



NEWTON COUNTY
SCHOOL SYSTEM



ANNUAL REPORT

2018-2019



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Message from the Superintendent

To the residents of Newton County:

I have truly enjoyed serving as your school superintendent the past six 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 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 2018-2019 school year was truly one to remember!

Our mission is always very clear—to provide educational excellence for all students. I can assure you that every decision we make and everything 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. Each year we produce an annual report to share with our many stakeholders some of the highlights of the year; I hope you will find it beneficial and informative.

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

Sincerely,
Samantha Fuhrey
Superintendent



SPIRIT
PRIDE
EXCELLENCE

Jerry & Lee Aldridge

Inducted Into NCSS Educator Hall of Fame

Newton County School System (NCSS) began American Education Week with a celebration of two former educators when the district officially inducted Mr. and Mrs. Jerry and Lee Aldridge into the NCSS Educator Hall of Fame.

Mrs. Lee Aldridge served as a biology, chemistry, anatomy, and advanced placement biology teacher at Newton County High School for 33 years. During her career, Mrs. Aldridge was named a Star Teacher; she was selected as a Top Ten Teacher 15 different years; she won the Newton County Young Educator of the Year Award, the High School Teacher of the Year Award, the Newton County Science Teacher of the Year Award, and was also elected the Newton County School System Teacher of the Year.

Well-known throughout the Covington/Newton County community for her volunteerism, Mrs. Aldridge was elected the Volunteer of the Year for Newton General/Piedmont Hospital, where she has accumulated over 10,000 hours of community service. She has received eight United States President's Volunteer Service Awards for her work. In addition, she has been named Woman of the Year for both Newton County and Georgia Clean and Beautiful.

"This is awesome! I loved seeing all of my past students here," said Mrs. Aldridge. "This is definitely a great honor."

While many in the audience were former students of Lee Aldridge, the Boy Scouts of Pack 222 came out in full force in support of their cub master, Mr. Lee Aldridge. Mr. Aldridge is a retired teacher and school administrator for NCSS, having served as a classroom teacher at Newton County High School before pursuing a career as a school principal, first at Mansfield Elementary and later Porterdale Elementary School. After a five-year stint as NCSS director of maintenance, Mr. Aldridge returned to school leadership as the assistant principal at Newton County Comprehensive High School, from 1980 to 1991.

Mr. Aldridge has volunteered in the 4-H program in Newton County for 25 years and has served as the president of both the Covington Lions Club and the Kiwanis Club of Covington. A volunteer at Piedmont Newton Hospital and two-time winner of the President of the United States Volunteer Service Award, Mr. Aldridge is perhaps best known in the community for his commitment to the Boy Scouts of America program; he has invested 54 years in scouting. Mr. Aldridge previously served as a scoutmaster for Mansfield and Porterdale, and since 1989 has served as cub master of local Boy Scout Troop 222.

"This is beyond words," said Mr. Aldridge after the ceremony. "I'm just glad that the Lord has let me work with young folks all my life. And it's been a blessing."



Samantha Fuhrey

Named Finalist for 2019
Georgia Superintendent of the Year



For the second consecutive year, Newton County School System superintendent, Mrs. Samantha Fuhrey, was one of four finalists for Georgia Superintendent of the Year. In addition to Fuhrey, Dr. Jeff Bearden of Forsyth County Schools; Dr. Curtis Jones of Bibb County Schools; and Dr. Michael Duncan of Pike County Schools, were also named finalists.

“I was honored to have been nominated last year,” said Fuhrey. “But to have my peers select me as one of four finalists again this year is unbelievable. I’m truly grateful for the selection by my colleagues and proud to be included in such an esteemed group as I have the utmost respect for Dr. Bearden, Dr. Jones, and Dr. Duncan.”

“I have an amazing team and I am so proud of all that we have accomplished together over the last six years.”

Fuhrey added, “I have an amazing team and I am so proud of all that we have accomplished together over the last six years. Our district is not where we wish to be but we are well on the way. I look forward to the continued successes of Newton County School System and our community and I truly appreciate this recognition.”

2018-2019 Teachers of the Year

In May 2018, each of our schools elected a new Teacher of the Year to represent their school during the 2018-2019 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 2018-2019 school year began, they each sat for interviews with the Teacher of the Year selection panel. The three teachers with the highest point totals after scoring of the essays and interviews—Lewis Kelly, Newton High School; Kimberly Lane, Fairview Elementary School; and Cliff Roberts, Veterans Memorial 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 doing best—teaching! Observation scores were added to the essay and interview scores and on October 3, 2019, Mr. Ralph Staffins, president of the Newton County Chamber of Commerce, announced that Mr. Lewis Kelly of Newton High School was the Newton County School System’s 2019 Teacher of the Year!

