

Hawkins County Schools Community Connection

November
2009

Annual State Report Card on Education

The Tennessee Department of Education last week released the annual comprehensive report card on pre-K – 12 education, including state, district and school-level information on achievement, demographics, and discipline. This year's report card demonstrates fundamental changes to the calculations of Value Added and Achievement scores. The method of calculating scores and the scale used to determine letter grades have been revised to allow for a transition to the new standards and assessments required by the [Tennessee Diploma Project](#).

Two major changes have been implemented for calculation of scores on the Report Card. First, the baseline year for comparing student achievement has been reset using 2009 test scores. Second, a new grade scale will be used. The scale used to determine all grades A through F has been dramatically revised, meaning scores considered to be an "A" in years past may now be a "B" or "C".

Like most systems across the state, Hawkins County Schools has seen a decline in test scores as a result of the changes. Hawkins County Schools showed five years of steadily increasing state test score, with last year being all A's and B's. This year, Hawkins County received straight C's in academic achievement.

The [2008-09 Report Card](#) will be used as a benchmark from which the school system can plan improvements and set goals.

Business Leaders Forum

On November 19, 2009, the Hawkins County School System invited business leaders and elected officials to a Business Leaders Forum. The main objective was to gather input regarding the strengths and weaknesses of our recent graduates as we engage in developing our new five year plan.

Hawkins County Schools understands the expectations set forth by the State Department of Education. Those expectations are clearly defined and assessed on an annual basis.



The mission for the Hawkins County School System, in partnership with all stakeholders, is to Educate and Graduate Each Student.

Hawkins County Schools Grades K-8				
2008-09	Achievement	Grade	Value Added	Grade
Reading Language Arts	48	C	-0.3	C
Math	48	C	-0.2	C
Science	48	C	-0.5	C
Social Studies	47	C	-0.8	D

Hawkins County Schools Grades 9-12			Writing Scores		
2008-09	% Proficient and Advanced	Grade			
English II	94	C	5th Grade	4.0	A
Algebra I	96	C	8th Grade	4.0	A
			11th Grade	4.0	A

ACT Composite	20
Graduation %	87.5
Cohort Dropout %	6.3

Attendance Rate	
K-8	94.6%
9-12	93.6%

defined and assessed on an annual basis. Expectations more elusive, yet central to the mission of Hawkins County Schools, are those held by area businesses about the quality of education received by recent graduates.

Hawkins County Schools wants to know what businesses feel about the job they are doing educating the future workforce. Specifically, what areas of strength do they see in recent graduates, which areas need to be addressed, and how can Hawkins County Schools strengthen partnerships with area businesses.

Director of Schools, Mrs. Charlotte Britton stated, "Our goal is much more than just our mission, to educate and graduate, because we want to prepare all of our students for the future workforce and we want to prepare students so that they can be competitive nationally and internationally."

Progress of the school system over the past five years was presented by Mr. Steve Starnes, Supervisor of Attendance. Objectives and action items addressed in the 2004-2009 five-year plan were presented, as well as the recalculated report card for 2009-10.

The forum was moderated by Mr. Oliver S. (Buzz) Thomas, Executive Director of the [Niswonger Foundation](#). He told the group, "Schools in the 21st Century drive the economic train. The number one thing that brings a company here is a high quality workforce. One of the things Scott Niswonger and I try to do is remind our business leaders that our future and the future of the school system is inextricably tied together."

From the forum, Hawkins County Schools has learned that communication skills are crucial to success in the workforce. While written skills may be strong, some employers have seen weaker verbal communication and face-to-face "people" skills.

For a complete summary of the survey and forum comments, [click here](#).

Family Involvement Week in Tennessee

Hawkins County Schools joins the Tennessee Department of Education in celebrating Family Involvement Week in Tennessee. We realize the importance of families in the success of our students. Together we can achieve our mission, to educate and graduate each student.



STATE OF TENNESSEE

PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, parents are a child's first teacher; and

WHEREAS, parental involvement has been shown to have a significant positive impact on a child's performance in school; and

WHEREAS, strong relationships between home and school support a child's academic and social success; and

WHEREAS, parental involvement shows a child their parent cares about their education; and

WHEREAS, schools benefit from the parents who give of their time and talents to help provide a quality education;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Phil Brodeson, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim November 19, 2009 as

PARENT INVOLVEMENT DAY

in Tennessee, and encourage all parents to get involved in their child's school, in hopes of ensuring all students reap the rewards of a strong network of supportive adults and a quality education.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this 28th day of October, 2009.


Governor


Secretary of State



Mr. Thomas is a steering committee member for [The Tennessee State Collaborative on Reforming Education \(SCORE\)](#), an initiative to jumpstart long-term educational change in Tennessee to ensure that every child graduates high school prepared for college or a career. He also serves as the Co-Chairman for [The Public School Forum of East Tennessee](#).

To remove your name from our mailing list or if you have questions, please e-mail us at communityconnection@hck12.net or call 423-272-7629 ext. 156.