

Alexander High School
Performing Arts Center
Opened May, 2023

2023 Douglas County School System Annual Report

Letter from the Superintendent

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We greatly value your unwavering support and dedication to ensure the Douglas County School System upholds its commitment to academic excellence. With that being said, it is with great pleasure that we share our 2023 Annual Report including school progress updates and highlights of student achievements. In addition, the report provides an inside look at our demographics and overall school performance. As you take time to review the facts and figures, please know our district's success is attributed to our phenomenal teachers, dedicated parents and students, and strong community partners like you who place great value in our school system.

I'm beyond proud of the diligence and perseverance our teachers displayed during the 2023 school year. They set high expectations and were willing to adapt whenever necessary without any complaints. Despite the daily grind our educators often face, their passion to teach inspired them to continue evolving, so they could prepare our elite scholars for global competitiveness.

Many of our remarkable students have soared in 2023 and we are beyond proud of their accomplishments. Collectively, our high schools named over 500 superintendent scholars, we celebrated students with perfect scores on the Georgia Milestones, and recognized scholars who earned academic honors from the College Board National Recognition Programs. We consider ourselves fortunate to have such exceptional students representing the Douglas County School System and we must acknowledge the invaluable role our parents play in this process.


Research has proven that parents lay the foundation for student success, and without devoted parents, we would lack devoted students. The core values instilled in our students at home transcend into the classroom. We commend our parents for doing an outstanding job of setting the standard. We salute the dedication to maintain a high standard of excellence at home as well as in the classroom.

The relationships cultivated with our key stakeholders have enhanced our ability to achieve learning and growth. By strengthening the connections among our students, staff, and families, we can achieve the learning, growth, and equitable outcomes that our district values. We deeply value the support from our key stakeholders.

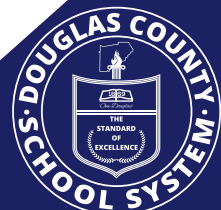
Ultimately, the Board of Education and I remain committed to creating excellent schools and our financial integrity to maintain a balanced budget has assisted us with this task. We are proud to continue shaping the future with innovative projects that will continue to enhance your child's educational journey. As we continue to work on enhancements and expanding capital projects, we stand on the promise that our students will be college/career ready and productive citizens in society.

In closing, I want to extend my heartfelt appreciation to the community for the ongoing support of our educational programs. Again, your partnerships play a vital role in our successes within the district. We hope this annual report provides you with insights into our efforts of fostering a culture of continuous improvement and planning for the promising future ahead.

Sincerely,



Trent North, Superintendent



Together, we shape the future.

Douglas County Board of Education



Tracy Rookard
District 3, Board Chair

D.T. Jackson
District 2, Vice Chair

Michelle Simmons
District 4

Ruth Morgan
District 1

Glenn Easterwood
District 5



From left: D. T. Jackson, Michelle Simmons, Ruth Morgan, Tracy Rookard, Glenn Easterwood



**Superintendent
Trent North**

**Georgia's 2023
Superintendent
of the Year, and
Finalist for
2023 National
Superintendent
of the Year**

An "Exemplary" Board

The Douglas County Board of Education was one of 67 school boards in Georgia to be named a 2023 Exemplary Board by the Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA). There are 181 school districts in the state.

GSBA's recognition program is a three-tier process to achieve the highest level in board governance. The three recognition levels are Quality, Distinguished and Exemplary, with Exemplary being the highest level.

This is the fifth consecutive year the board has received the Exemplary Board designation.

District Accreditation

In April 2022, the school system was recommended for National District Reaccreditation through Cognia, an internationally recognized accrediting board that evaluates school systems across the U.S and 85 other countries.

The district Index of Education Quality (IEQ) or overall rating from the review, is 334.19 (an increase of over 26 points since the last review). This is well above the five year average range of 278.34 for all school systems evaluated by Cognia.

The school system will undergo the accreditation process again in 2027.