Alisha Durand
East Newton Elementary

Jennifer Allen
Middle Ridge Elementary

Trisha Harper
Cousins Middle

Kimberly Lane
Fairview Elementary

Katie Sauls
Newton County Theme School

Deborah Peterson
Indian Creek Middle

Kim McSwain
Flint Hill Elementary

Amy Standard
Oak Hill Elementary

Felicia Hodges
Liberty Middle

Christina Smith
Heard-Mixon Elementary

Nafeesah Muhammad
Porterdale Elementary

Cliff Roberts
Veterans Memorial Middle

Karen Prather
Live Oak Elementary

Linda Hammond
Rocky Plains Elementary

Alexandrea Boyington
Alcovy High

Donna Nelson
Livingston Elementary

Kim D. Mills
South Salem Elementary

Beth Bowman
Eastside High

Scarlett Temple
Mansfield Elementary

Stacie Rogers
West Newton Elementary

Lewis Kelly
Newton High

DaMiale Johnson
Clements Middle

Scott Quinlan
Newton College & Career
Academy



NCSS Teacher of the Year Named Finalist for Georgia

Newton High School science teacher, Lewis Kelly, was elected the Newton County School System's 2019 Teacher of the Year. He represented NCSS in the state competition and was named a finalist for Georgia Teacher of the Year! This marked the first time in over 20 years the Newton County School System had a teacher of the year selected as a finalist in the Georgia contest.

Mr. Kelly is an epidemiology and physical science teacher at Newton High School, where he has worked since August 2014. He previously taught biology in both the DeKalb and Henry County school systems. Mr. Kelly earned his Bachelor of Science degree from South Carolina State University in 2000. After a six-year career in the National Football League, where he played offensive guard for the Minnesota Vikings and the New York Giants, Mr. Kelly earned a Master's in Education from the University of Phoenix and pursued a career in education. He has been a teacher since 2011.

Mr. Kelly's prizes for Newton County Teacher of the Year included \$1,000 cash and a crystal vase from the Newton County Chamber of Commerce and a three-month's free car rental from Covington Ford.



Lewis Kelly

2019 NCSS Media Specialist of the Year

Eastside High School media specialist Beth Bryan was named Newton County School System's (NCSS) 2019 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.

Bryan 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.

Bryan; Datha Curtis, media specialist at Newton College and Career Academy; and Ali Geigerman, media specialist at West Newton Elementary, were finalists for the district award.

Mrs. Bryan earned her bachelor of arts in history with an add-on certification for teaching social studies in 1994. She obtained her master of education in media from the University of West Georgia in 2008. She has served as the media specialist at Eastside High School since 2011. Mrs. Bryan previously served as a classroom teacher in the area of social studies.



