame is also a means to honor the teaching profession as a whole for its vital role in shaping the future of individuals and society.

Mr. T.K. Adams, Sr. served as the band director at Cousins Middle School for 36 years. During his illustrious career, he was elected Teacher of the Year on four different occasions. He was State of Georgia District Ten Music Chairman from 1986-1988 and earned recognition as a finalist for the Newton County Association of Educators Teacher of the Year.

He has also served on many local organizations to help support the Newton County community, including the Newton County Community Council, the Board of Directors of the YMCA of Covington, The Arts Association in Newton County, Gaither's Plantation Committee, and the Kiwanis Club of Covington. Mr. T.K. Adams founded the Newton County Community Band in 1993 and served as its director for many years. He is also a very active member of Grace United Methodist Church in Covington.

Mr. Adams has received numerous awards over the years, including the Icon Award for Excellence in Education from Springfield Baptist Church and the Living Legend Award from the Newton County Branch of the NAACP. The Georgia House of Representatives approved a resolution celebrating Mr. Adams' more than 40 years of contributions to Newton County, the City of Covington, and the area of education. In particular, the resolution notes Mr. Adams' important role in helping the county make a peaceful transition during school integration in the 1970's.

Mr. Adams is married to fellow NCSS educator, Mrs. Louise Adams. A retired principal of Ficquett Elementary School, Mrs. Adams served as a teacher at Cousins Middle Elementary School, where she was elected Teacher of the Year. She also taught seventh and eighth grade reading at Old Porterdale and was a reading specialist at New Porterdale before becoming a reading teacher at Cousins Junior High. She was promoted to assistant principal at



Ficquett Elementary School and in 1981 was named principal of the school. Mrs. Adams was elected the Newton County Association of Educators Educator of the Year in 1980 and was a Teacher of the Year finalist in 1983.

Like her husband, Mrs. Adams has volunteered her time and served as a member of numerous local organizations and community groups, including the Covington Newton County Recreation commission, the Kiwanis Club of Covington, Literacy Volunteers of Newton County, Board of Directors of the Newton County Chamber of Commerce, Smart Growth Newton County, Newton County Board of Health, Newton County Community Foundation, etc.

In addition to their individual awards, Mr. and Mrs. Adams were recognized by the Newton County Chamber of Commerce when they were presented the 2001 R.O. Arnold Award. The following year, the Adams' received the "I Have A Dream Award" in honor of keeping the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s dream alive.

Samantha Fuhrey Finalist for 2018 Georgia Superintendent of the Year



**Newton County
School Superintendent,
Samantha Fuhrey,
was named one of
four finalists!**

According to John Zauner, executive director of GSSA, 20 nominations were submitted for the competition. In addition to Fuhrey, Dr. Steve Barker, superintendent of Coweta County Schools; Dr. Michael Duncan, superintendent of Pike County Schools; and Wes Taylor, superintendent of Lowndes County Schools, were also named finalists.

“It is a tremendous honor to have been nominated and selected to be one of the four finalist among my esteemed colleagues,” said Fuhrey.

“I have an amazing team and I am proud of all that we have accomplished over the last several years. We are not where we wish to be but we are well on our way. I look forward to the continued successes of our district and community and truly appreciate this recognition.”



NCSS Received 3.5 Star Financial Efficiency Rating

Newton County School System (NCSS) maintained its 3.5-Star Financial Efficiency Rating from the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE). The Financial Efficiency Star Rating provides a measure of a district's per-pupil spending in relation to the academic achievements of its students. Specifically, the rating is based on a three-year average of per-pupil spending, which is then associated with the district's CCRPI score. Each district receives a rating ranging from one half-star to five stars; a five-star district can be described as having strong academic outcomes and lower levels of expenditures in comparison with other districts.

State law requires that the Governor's Office of Student Achievement, in coordination with the Georgia Department of Education, create a financial efficiency rating. The rating must be based upon five stars. This is the fourth release of Financial Efficiency Star Ratings for districts, and the first release for individual schools.

Newton County School System earned a 3.5-Star rating based on its three-year average of per-pupil expenditures and College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) scores.

Newton County Passes SPLOST for Schools Renewal



In May 2018, Newton County voters overwhelmingly supported the continuation of a one-penny school tax to support the Newton County School System. Overall, the school system's E-SPLOST, a sales tax of one penny on the dollar, passed with 62 percent of the vote—nearly a 2-to-1 margin.

The SPLOST funding will go toward construction of a new Eastside High School, relocation of Newton County Theme School to the current Eastside High School facility, maintenance and improvement projects at existing facilities (roof repairs and replacement, HVAC upgrades, parking lot improvements, etc.), purchase of technology, replacement of school buses, improvements to Sharp Stadium and other athletic facilities, purchase of band equipment, and furniture replacement.

The sales tax continuation will begin Jan. 1, 2020, and will extend until Dec. 31, 2024. It is expected to generate approximately \$60 million in revenues.



 Schools Built

 Renovations & Additions

 Purchases & Payments





What Your Penny Has Accomplished

SPLOST I (2000-2004)	SPLOST II (2005-2009)	SPLOST III (2010-2014)	SPLOST IV (2015-2019)
Veterans Memorial Middle School	South Salem Elementary School	Live Oak Elementary School	Porter Performing Arts Center
Oak Hill Elementary School	Rocky Plains Elementary School	Flint Hill Elementary School	Facility Maintenance
Ficquett Elementary School	Liberty Middle School	Newton College & Career Academy	Security Improvements
Porterdale Elementary School	Alcovy High School	Newton High School Replacement	Parking Lot Paving & Repairs
Mansfield Elementary School	Middle School Classrooms	Alcovy High Classrooms & Gym	Elementary School Gyms & Other Athletic Facilities
Newton High School	Sharp Stadium	Maintenance Projects	Purchase of Technology
Eastside High School	Other School Improvements	Purchase of School Buses	Purchase of School Buses
Purchase of School Technology	Purchase of School Buses	Purchase of School Technology	Purchase of Playground Equipment
Payment of General Bonds		Payment of General Bonds	Payment of General Bonds

SPLOST Projects for the Future 2020-2024

Replacement of Eastside High

Relocation of Newton County Theme to Eastside High School Facility

Maintenance and Improvements at Existing Facilities (Roof repair & replacement, HVAC upgrades, parking lot improvements, etc.)