Schools

- 20 Elementary Schools
- 8 Middle Schools
- 5 High Schools

Students and Staff

- 25,902 Students
- 3,046 Full time employees
- 1,944 Certified staff
- 1,344 Certified staff with advanced degrees

- ▶ 17th Largest school district in Georgia
- ▶ Largest employer in Douglas County
- ▶ Approximately 70% of employees live in Douglas County

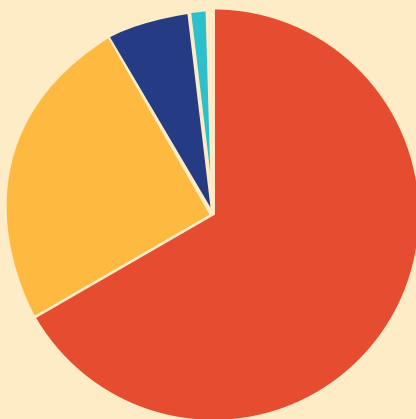
Average number of students per instructional staff

(teachers and paraprofessionals)

- Elementary **9.79**
- Middle **11.69**
- High **13.54**

Student Demographics

- 56.8%** Black or African American
- 21.1%** Hispanic or Latino
- 14.7%** White
- 5.6%** Two or more races
- 1.2%** Asian
- Less than 1%** American Indian or Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander



Financial Statement

Expenditures FY 2023

Instruction	\$205,289,314.87	65.9%
School Administration	\$21,753,242.84	7.0%
Maintenance and Operations	\$25,272,922.85	8.1%
Student Transportation	\$15,285,720.23	4.9%
General Administration	\$14,530,365.03	4.7%
Pupil Services	\$11,346,170.56	3.6%
Staff Services	\$18,195,038.23	5.8%
Total	\$311,672,774.61	

Revenues: 2020-2021 2021-2022 2022-2023

State	\$160,300,882	\$168,621,226	\$164,173,166.18
Local	\$102,746,549	\$110,323,765	\$123,995,958.43
Federal	\$32,827,355	\$51,576,419	\$44,574,431.41
Total	\$295,874,786	\$330,521,411	\$332,743,556.02

Operating Fund Resources FY 2023

State Sources	49.34%
Local Sources	37.26%
Federal Sources	13.40%

ESPLOST Enhancements, Capital Projects

- ✓ Paid bond debt
 - ✓ Construction of AHS Performing Arts Center complete
 - ✓ Construction of DCSS Legacy Arena near completion
 - ✓ Replaced/updated HVAC systems at several schools
 - ✓ Upgrade/replacement of district security surveillance system in process
 - ✓ Roof replacement at CHHS
 - ✓ Purchased 18 new school buses
- New construction projects in the planning phase:
- ➔ CHHS Academic and ROTC Village
 - ➔ LSHS Replacement



Theatre Interior
Alexander High School
Performing Arts Center

Academic Rigor

Advanced Placement (AP)

The College Board offers specific AP courses students may elect to take during high school. These courses are more rigorous than regular high school courses and prepare students for college academics. At the end of the school year, students may choose to participate in the AP exam. Scores range from 1 to 5, with a 3 or above being accepted for college credit at most colleges.

The following numbers reflect the percentage of total AP exams taken with resulting scores of 3, 4, or 5

	DCSS	State	Global	
2023	40.77%	*	*	
2022	43.4%	*	*	
2021	47%	58%	54%	* Data unavailable

International Baccalaureate (IB)

The IB program was established in 2007 at Douglas County High School as a magnet program. The IB Diploma is recognized by the world's leading universities. Below are the percentages of IB students who earned the full IB Diploma.

IB Diploma Graduates

	DCSS	Global
2023	78.8%	80%
2022	82%	86%
2021	87%	89%

Dual Enrollment

Through Dual Enrollment, qualifying students in grades 9-12 may enroll, part-time or full-time, to take college courses. High school and college credit may be earned simultaneously. Dual Enrollment students may graduate from high school with a significant number of college credits or with an associate degree from a college, university, or technical college. Students who take technical college classes may graduate from high school with a certificate or diploma in a particular area.

The following numbers reflect students who completed Dual Enrollment classes earning credit during the 2022-2023 school year.

Chattahoochee Tech	1
Devry University	1
Georgia Highlands College	9
Georgia Military College	1
Georgia State University	1
Kennesaw State	6
Southern Crescent Technical	1
Toccoa Falls College	1
University of West Georgia	88
West Georgia Tech	429
TOTAL	538

College and Career Ready

American College Testing (ACT)

The ACT is a national college admissions examination that consists of curriculum based subject area tests in the following areas: Mathematics, English, Reading, Science, and an optional writing portion. ACT results are accepted by all 4-year colleges and universities in the United States. The ACT is an achievement test and is scored on a 0 to 36 scale.



	English		Mathematics	
	State	DCSS	State	DCSS
2023	20.7	18.3	20.6	18.1
2022	21.0	18.2	20.8	17.8
2021	22.1	18.9	21.9	19.1

ACT Scores

	Reading		Science		Composite	
	State	DCSS	State	DCSS	State	DCSS
2023	22.2	20.0	21.2	19.3	21.3	19.1
2022	22.5	20.1	21.5	19.1	21.6	19.0
2021	23.4	20.8	22.4	20.1	22.6	19.8

Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)

The SAT is a globally recognized college admissions test designed to assess academic readiness for college through student reasoning based on knowledge and skills. The maximum score is 800 for each section for a total possible score of 1600.