2019 NCSS Retirees

Mr. Tommy Adams

Transportation

Ms. Patricia Alexander

Alcovy High School

Ms. Rhonda Allen

Cousins Middle School

Ms. Alice Belcher

Flint Hill Elementary School

Ms. Diane Bell

Middle Ridge Elementary School

Mr. Gary Brown

Indian Creek Middle School

Ms. Elecia Bruns

Newton County Theme School

Dr. Kim Coady

East Newton Elementary School

Ms. Connie Daniel

Newton College & Career Academy

Dr. Sharon Darley

Flint Hill Elementary School

Ms. Burney K. Drumheller

Newton County Theme School

Ms. Roberta L. Eaton

Middle Ridge Elementary School

Mr. Roosevelt English

Eastside High School

Ms. Mary Elizabeth Eversoll

Special Education Department

Ms. Carol Fink

Flint Hill Elementary School

Ms. L. Gwen Goins
Rocky Plains Elementary School

Ms. Mary F. Hall
Live Oak Elementary School

Ms. Donna Hooper
Special Education Department

Ms. Mieko Jackson
Veterans Memorial Middle School

Ms. Pam Jeffries
Newton High School

Mr. Dennis Jones
Eastside High School

Dr. Miranda Jones
Rocky Plains Elementary School

Ms. Barbara Kinsey
Rocky Plains Elementary School

Ms. Jan Loomans
School Nutrition Department

Ms. Ruth Moon-Davis
Indian Creek Middle School

Ms. Fern Munroe
Transportation Department

Dr. Sandra Owens
Alcovy High School

Mr. Phillip Ozburn
Maintenance Department

Mr. Michael Phillips
Veterans Memorial Middle School

Ms. Marguerite Ramsey
Porterdale Elementary School

Ms. Diana Raymo
Business Services Department

Ms. Denise Reich
East Newton Elementary School

Mr. Dwight Seawell
Alcovy High School

Ms. Julia Sheets
Indian Creek Middle School

Ms. Annie Spearman
Indian Creek Middle School

Ms. Shirley Stevens
Special Education Department

Ms. Maria Stolp
Alcovy High School

Ms. Deborah Terrell
Flint Hill Elementary School

Mr. Bruce K. Thomas
Newton County Theme School

Ms. Martha Vazquez
West Newton Elementary School

Ms. Roxanne Waller
Alcovy High School

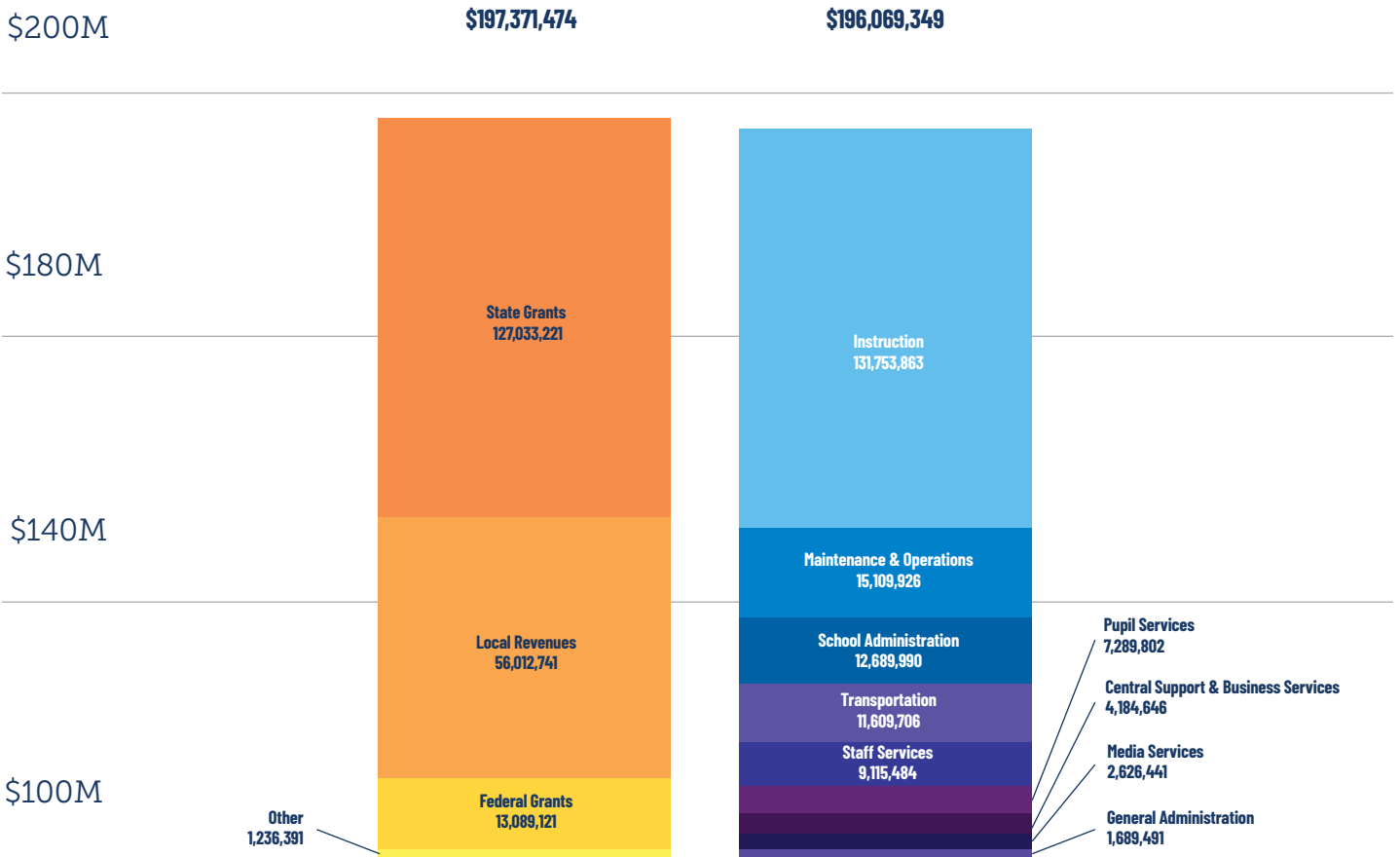
Ms. Phyllis Whatley
Live Oak Elementary School