Purchase of Technology

School Bus Replacement (45 Buses)

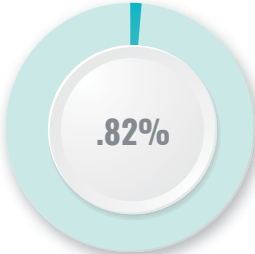
Improvements to Sharp Stadium and Other Athletic Facilities (artificial turf, parking lot, etc.)

Band Equipment

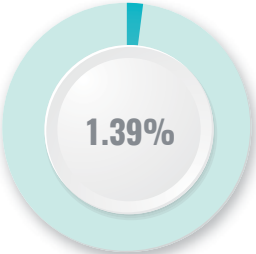
Furniture Replacement

M&O Tax Digest

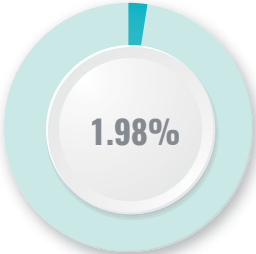
NEWTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT UNAUDITED EXPENDITURES FOR
FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2018 INCLUDES GENERAL FUNDS & STATE & FEDERAL GRANTS
TOTAL: \$184,534,334



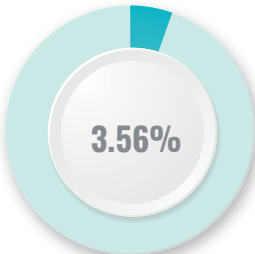
GENERAL ADMIN
\$1,517,115



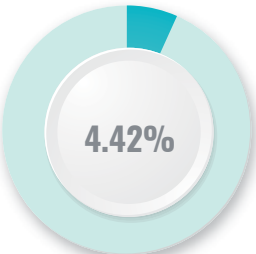
MEDIA SERVICES
\$2,564,289



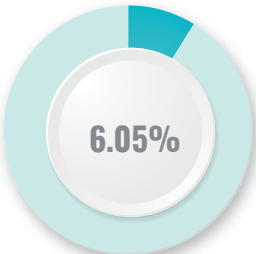
**CENTRAL SUPPORT
& BUSINESS SVCS.**
\$3,662,567