SAT Scores

	Evidence-Based Reading & Writing		Mathematics		Total	
	State	DCSS	State	DCSS	State	DCSS
2023	534	512	511	472	1045	984
2022	536	518	516	484	1052	1001
2021	546	533	531	503	1077	1036

Graduation Rate

The DCSS Class of 2023 four-year high school graduation rate of 88.7% once again surpassed Georgia's rate of 84.1%, as well as the rates of many surrounding school districts. Graduation rate is defined as the percentage of students who graduate with a regular diploma in the standard number of years.

	State	DCSS
2023	84.4	88.6
2022	84.1	88.7
2021	83.7	87.7



MISSION

We will SERVE our community with excellence by...

- Helping our students reach their potential as we prepare them for college and career in a safe and supportive environment
- Recruiting, cultivating and retaining the best teachers, staff and administrators
- Providing a challenging curriculum and relevant learning opportunities
- Providing the highest quality instructional resources and tools
- Fostering a culture of continuous improvement

VISION

Our VISION is to build a community of lifelong learners who become responsible individuals, independent thinkers and productive citizens in a global society.



BELIEFS

We BELIEVE that we must...

- Understand how children and adults learn and continue learning
- Build communities of lifelong learners
- Cultivate the leadership potential of every employee, student and parent in our school system
- Be creative, energetic visionaries who respond quickly to diverse and evolving issues
- Meet the diverse needs of all stakeholders (students, parents, employees and community)
- Maintain efficient and effective administrative processes for instruction, operations, human resources and sound fiscal management

This Annual Report celebrates the educational progress of the Douglas County School System in the 2022-23 academic year. Once again, our Board of Education has demonstrated its commitment to K12 education by providing first-class educational opportunities for each student.

Throughout the 2022-2023 school year, the Douglas County School System furthered its mission of fostering a community of lifelong learners. Our students have met and exceeded expectations by becoming responsible individuals, independent thinkers, and productive citizens who contribute positively to society.

To do so, the Douglas County School System developed and implemented a comprehensive, stakeholder-driven strategic improvement plan. This plan focuses on our four Strategic Priorities: Teaching and Learning, Stakeholder Engagement, Culture and Climate, and Resources. Together, these priorities have guided our school system in shaping a world-class educational environment.

Because of our continuous improvement efforts, many students are continuing their academic growth. We are proud to share the exceptional news that our district's graduation rate has not only continued its upward trend, but has also exceeded the state average. This remarkable achievement is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our students, parents, teachers, support staff, administrators, and schools, all of whom contribute each day toward the success of every student.

As we move forward this year, the Douglas County School System reiterates its dedication to elevating student success and improving student achievement. Our mission and vision remain centered on empowering every student to reach their full potential and positively impact their communities and the world.

We invite you to join us in celebrating our successes. We look forward to another year of remarkable achievements and unwavering commitment to educational excellence.

Elementary Schools

Annette Winn Elementary School
Arbor Station Elementary School
Beulah Elementary School
Bill Arp Elementary School
Bright Star Elementary School
Burnett Elementary School
Chapel Hill Elementary School
Dorsett Shoals Elementary School
Eastside Elementary School
Factory Shoals Elementary School
Holly Springs Elementary School
Lithia Springs Elementary School
Mason Creek Elementary School
Mirror Lake Elementary School
Mt. Carmel Elementary School
New Manchester Elementary School
North Douglas Elementary School
South Douglas Elementary School
Sweetwater Elementary School
Winston Elementary School

Middle Schools

Chapel Hill Middle School
Chestnut Log Middle School
Factory Shoals Middle School
Fairplay Middle School
Mason Creek Middle School
Stewart Middle School
Turner Middle School
Yeager Middle School

High Schools

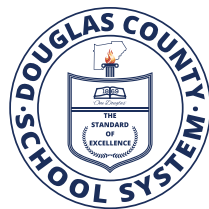
Alexander High School
Liberal Arts College Preparatory Magnet
Chapel Hill High School
Speech & Debate Magnet
Douglas County High School
International Baccalaureate (IB) Magnet
Lithia Springs High School
STEM Academy Magnet
New Manchester High School
Fine Arts Magnet

Charter School

Brighten Academy

Non-traditional Schools & Programs

Academy at CCI
College and Career Institute (CCI)
Success Center
FLEX Academy



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