Ms. Diana Wright
Mansfield Elementary School

Ms. Mayra Zamora
Flint Hill Elementary School



Revenue and Expenditures



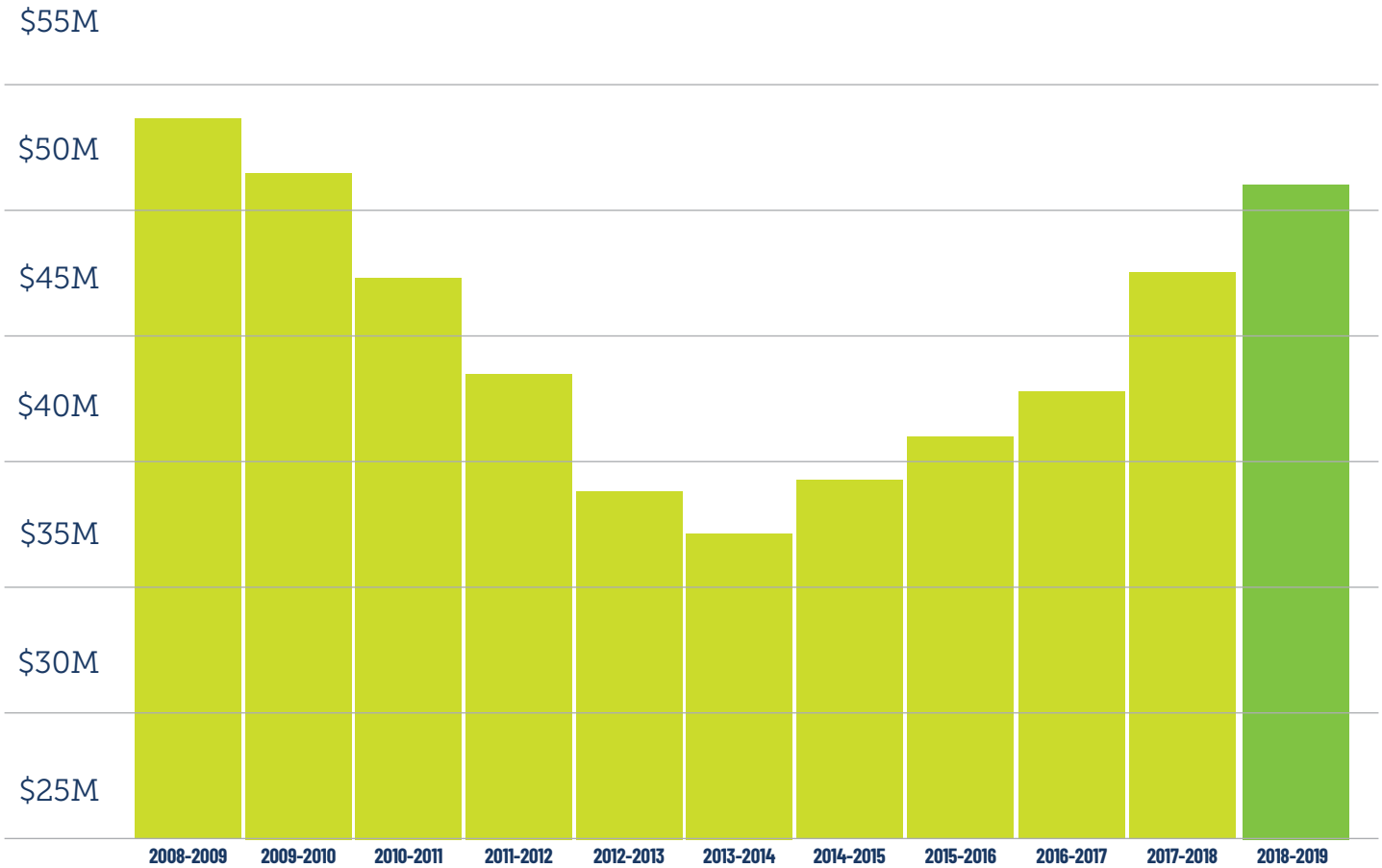
UNAUDITED REVENUE

UNAUDITED EXPENDITURES

Includes General Funds and State and Federal Grants
for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2019



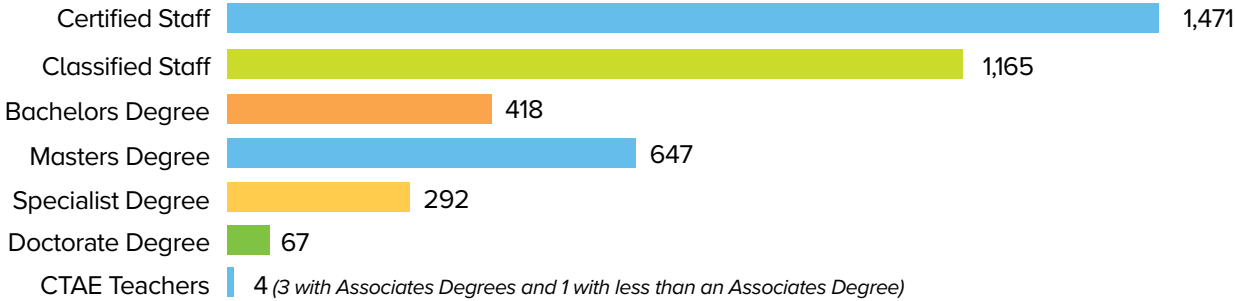
Newton County Tax Digest History FY 2009 to Present



	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
Tax Digest	\$2,955M	\$2,845M	\$2,365M	\$2,177M	\$1,952M	\$1,849M	\$1,975M	\$2,064M	\$2,166M	\$2,368M	\$2,586M
Millage Rate	18.21	18.21	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00
Gross Tax	\$54M	\$52M	\$47M	\$44M	\$39M	\$37M	\$40M	\$41M	\$43M	\$47M	\$52M
Change from 2009		(\$2M)	(\$7M)	(\$10M)	(\$15M)	(\$17M)	(\$14M)	(\$13M)	(\$10M)	(\$6M)	(\$2M)