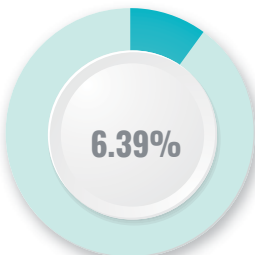
PUPIL SERVICES
\$6,743,723



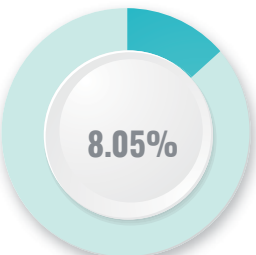
STAFF SERVICES
\$8,151,196



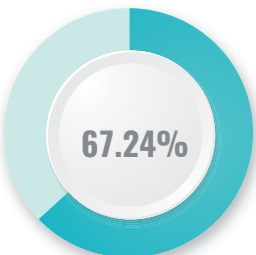
TRANSPORTATION
\$11,158,881



SCHOOL ADMIN
\$11,797,682



**MAINTENANCE
& OPERATIONS**
\$14,853,323

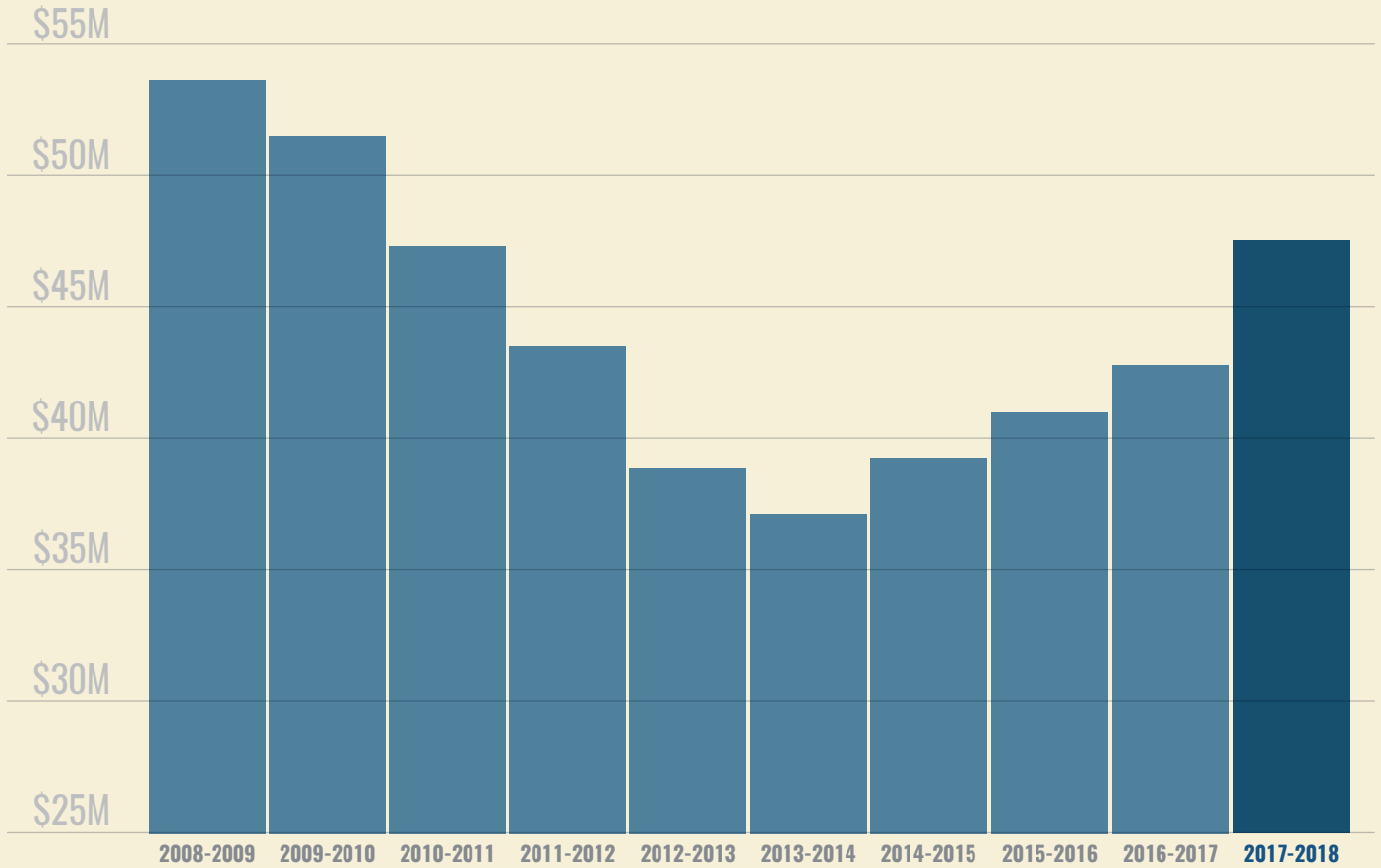


INSTRUCTION
\$124,085,558





NEWTON COUNTY TAX DIGEST HISTORY FY 2009 TO PRESENT



	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
Tax Digest	\$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	\$2,166,406,608	\$2,367,935,183
Millage Rate	18.21	18.21	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00
Gross Tax	\$53,812,245	\$51,806,593	\$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		(\$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)

2017-2018 Teachers of the Year

In May 2017, each of our schools elected a new Teacher of the Year to represent their school during the 2017-2018 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 2017-2018 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. Heather Henderson, Newton College & Career Academy; Mr. Joel Singleton, Eastside High School; and Ms. Sharonda Tarplin, Cousins Middle 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 5, 2017, Mr. Ralph Staffins, president of the Newton County Chamber of Commerce, announced that Mr. Joel Singleton of Eastside High School was Newton County School System's 2018 Teacher of the Year!

Mary Ivie
East Newton Elementary

Marcel Carter
Fairview Elementary

Iris Elaine Owensby
Flint Hill Elementary

Alice Brown
Heard-Mixon Elementary

Sabrina Fulton-Allen
Live Oak Elementary

Kathy Shropshire
Livingston Elementary

Julie Holt
Mansfield Elementary

Debra Rivas
Middle Ridge Elementary

Lori Wardingley
Newton County Theme
School
at Ficquett

Brandy Rowe
Oak Hill Elementary

Abby Hutchinson
Porterdale Elementary

Michael Wright
Rocky Plains Elementary

Scott Sloop
South Salem Elementary

Ali Geigerman
West Newton
Elementary

Heather Landers
Clements Middle

Sharonda Tarplin
Cousins Middle

Gary Brown
Indian Creek Middle

Thomas Luke
Liberty Middle

Tyrell Johnson
Veterans Memorial
Middle

Chantae Pittman
Alcovy High

Joel Singleton
Eastside High

Camiel Grant
Newton High

Heather Henderson
Newton College &
Career Academy



Joel Singleton

Eastside High School

2018 NCSS Teacher of the Year

Eastside High School choral director, Joel Singleton, was elected as the Newton County School System's 2018 Teacher of the Year! He represented Newton County Schools in the Georgia Teacher of the Year Program. Mr. Singleton's prizes included \$1,000 cash and a crystal vase from the Newton County Chamber of Commerce and three-month's free car rental from Covington Ford.

Ms. Heather Henderson of Newton College & Career Academy and Ms. Sharonda Tarplin of Cousins Middle School were the 2018 runners up. They each received a crystal vase award from the Newton County Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Singleton teaches chorus, advanced placement music theory, and teaching as a profession, at Eastside High School. Before joining the faculty at Eastside High School in 2007, Mr. Singleton taught music and chorus in Griffin-Spaulding County and Rockdale County School Systems. He earned his bachelor's degree in music education from Georgia College in 2000 and his master's degree in music education/conducting from Columbus State in 2001. Mr. Singleton completed all requirements for an education specialist degree in music-curriculum and teaching from Auburn University in 2007.



Jennifer Cole

Fairview Elementary Media Specialist 2018 NCSS Media Specialist of the Year

Fairview Elementary School media specialist Jennifer Cole was elected Newton County School System's (NCSS) 2018 Media Specialist of the Year. The Library Media Specialist of the Year Award recognizes individual excellence in the library media field through service to students, teachers, and community at the K-12 levels. Cole represented Newton County Schools in the South Metro District Library Media Specialist of the Year competition, part of the Georgia Library Media Specialist of the Year program.

Cole, Datha Curtis, media specialist at Newton College and Career Academy; and Beth Bryan, media specialist for Eastside High School, were finalists for the district award.



Jason Smith wins Shuler Award

Newton High School band director, and former Newton County School System Teacher of the Year, won the 2018 Shuler Award for Best Orchestra for Newton High School's performances of Disney's popular, "High School Musical." It was the first award for Newton in the 10 years of the ceremony, which is named in honor of the Tony Award-winning actor from Marietta and is modeled after the Tony Awards.