2018-19 Operations Data

Human Resources



School Nutrition





Student Ethnicity

 Asian	1.0%
 Black	57.0%
 Hispanic	9.0%
 White	29.0%
 Multiracial	4.0%



Languages Spoken

Arabic	Ethiopian	Lao	Spanish
Cambodian	French	Micronesian	Swahili
Chinese	German	Nigerian	Tagalog
Creole	Greek	Patois	Ukrainian
Creole (<i>English based</i>)	Gujarati	Portuguese	Urdu
Creole (<i>French based</i>)	Haitian Creole	Punjabi	Vietnamese
Czech	Hindi	Romanian	Other African
Dutch	Hmong	Russian	Other Asian
English (<i>American</i>)	Korean	Samoan	Other European
English (<i>Non-standard</i>)	Kosrean	Somali	Other Indian

Transportation Data

210
School Buses

12,361
Student Riders

2,942,115
Miles Traveled

2019 ACT Scores

Group	# Tested	English	Math	Reading	Science	Composite
Alcovy High	168	16.5	17.0	18.5	18.6	17.8
Eastside High	193	19.9	20.0	21.4	20.8	20.6
Newton High	283	16.7	16.6	18.7	18.2	17.7
NCSS	644	17.6	17.7	19.4	19.1	18.6
Georgia	53,036	20.9	20.7	22.2	21.2	21.4
Nation	1,782,820	20.1	20.4	21.2	20.6	20.7

Just like their national counterparts, Newton County School System (NCSS) students saw slight decreases in scores on the ACT in 2019. Overall, NCSS students saw a half-point decrease in both English and mathematics and a three-tenths of a point decline in both reading and science. As a result, the district's composite score decreased by four-tenths of one 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

2019 School Level ACT Data

According to the official ACT report, Alcovy High School students posted slight decreases in all subject areas in 2019. The school's English score dropped seven-tenths of one point and mathematics decreased by four-tenths of one point. Reading scores declined by half a point while science decreased by one-tenth of one point. Overall, Alcovy's composite score decreased by four-tenths of one point.

Eastside High School bested the nation in both reading and science in 2019 although their scores dropped slightly—four-tenths of one point—in both subjects. The school posted an increase of one-tenth of one point in English and maintained its score of 20.0 in mathematics in 2019. Eastside's composite score dropped slightly—by two-tenths of one point—last year.

Newton High School saw an increase of four-tenths of one point in reading in 2019 but dropped slightly—three-tenths of one point—in English. The school's scores decreased by four-tenths of one point in mathematics and one-tenth of one point in science last year. Overall, the school's composite scores decreased by one-tenth of one point in 2019.



2019 SAT Scores

Group	# Test Takers	Evidenced-Based Reading & Writing	Math	Composite
Alcovy High	199	503	476	979
Eastside High	113	562	540	1102
Newton High	280	494	458	951
NCSS	592	510	479	989
Georgia	67,594	533	515	1048
Nation	---	524	515	1039

Newton County SAT test takers posted mixed results in 2019. While state and national test-takers posted decreases across the board, Newton County students posted a one-point gain in Math but declined by two points in Evidenced-Based Reading and Writing. Overall, the district composite score dropped two points in 2019.

While the district as a whole had mixed results, Eastside High School increased scores across the board in 2019, posting a 16-point gain in Evidenced-Based Reading and Writing and a five-point gain in Math. This resulted in a 21-point gain on their composite score. The school's scores also topped both their state and national peers in 2019.

Alcovy High School students posted a nine-point increase on Math scores in 2019 but did drop by 5 points on Evidenced-Based Reading and Writing in 2019. Overall, the school increased its composite score by four points.

Newton High School saw scores dip on the SAT in 2019—posting a seven-point decrease in Evidenced-Based Reading and Writing and a four-point decrease in Math for a combined 12-point drop on the composite score.

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.



NCSS Graduation Rate Tops State

According to data released by the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE), Newton County School System’s (NCSS) four-year, all-time high, cohort graduation rate maintained at 87 percent in 2019. The district’s graduation rate is 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:

Group	2014 Graduation Rate	2015 Graduation Rate	2016 Graduation Rate	2017 Graduation Rate	2018 Graduation Rate	2019 Graduation Rate
Alcovy High	75%	82%	80%	82%	84%	85%
Eastside High	86%	86%	91%	90%	91%	87%
Newton High	80%	82%	83%	82%	87%	88%
NCSS	77%	81%	83%	83%	87%	87%
Georgia	73%	79%	79%	81%	82%	82%

Both Alcovy High School and Newton High School increased their graduation rates by one percentage point in 2019; Eastside saw a slight dip from 91 percent to 87 percent this year.

NCSS Announces CTAE Students of the Year

Chelsea Williams of Liberty Middle School and Ava Jane Teasley of Eastside High School were named Newton County School System's 2019 CTAE (Career, Technical and Agricultural Education) Students of the Year! The student winners were announced during the Newton County School System's 2019 CTAE Student of the Year reception at Porter Performing Arts Center on February 28, 2019. Each year the school system celebrates National CTAE Month by recognizing CTAE Students of the Year from each of the district's middle and high school programs.



CTAE pathways recognized at the annual event included Business Education, Engineering/Technology, Family and Consumer Science, Agriculture Education, CTI, Education, Engineering, Business Education/IT, Health Science/Bio Tech, Marketing, Nutrition/Food, ROTC, Skilled Trades, Video/Graphics, and Work-Based Learning.

Middle school district winners:

- Business Education Award: Chelsea Williams, Liberty Middle School
- Engineering/Technology Award: Kevin Dorsett, Veterans Memorial Middle School
- Family and Consumer Science Award: Tristian Houston, Liberty Middle School
- Agriculture Education Award: Cindy Ramos-Ayala, Indian Creek Middle School

High school district winners:

- Agriculture Education Award: Ava Jane Teasley, Eastside High School
- Business Education/IT Award: Christopher Black, Newton High School
- CTI Award: Charles Wilkins, Alcovy High School
- Education Award: Kendall Allen, Newton High School
- Engineering Award: Miranda Litkea, Newton College & Career Academy
- Health Science/Bio Tech Award: Allison Mowatt
- Marketing Award: Madison Bradford, Newton College & Career Academy
- Nutrition/Food Award: Triniti Brown, Newton College & Career Academy
- ROTC Award: Scott Evritt, Newton High School
- Skilled Trades Award: Malichi Colin
- Video/Graphics Award: Hezekiah Malit, Newton College & Career Academy
- Work-Based Learning Award: Karli Buckelew, Newton College & Career Academy

In addition to recognizing CTAE students, the district also presented the 2019 Work-based Learning Employer of the Year Award to the Arts Association of Newton County.



Eastside High School Students Participate in 2019 All-State Band

Two Eastside High School students—Joseph Bickel and Duncan Jourdan—were selected to perform in the 2019 All-State Band in Athens, Georgia. Both Bickel and Jourdan have been selected to perform in the prestigious statewide band multiple years.

Students from across the state prepare for a first round audition in early December, at which they perform prescribed scales, a prepared etude, and sight reading. Those students who were passed on to the second round auditioned for positions in the Middle and High School All-State Bands and both Joseph and Duncan made the final cut.

Participating in All-State band affords students the opportunity to work with some of the best clinicians and composers from across the nation and also typically results in college scholarship offers when they graduate and apply for college. The 2019 guest conductors of the Georgia All-State Band included Ms. Paula A. Crider, former director of The University of Texas Longhorn Band and Dr. Sarah McKoin, Director of Bands at Texas Tech University.

Three NCSS Students Selected for All-State Chorus

Three students were selected to perform in the 2019 All-State Chorus. Newton County Theme School eighth-grader Gracie Bates performed in the Middle School All-State Chorus while Eastside High School sophomore David Castillo and Alcovy High School sophomore, Jayden Simmons both performed in the High School All-State Chorus.

Students selected to perform in the All-State Chorus must successfully compete in two rounds of auditions. During the audition process, students are required to perform a solo, sight read, and sing from memory, their major, minor, and chromatic scales. If students pass the first audition, they must learn a pre-selected list of songs and sing selected passages for the judges in the second audition.

Students chosen for the All-State Chorus are among the most accomplished vocalists in Georgia. It's an incredible honor to be selected to perform in the All-State Chorus as the students have the unique opportunity to work with and learn from some outstanding musical conductors.

Guest conductors at All-State Chorus included Joshua Pedde, artistic director of the Indianapolis Children's Choir; Tesfa Wondemagegnehu, conductor of the Viking Chorus and Chapel Choir at St. Olaf College; and Jefferson Johnson, Director of Choral Activities at the University of Kentucky.

In addition to the unique experience, selection to the Georgia All-State Chorus may also lead to scholarship offers for the students.



Gracie Bates



David Castillo



Jayden Simmons



Megan Ellington

NCSS Students Win Awards at State Science Fair



Sydney Meeler

Eastside Student Competes in Intel International Science and Engineering Fair



Zachary Moore

Three Newton County School System students brought home awards from the 2019 Georgia Science and Engineering Fair! Winners at the state science fair must earn first place awards at both the Newton County School System Science Fair and the Griffin RESA Regional Science Fair in order to receive invitations to compete at the State Fair.



Jared Seals

Newton County Theme School seventh-grader, Megan Ellington earned fourth place honors in the Biomedical and Health Sciences category with her project, "Battle of Degreasers." Her project won the Broadcom Masters Award at the Regional Competition, which earned Ellington the opportunity to compete at the Broadcom Masters Competition in Washington, DC that summer.