NCSS 2018 Retirees

Mr. Ronnie Backs
Live Oak Elementary School

Ms. Billie Baird
Newton High School

Ms. Lavonia Baker
Porterdale Elementary School

Ms. Judy Bratcher
Eastside High School

Mr. Thomas Day
Transportation Department

Ms. Donna Edmiston
Live Oak Elementary School

Ms. Suzanne Falkman
Fairview Elementary School

Ms. Jimmie Lynn Fuller
Livingston Elementary School

Ms. Cathy Haddon
Oak Hill Elementary School

Ms. Marie Hall
Middle Ridge Elementary School

Ms. Diane Hampton
Central Office

Ms. Nancy Howard
Livingston Elementary School

Ms. Dianne Johnson
West Newton Elementary School

Mr. Benjamin Knox
Transportation Department

Ms. Pamela Leidig
Transportation Department

Ms. Christine Lutchman
Alcovy High School

Ms. Gretta Lyles
Central Office

Mr. Larry Mann
Flint Hill Elementary School

Ms. Carol Martinese
East Newton Elementary School

Ms. Toby McCormick
Transportation Department

Ms. Susan Meyer-Hinrichs
South Salem Elementary School

Ms. Diana Nickelberry
Transportation Department

Ms. Pamela Norton
Transportation Department

Mr. Vance Owens
Eastside High School

Ms. Frances Padgett
Clements Middle School

Mr. Leroy Dennis Payne III
Cousins Middle School

Ms. Gwendolyn Penn
Newton High School

Ms. Debora Pittman
Porterdale Elementary School

Mr. F. Mark Rachels
Eastside High School

Ms. Rosemary Reed
West Newton Elementary School

Ms. Dorothy Rhodes
Alcovy High School

Mr. Wilhelm Schmidt
Flint Hill Elementary School

Ms. Princella Sentinella
Heard-Mixon Elementary School

Ms. Sandra Shepherd
Central Office

Ms. Judy Smith
Eastside High School

Ms. Sherrill Smith
Flint Hill Elementary School

Ms. Marsha Smith
Transportation Department

Ms. Pamela Steele
Eastside High School

Ms. Susan Stewart
Rocky Plains Elementary School

Ms. Tracy Stowe
South Salem Elementary School

Ms. Rita Thomas
School Nutrition Department





School Nutrition

#student breakfasts	daily – 7,439
	annually – 1,286,727

#student lunches	daily – 13,789
	annually – 2,397,590

After school snacks	daily – 1,112
	annually – 173,142

Summer feeding student breakfasts	daily – 336
	total – 8,059

Summer feeding student lunches	daily – 677
	total – 16,250

Transportation

school buses	210
student riders	12,168
miles traveled	2,893,999

Languages Spoken - 35 Languages

Ghanian Languages	Spanish
Ethiopia/Eritrean Languages	Vietnamese
Arabic	Other African
Chinese	Other Asian
Dutch	Other European
French	Hmong
German	Punjabi
Greek	Romanian
Gujariti	Somali
Haitian Creole	Swahili
Hebrew	Ukrainian
Hindi	Urdu
Italian	English, other than Standard
Khmer, Cambodian	American
Korean	Creoles and pidgins
Lao	Creoles & pidgins,
Filipino, Tagalog, Cebuano,	English based
Visaya	Creoles & pidgins,
Portuguese	French based
Russian	

Our Staff

Certified staff	1458
Classified staff	1125
Bachelor degrees	442
Master degrees	603
Specialist degrees	306
Doctorates	68
Associate degrees	4
Less than associates	1

Our Students

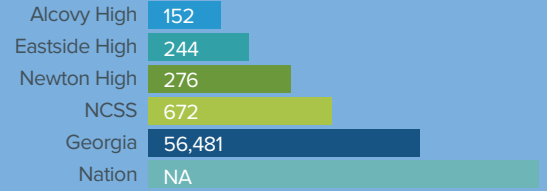
Asian	1%
Black	56%
Hispanic	9%
White	30%
Multiracial	4%

Procurement Department Earns Achievement of Excellence Award

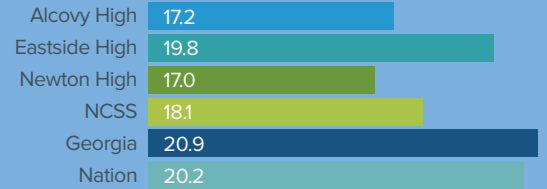


The Newton County School System was awarded the prestigious 22nd Annual Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award (AEP) for 2017 from the National Purchasing Institute (NPI). The award recognizes excellence in procurement by measuring organizations against standardized benchmarks that represent best practices within the profession. These criteria include innovation, professionalism, e-procurement, productivity, and leadership. The Newton County School System was one of six school systems in Georgia and one of only 27 school systems throughout the United States and Canada to receive the award for 2017. This is the sixth consecutive year the procurement department has won the AEP Award.

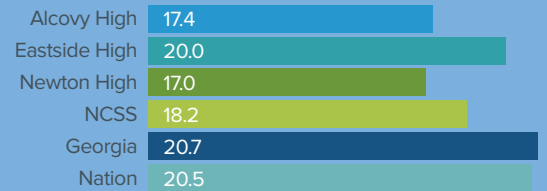
Number Tested



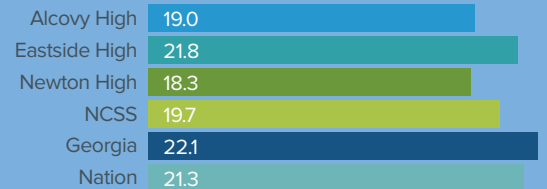
English



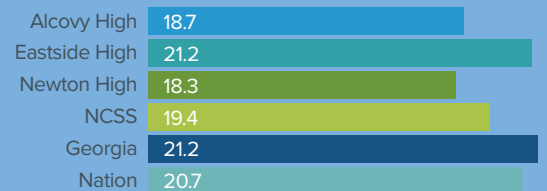
Math



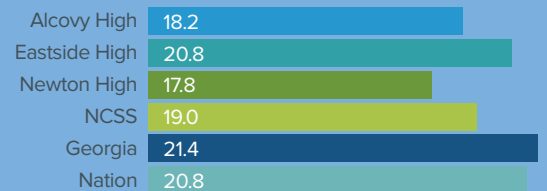
Reading



Science



Composite





Newton County School System ACT Scores Increase in 2018

While scores nationwide decreased in every category, Newton County School System (NCSS) students increased their scores across the board on the 2018 ACT. Overall, NCSS students improved math scores by two tenths of a point and science by three tenths of a point. The district reading score increased by four tenths of a point and English saw a half-point surge in 2018. As a result, Newton County School System’s district composite score on the ACT rose by four tenths of a point.

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

2018 SCHOOL LEVEL DATA

According to the official ACT report, Alcovy High School students posted increases in English, Reading, Science, and the composite while maintaining their average score in mathematics in 2018. The school increased its Science score by one-tenth of a point and English by two-tenths of a point. Alcovy’s Reading score ticked up three-tenths of a point in 2018. As a result of the increased scores, the school’s composite score improved two-tenths of a point.

Eastside High School bested the nation in both reading and science in 2018 and matched the country’s overall composite score of 20.8. The school posted increases across the board on the ACT. Reading scores improved by seven tenths of a point and math by three tenths of a point in 2018. Eastside’s English score rose by two tenths of a point while science improved by one tenth of a point. As a result of the improved scores in every category of the test, Eastside’s composite score rose by three tenths of a point in 2018.

Newton High School improved in English by three tenths of a point and science by one tenth of a point in 2018 while slipping slightly on both the math and reading test. Overall, Newton High School students maintained their 17.8 composite score in 2018.

NCSS SAT Scores Increase in 2018



Newton County School System's (NCSS) district scores on the SAT increased across the board and each of the system's three high schools also saw great gains in 2018! Overall, the district increased its score on the evidenced-base reading and writing section by ten points while the system's math score increased five points in 2018. As a result, the Newton County School System's composite score on the SAT increased by sixteen points.

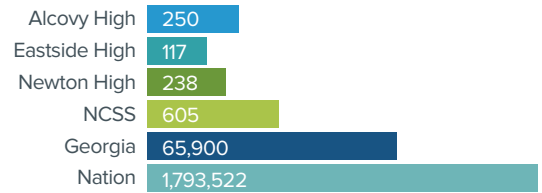
The SAT is a national college entrance exam some colleges and universities utilize to measure critical thinking skills students need for academic success in college. The SAT assesses how well students analyze and solve problems. It is typically taken by high school juniors and seniors.

At the school level, each of the three high schools posted gains in 2018. Alcovy High School's evidenced-based reading and writing score improved thirteen points over last year's scores and their math score increased three points resulting in a composite score of 975—sixteen points better than their 2017 score.

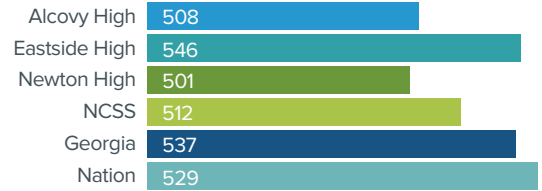
Eastside High School also posted great gains in 2018. The school's evidenced-based reading and writing score increased ten points while the school's math score rose 27 points. As a result, Eastside's composite score soared 36 points in 2018. In addition, Eastside High School bested their counterparts in both the state's and nation's public schools in every category on the 2018 SAT.

Newton High School students also improved their score on the evidenced-based reading and writing portion of the SAT by eight points in 2018. While the school's math score dipped two points, overall Newton High School's composite score improved six points this year.

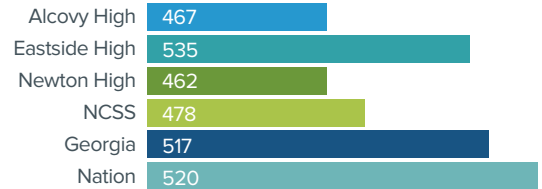
Number of Test Takers



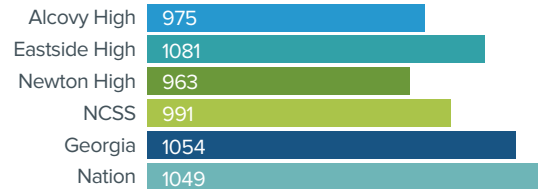
Reading and Writing



Math



Composite



NCSS Announces 2017-2018 College and Career Ready Performance Index Scores

State School Superintendent Richard Woods released the Georgia College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) for the 2017-2018 school year. **The CCRPI measures schools and school districts on a 100-point scale.** As there were numerous changes to the CCRPI instrument, the 2017-2018 CCRPI scores could not be compared to scores from previous years.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS:

Four Newton County School System (NCSS) elementary schools scored above the state average in 2018, including East Newton, Mansfield, Middle Ridge, and Newton County Theme School.

MIDDLE SCHOOLS:

At the middle school level, Newton County Theme School posted a score higher than the state's middle school score.

HIGH SCHOOLS:

Eastside High School topped the state's high school CCRPI score in 2018.

Newton County School System's College & Career Readiness Performance Index (CCRPI) Results for the 2017-2018 school year are as follows:

Schools	CCRPI Scores
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	2018
East Newton	79.4
Fairview	64.8
Flint Hill	67.9
Heard-Mixon	70.1
Live Oak	63.2
Livingston	65.9
Mansfield	84.2
Middle Ridge	80
NC Theme	93
Oak Hill	77.4
Porterdale	56
Rocky Plains	57.1
South Salem	67.8
West Newton	67.7
NCSS - Elementary Total	75
State - Elementary Total	77.8
Middle School	2018
Clements	67.3
Cousins	65.7
Indian Creek	56.1
Liberty	65.3
NC Theme	93.3
Veterans Memorial	63.5
NCSS - Elementary Total	64.1
State - Elementary Total	76.2
High School	2018
Alcovy	64.2
Eastside	80.5
Newton	65.3
NCSS - Elementary Total	69.6
State - Elementary Total	75.3
NCSS Overall Score	70.7
State Overall Score	76.6



SCHOOL CLIMATE STAR RATINGS





2018 School Climate Star Ratings

The Georgia Department of Education released the 2018 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 2017-2018 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.

According to the report, the majority of Newton County’s schools scored a three, four or five. Fairview Elementary, Livingston Elementary, and Liberty Middle each earned a perfect score of five stars in 2018. 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	4
Live Oak Elementary	4
Livingston Elementary	5
Mansfield Elementary	4
Middle Ridge Elementary	4
NC Theme-Elementary	4
Oak Hill Elementary	4
Porterdale Elementary	4
Rocky Plains Elementary	3
South Salem Elementary	2
West Newton Elementary	4
Clements Middle	4
Cousins Middle	4
Indian Creek Middle	4
Liberty Middle	5
NC Theme-Middle	4
Veterans Memorial Middle	4
Alcovy High	3
Eastside High	3
Newton High	4

NCSS Graduation Rate Increases, Continues to Top State

Newton County School System's (NCSS) four-year cohort graduation rate increased by four percent in 2018. The district's graduation rate was approximately five points higher than the state's 82 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 GRADUATION RATE	2015 GRADUATION RATE	2016 GRADUATION RATE	2017 GRADUATION RATE	2018 GRADUATION RATE
Alcovy High	75%	82%	80%	82%	84%
Eastside High	86%	86%	91%	90%	91%
Newton High	80%	82%	83%	82%	87%
NCSS	77%	81%	83%	83%	87%
State	73%	79%	79%	81%	82%

Eastside High School increased their graduation rate by one point and Alcovy High School boasted a two-point gain. Newton High School posted a five-point increase in 2018. All three high schools outperformed the state's graduation rate.

Did you know?

The Newton College & Career Academy STEM Institute was the first College & Career Academy program in Georgia to be STEM-certified?

It was also just the tenth high school program in the state to receive this prestigious designation!





Magical Seasons for Newton Rams Basketball

The Newton Rams and Lady Rams captivated local fans with their magical 2018 seasons! The Newton Lady Rams made it all the way to the Championship Game where they fell to Westlake in a heartbreaker at the 7A Title Game.