Sarah Schlueter

In the senior division, four juniors won awards for their science projects. Sydney Meeler, a junior at Eastside High School, took third place honors in the Microbiology category with her project, "Ineffective Biological Pathways in DNA." Newton College & Career Academy juniors, Zachary Moore and Jared Seals won third place in the Engineering Mechanics Division with their project, "The Next Gen." Not to be outdone, Eastside junior, Sarah Schlueter won second place in the Biomedical and Health Sciences category with her project, "The Effects of Cell-Cell Crosstalk on Glucose Stimulated Insulin Secretion." Schlueter's project also won the Society for InVitro Biology Award and the Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health Biotechnology Award. Schlueter previously won the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair award at the Griffin RESA Regional Science Fair; as a result she received an invitation to compete in the International Fair in Phoenix, Arizona.

2019 STAR Students and STAR Teachers

Newton County School System's three high school STAR Students for 2019 were: Julia Towns, Alcovy High School; Jordyn Greenwood, Newton High School; and Rebekah Stowe, Eastside High School. STAR Students must be one of the top ten graduates or in the top ten percent of their class and score the highest score on the SAT in one sitting. Julia Towns scored 1470 out of 1600 on the SAT; she selected Ms. Heather Henderson from the Newton College & Career Academy STEM Institute as her STAR Teacher. Jordyn Greenwood, the salutatorian of the Newton High School Class of 2019, scored 1290 on the SAT; she selected Dr. Trupti Shah as her STAR Teacher. Rebekah Stowe was not only named the Eastside High School STAR Student but also the NCSS Star Student of 2019 as she had the highest SAT score in the district—1560 out of 1600. She selected Mr. Michael Poor as her STAR Teacher.



NCSS Students Selected for 2019 Governor's Honors Program

Six Newton County School System (NCSS) students participated in the 2019 Governor's Honors Program (GHP); one additional student was selected as an alternate in the event a finalist could not attend.

The GHP, open to all sophomores and juniors, is a free residential summer program for gifted or highly talented students who are passionate about a subject. The prestigious program was held at Berry College in Rome, Georgia.

GHP finalists were nominated by their teachers for a specific instructional area matching their abilities,

aptitudes and interests. In addition to submitting endorsements and grade transcripts, the nominees were required to participate in a statewide interview or audition depending on their desired major.

Major instructional areas are agricultural science, communicative arts, dance, engineering, mathematics, music, science, social studies, theatre, visual arts, and world languages.

The NCSS Governor's Honors finalists and alternate and their intended majors were:



Joseph Bikel
Eastside High School
Music: Brass: Euphonium



Francis Prieto
Eastside/NCCA STEM Institute
Communicative Arts



Ken Nguyen
Eastside/NCCA STEM Institute
Mechanical & Electrical Engineering



Harley Cargile
Alcovy High School
Music: Jazz Guitar



Duncan Jordan
Eastside High School
Music: Woodwind: Clarinet



Braxton Buff
Eastside High School
Latin

Newton High School Student Wins at State Young Georgia Authors Contest



Newton High School student, Arriana Gross, won the statewide ninth-grade Young Georgia Authors Contest competition with her entry, “The Seeds.” Gross previously won first place at both the school district and regional level.

Students participating in the Young Georgia Authors Contest could submit entries in the form of short stories, poetry, essays, journals, personal narratives, reports, or other original student writing. Submissions were judged on four domains as reflected in the Georgia Standards of Excellence—ideas, organization, cohesiveness, and language.



Alcovy High School:

First Newton County High School to Compete in the Vex Robotics World Championship

Alcovy High School's VEX Robotics Team 265T competed in the 2019 VEX Robotics World Championships in Louisville, Kentucky. The World Championship attendees from Alcovy who qualified and competed in this year's Georgia State Championship from teams 265T and 265S included: Mahlon Phelps, Michael Adams, Demari Freeman, Austin Jensen, Blake Farmer, Devin Small, Tyler Dorsey, Mekhi Phelps and Adrian Zac-Williams.

Alcovy's team joined 15 others from Georgia to compete at the World Championships.

Liberty Middle School:

Students Compete in World VEX IQ Robotics

Liberty Middle School's Robotics Team 10615B secured an invitation to the 2019 VEX IQ World Championships held in Louisville, Kentucky. Liberty Middle School's qualifying team was comprised of students Dylan Smalls and Adam Brown.



Liberty's World Qualifying team joined eight other middle school teams from Georgia to compete at the World Championships.