Not to be outdone, the Newton Rams boys team was just as exciting to watch in 2018 as they made it to the Final Four where they put up a fierce battle against a tough Norcross team. The teams are already focused on adding to their success in 2019!



Four NCSS Students March in the Macy's 2017 Thanksgiving Day Parade

Local residents were glued to their televisions Thanksgiving Day morning to watch as three Newton County School System students marched in the Macy's 2017 Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City! NCSS students Joseph Bickel (Eastside), Jonathan Sugg (Eastside), Austin Huffman (Eastside and NCCA STEM Institute), and Brittany Allen (Alcovy and NCCA STEM Institute) performed in the annual event. Each successfully auditioned and were selected to march in The Macy's Great American Marching Band! Only 185 musicians and 40 flags and dancers were selected from the national auditions to participate in the elite band.



Eastside/NCCA STEM Institute Student Dos Harper Named National Finalist

in 2017 FFA Agricultural Proficiency Awards

A solution to Colony Collapse Disorder, which is wiping out tons of honeybee colonies around the world, may be right around the corner thanks to research conducted by Dos Harper, a senior at Eastside High School and the NCCA STEM Institute. Colony Collapse Disorder occurs when the majority of worker bees in a colony disappear and leave behind a queen, plenty of food and a few nurse bees to care for the remaining immature bees and the queen.

Eastside High School and NCCA STEM Institute student, Dos Harper's two-year research project on the subject of Colony Collaps Disorder of honeybees earned praise from the National FFA Organization, which named him a national finalist in the 2017 Agricultural Proficiency Awards in the Agriscience Research-Animal Systems category. Harper was one of only four students chosen to compete for the award at the national finals at the 90th National FFA Convention & Expo in Indianapolis.

His research project not only garnered national recognition but also netted monetary rewards--\$500 for winning the state competition and \$500 for being a national finalist.





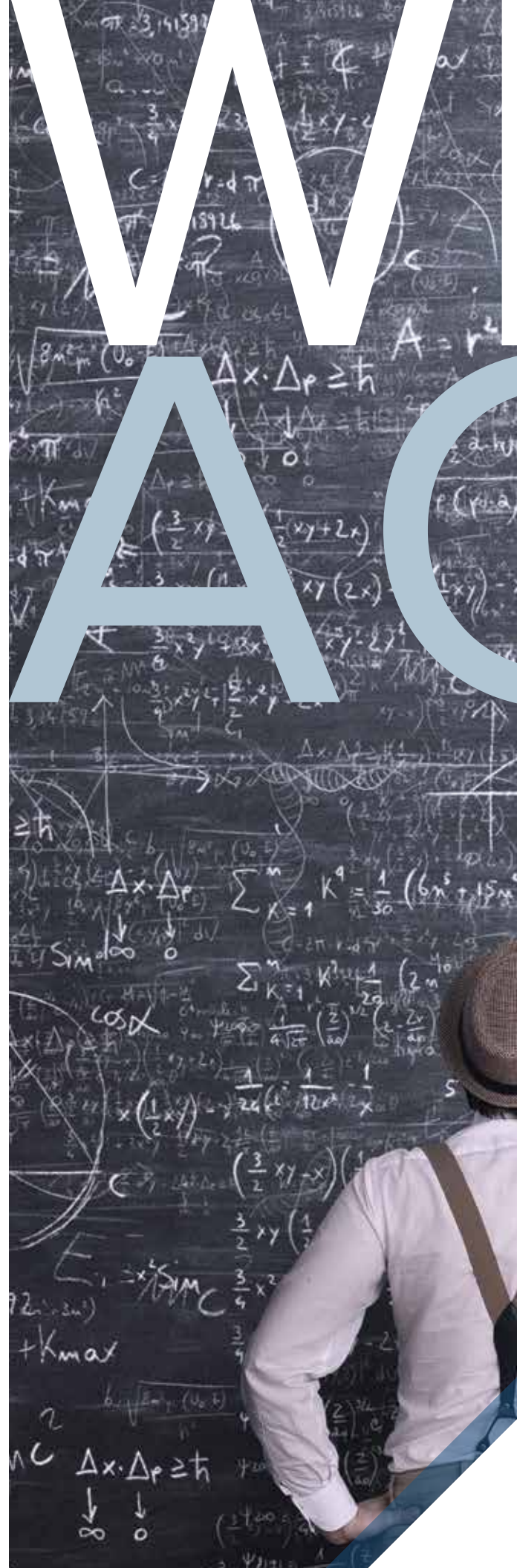
Eastside/NCCA Student Named 2017 Georgia Northeast Region **Work-Based Learning** Student of the Year

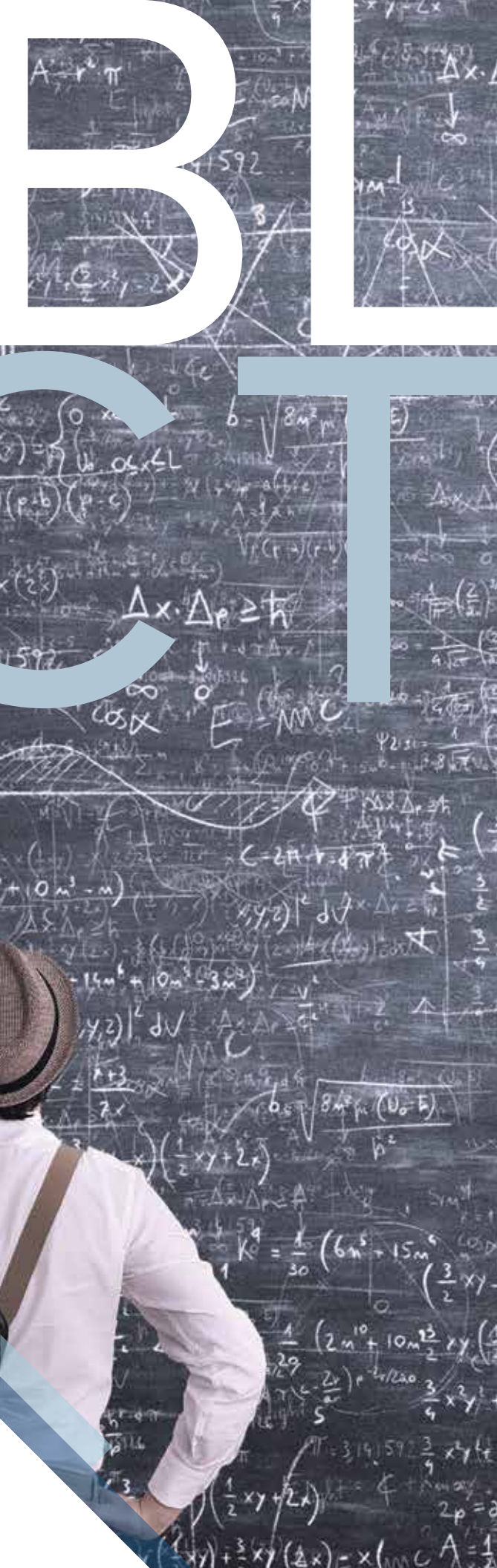
Eastside High School and Newton College & Career Academy senior, Allen Miller, was named the 2017 Georgia Northeast Region Work-Based Learning (WBL) Student of the Year award from the Georgia Department of Education. Miller received the award at the Georgia Association of Career & Technical Education (GACTE) Conference.

According to Debra Lary, Youth Apprenticeship Coordinator (YAP) for Newton County School System, "The purpose of this award is to recognize an outstanding Work-Based Learning / Youth Apprenticeship (YAP) student in each of the six established WBL/YAP regions. To be eligible for this award, a student must be chosen by the WBL/YAP coordinators who supervise the student."

Miller was nominated by Lary and Eastside High School Work-Based Learning Coordinator, Alisa Echols. The award capped off a successful year for Miller, who was not only chosen as Eastside High School's WBL Student of the Year but also the 2017 NCSS CTAE Student of the Year.

The Work-Based Learning Program is offered at all Newton County High Schools to rising juniors and seniors who are interested in a job or internship in their career pathway.





Eastside High School Student Makes Perfect Score on **ACT**

Rebekah Stowe is in elite company. The Eastside High School junior achieved a perfect composite score of 36 on the ACT college entrance exam. According to the ACT, on average, only around one-tenth of one percent of students who take the ACT earn a top score. In the U.S high school graduating class of 2017, only 2,760 out of more than 2 million graduates who took the ACT earned a perfect composite score of 36.

Stowe, the daughter of Lynn Malcom and Matthew Stowe, is no stranger to the ACT. She has taken it four times since the seventh grade. As a participant in the Duke Talent Identification Program, she earned both state and grand recognition for her extremely high scores on the college entrance exam as a seventh-grader.

“The sky is the limit for Rebekah,” said Samantha Fuhrey, superintendent of Newton County Schools. “To achieve a perfect score on the ACT college entrance exam is an outstanding accomplishment. And Rebekah backs that up with extremely high grades in her very rigorous, collegiate-level courses. I am extremely proud of her and look forward to seeing what the future holds for this very talented and intelligent young lady.”

FOUR NEWTON COUNTY TEAMS COMPETE IN VEX IQ ROBOTICS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS



VEX IQ WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

Robotics teams from Mansfield Elementary School, Liberty Middle School, and Newton County Theme School earned a trip to compete at the 2018 VEX IQ World Championship sponsored by the Northrop Grumman Foundation in Louisville, Kentucky. Mansfield and Newton County Theme School each had one team attend, while two Liberty teams made it to the World's stage. Mansfield's team, along with one of the teams from Liberty qualified for the event through their skills performances throughout the season. Liberty's second team qualified with their runner-up performance at the Georgia State Championship and the Newton County Theme School team was invited as a result of their Georgia State Championship Judge's Award.

The VEX IQ World Championship attracted more than 800 elementary and middle school robotics teams with students from nearly 40 countries representing six different continents.





Newton County Theme School Student Selected to Serve on Georgia School Superintendent's Student Advisory Council



Newton County School System (NCSS) students had a voice at the state level as Newton County Theme School eighth-grader Gordon Everett, was selected as one of only 142 students statewide to serve on Georgia School Superintendent Richard Woods' 2017-2018 Student Advisory Council. Over 1,000 students applied to serve on the council.

As a member of the Student Advisory Council, Everett met with Superintendent Woods throughout the school year to discuss the impact of state policies in the classroom. Members of the Student Advisory Council discussed other issues related to education, served as the Superintendent's ambassadors to their respective schools, and participated in service projects to benefit schools and students.

Members were selected from a pool of more than 1,500 students who applied to serve on the council. Students were chosen based on the strength of their essay answers, which focused on their ideas for public education as well as their community service experience.

West Newton Elementary Math Team Wins Georgia Math Competition



Members of the West Newton Elementary School math team earned themselves a trip to a national math competition in Birmingham, Alabama after their outstanding performance in the Statewide Georgia Math Competition.

According to Dr. Tiffany Clay, instructional coach for West Newton Elementary School, the students won first place in the mathematics problem-solving category in the statewide competition and followed that win with another first place finish in the regional competition.

Members of the team included fifth-graders Haleigh Clay, Juan Davis, Jr., Destiny Henderson, and third-graders Cameron Debose, and Demetrius Johnson.





NCSS Students Win Awards at State Science Fair

Four Newton County School System (NCSS) middle and high school students brought home awards from the 2018 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 had 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					
Jeremy Mitchell	Newton County Theme School	7	Second Honors	Biomedical and Health Sciences	<i>What Drink Best Replaces Lost Electrolytes in Athletes?</i>
SENIOR DIVISION					
Braxton Buff	Eastside High	10	First Honors	Behavioral and Social Sciences	How Diction and Syntax Influence Behavior
Sarah Schlueter & Madeline Farill	Eastside High	10	Third Honors	Biomedical and Health Sciences	<i>Insulin Pump System</i>

10F5

NCSS One of Five School Systems Selected for Georgia Department of Education

Economic Development Partnership Pilot Program



“We have been pleased to partner with the Georgia Department of Education in the development and rollout of the Economic Development Partnership,” said GEDA President Kevin Shea. “We are excited about the potential for an improved partnership with school districts and GEDA member economic development organizations throughout the state of Georgia, to enhance communication and opportunities for business and quality of life and place.”

Newton County School System was one of only five districts in the state of Georgia selected to participate in the Georgia Department of Education’s (GaDOE) Economic Development Partnership (EDP) Pilot program. Whitfield County, Marietta City, Muscogee County, and Wayne County school systems also participated in the new pilot system.