Left to right - Satrick Clark, Matthew George, Jaylen Crowe, Noah Farmer, Xavion Jones, Devin Smalls, Ava Dozier, Megan George, Jayden Williams, Aaron Gamino, Adam Brown

Additional team members who competed but are not present in photo: Dylan Smalls, Ethan Pierce, Jayvyn Copeland, Brendan Stephens, Sean Spence, Jaylen Scott, Cara Dougan





NCSS Students Win at Georgia Regional Braille Challenge

Three Newton County School System students won awards from the Georgia Regional Braille Challenge held at the Georgia Academy for the Blind.

Lucas Montalvo, a fourth-grade student at South Salem Elementary School won first place honors in the freshman category; he has earned an award every year he has participated in the Braille Challenge! Liberty Middle School seventh-grade student, Ja'veon Harris, earned the second place award in the sophomore category this year. He also won an award at the Braille Challenge last school year. Rounding out the NCSS group of winners, Indian Creek Middle School sixth-grade student Chad McDaniel, took home the third place award in the Apprentice Category.

The Braille Challenge is the only academic competition of its kind in North America for students who are blind or visually impaired. Braille Institute developed the Braille Challenge to motivate students to practice and hone their braille literacy skills, which are essential to academic and employment success.

Any blind or visually impaired student in grades one through 12 who can read and write braille is eligible to participate in the Braille Challenge. Contestants are divided into five categories and tested on fundamental braille skills such as reading comprehension, spelling, speed and accuracy, proofreading, and charts and graphs.

TutorMate and Newton County Schools team up for literacy success

Innovations for Learning (IFL) partnered with Newton County School System to bring the unique online reading program, TutorMate, to local first-grade classrooms. TutorMate is the nation's preeminent virtual volunteer program that helps thousands of students learn to read. More than 200 of the country's most prominent corporations and organizations partner with IFL to recruit an army of volunteers who help young students learn to read.

The 2018-2019 school year marked the first year that TutorMate partnered local corporate and community tutors with Newton County first-graders. Tutors help students learn to read through weekly, 30 minute online sessions.



NCSS Earns District-Wide No Place For Hate Designation

Newton County School System (NCSS) was one of only two districts in not only Georgia but also the Southern Region to earn the designation as a “No Place For Hate” system by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) as each school in the district participates in the program. No Place for Hate is an initiative of the Anti-Defamation League offered free to schools. The initiative is designed to rally the entire school around the goal of creating a welcoming community committed to stopping all forms of bias and bullying. Upon completion of the required program components, schools receive a No Place for Hate banner that can be proudly displayed in the school. Implementation of the No Place for Hate program is included in the school system’s strategic plan. The program is designated as an initiative to help improve school climate and thus increase the high school graduation rate. It provides a framework for creating activities geared at fighting bias, bullying and hatred among students. Through No Place for Hate, students learn acceptance and tolerance, which leads to creating and maintaining a positive school climate.





Newton Education Foundation Donates \$20,000:

To Support the NCSS Book Bus

The Newton Education Foundation's donation supports the Book Bus, which travels across Newton County providing free books to children in need.

The Book Bus first hit the road in June 2015 with the goal of providing students in the community with free books that they could keep at home and enjoy over and over again, without ever having to return them. Since that first run, the NCSS Book Bus has provided over 15,000 books to both children and adults in the Covington/Newton County community.

Eastridge Community Church:

Jackson Lake Campus Named 2019 NCSS Partner of the Year

The Newton County School System (NCSS) and the Newton County Chamber of Commerce announced that Eastridge Community Church-Jackson Lake Campus as the 2019 NCSS Partner in Education of the Year.

Eastridge Community Church-Jackson Lake Campus is a partner in education with Heard-Mixon Elementary School and school principal Marquita Wilkins nominated the church for the yearly award. She noted that Eastridge employees partnered with the school “in both spirit and body by meeting many of the school family’s material and emotional needs.”

According to Wilkins, parking is a major issue at the school on the day of Open House but Eastridge staff completely eliminated that problem by allowing teachers to park at their facility. Not only that, they also surprised the staff by providing transportation at 6:30 AM both to and from the buildings in the rain.

And Eastridge staff made it a point of always being on hand to support and celebrate Heard-Mixon students’ accomplishments. For example, during the fifth-grade completion ceremony, Eastridge

provided their new facility for parents and students to celebrate in a comfortable environment.

“The students were welcomed with open arms and provided numerous activities while they waited for the ceremony to begin,” Wilkins explained. “And after the ceremony concluded, Eastridge staff provided water and snacks for the students to enjoy.”

The church, however, makes its greatest impact by giving of their time to mentor students one hour per week—something they have routinely done over the past two years. Through their time and generosity, staff at Eastridge have truly made a difference at the school in a relatively short period of time.

When presenting the award, Newton County Chamber of Commerce President, Ralph Staffins, stated, “It makes me so proud to know that we have school partners like this in our community. This partnership truly demonstrates that you do not have to be a big business with deep pockets and numerous employees to make a huge impact in our schools. Any business or organization, no matter how big or small, has the ability to make a difference to the children and staff in our schools.”



www.newtoncountyschools.org

NEWTON COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM



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