According to Meghan Frick, director of communications for the GaDOE, the EDP program seeks to promote improved relationships between local school districts and business and industry. The program, which is loosely modeled on GaDOE’s STEM and STEAM certification for schools, aims to meet the workforce development needs of Georgia’s current and future employers and expand opportunities for students. The designation is endorsed by the Georgia Economic Developers Association (GEDA).

The goals of the EDP are to encourage and incentivize school districts to adopt best practices and behaviors that support economic development, strengthen their programs and better connect education with key regional industries. In addition, the program will elevate the capability of participating school systems to fill their role in the community business recruitment and business retention/expansion efforts and as a catalyst for talent in the community.

The EDP model seeks to better align and connect the economic development, education, and business communities, increase applied learning opportunities for students, increase community collaboration, and recognize districts who excel in leveraging relationships to benefit the local community.



Students Selected for German Apprenticeship Program

Six Newton County School System students—Rashid Outar, Steven Holmes, James Kauffman, Matt Launder, Amaru Lackey, and Nolan Miller were the first school district students to enroll in the new Industrial Mechanic apprenticeship program, modeled after the highly successful program in Germany. Four students from Rockdale County Schools also participated in the program brought about by the partnership of the two school districts, the Newton College & Career Academy, Rockdale Career Academy, Georgia Piedmont Technical College, local industries, the German American Chamber of Commerce, Newton County Chamber of Commerce, The Rockdale Development Authority, and Georgia Tech’s Manufacturing Extension Partnership. Together the group participates in the Georgia Consortium for Advanced Technical Training.

If they successfully complete the program, the students will have progressed through a technical college program leading to a diploma and will be just a few credits shy of a college associate’s degree. They will have achieved the highly respected German-American Chamber of Commerce certification as an Industrial Mechanic, earned a U.S. Department of Labor Apprenticeship certificate, have no college debt and enter the workforce with a high-demand job upon their high school graduation. And they will accomplish all this while also having the opportunity to earn between \$20,000 to \$25,000 while still in high school.

“This program is effectively a \$40,000+ scholarship as the Georgia Piedmont Technical College degree program is fully paid by the State and the training costs for the apprenticeship is borne by the company,” said Dr. Tim Schmitt, NCSS Director of CTAE and Workforce Innovation. “The apprentices are dual-enrolled—students, splitting their time between high school, technical college and a local manufacturing plant.”



According to Schmitt, five Newton County companies signed up for the program and offered apprenticeships to the NCSS students: Verescence, General Mills, FiberVisions, Michelin Tread Technologies, and Nisshinbo. The students earned apprenticeships as follows:

NAME	SCHOOL	COMPANY
Rashid Outar	Newton High/NCCA	Verescence
Steven Holmes	Alcovy High/NCCA	General Mills
James Kauffman	Alcovy/NCCA	FiberVisions
Matt Launder	Alcovy/NCCA	Michelin Tread Technologies
Amaru Lackey	Eastside/NCCA	General Mills
Nolan Miller	Eastside/NCCA	Nisshinbo



New Life Praise Center Named 2018 NCSS Partner of the Year

The Newton County School System (NCSS) and the Newton County Chamber of Commerce announced New Life Praise Center as the 2018 NCSS Partner in Education of the Year. New Life Praise Center is a partner in education with both Fairview Elementary School and Indian Creek Middle School and both school principals nominated New Life Praise Center for the yearly award. Both principals noted that New Life Praise Center has made a positive and lasting impact on both students and staff at the schools in just a very short time.

According to Indian Creek Middle School principal, Dr. Swade Huff, New Life Praise Center has been a tremendous support and cheerleader—a true advocate for the school in this, their first year of partnership. Huff noted that faculty and staff were more than thrilled when New Life Praise Center members organized a teacher appreciation breakfast at the school. In addition to feeding the teachers, New Life Praise Center also provided financial support for various initiatives to supplement school resources at Indian Creek.



New Life Praise Center has had a similar impact at Fairview Elementary, where they have served as partners in education for two years.

According to Dr. LaMoyne Brunson, principal of Fairview Elementary, Pastor Adams and New Life Praise Center have supported both students and staff. Praise Center members have provided multiple staff breakfasts throughout the school year, arriving as early as 6:30 a.m. to set up hot, home-cooked meals.

Pastor Adams has also served as a mentor and team-builder for staff, speaking to them throughout the year on a number of topics. At the beginning of the school year he spoke to the staff on the importance of children knowing that their teachers care about them. Then, after the release of the school's state scores, he returned to remind the staff that they make a difference in the lives of their students.

In addition to supporting the staff, Pastor Adams also provides mentorship to the students at Fairview Elementary through the Born 2B Men program.

“Through this program, young male students learn social and practical life skills that are helping them to develop into young gentlemen,” explained Brunson. “Pastor Adams leads monthly meetings with the students with new topics such as, “You Are Individual, Unique, and Important,” and “Are You Motivated to be Your Best?”

“He has even taught the boys skills they really enjoyed, including how to tie neckties,” added Brunson.

According to Dr. Brunson, New Life Praise Center has also generously provided financial support to Fairview Elementary School by donating money for various projects, including the Beta Club's travel expenses to the state competition. Their most generous and beneficial contribution to the school supported the Fairview drama team's first musical presentation of, “The Jungle Book Kids.”

“They provided a large donation toward the set and costume expenses, which allowed the school to use more professional-looking pieces, and greatly eased the burden of fundraising for the performance,” Brunson explained.

And New Life Praise Center hasn't limited its support to just the faculty and staff. Pastor Justin Adams made a commitment to the school to provide bi-weekly mentoring sessions with several of the middle school students to focus on leadership skills, team building, test-taking skills, and more. He has also coordinated a community outing to expose students to the world outside their immediate surroundings; the students who have embraced his guidance this year will take a trip to the College Football Hall of Fame in May.

“New Life Praise Center and Pastor Justin Adams have been a true benefit to the school and impacted our efforts to foster a positive school culture and climate,” said Huff.



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; Literacy Days Competitions; 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.

Linkedin (newton-county-school-system)

Visit our new LinkedIn account, where we share news and important information and also post job announcements.

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.

For more information

visit the **Newton County School System website:**

www.newtoncountyschools.org





Newton County School System

www.newtoncountyschools.org

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