

Hawkins County Schools Community Connection

September
2010

Changing Expectations

Tennessee is changing what it requires from students and teachers in the classroom. Standards have been changed to include more rigorous course material.

In 2007, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce gave Tennessee an 'F' for lack of high standards and assessments in the classroom. The following year, officials with the State Department of Education — led by Governor Bredesen, the General Assembly and the State Board of Education — responded by launching the **Tennessee Diploma Project** to work with local school systems to raise academic standards and implement more rigorous coursework.

Nationally, higher standards are viewed as critical in preparing high school students for graduation and then a career or college. Thirty-five years ago, just 28 percent of U.S. jobs required training or education after high school. Today, 80 percent of jobs require some form of training beyond high school.

By stressing higher academic standards, Tennessee students will be ready for a career or college. This means mastering the basics like reading and math, and developing skills that colleges and employers value, like communication, problem



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

Attendance Accolades

The Hawkins County School System recognizes attendance as a critical factor in student success, setting patterns that lead into adulthood. The district sets a system goal

solving and teamwork.

Recently, Governor Bredesen made a tour of the State and noted his purpose for the tour was to "get people prepared" for the release of test scores this fall. The Tennessee Department of Education has been warning parents, students, and educators that because of the change in the rigor of the curriculum, as well as the change in cut scores, Tennessee students' scores will decline.

Although the scores from the Spring 2010 TCAP test for grades three through eight have not been released to the public, Hawkins County was notified regarding the System's ACT scores. For Tennessee, the 2010 graduating class was the first group of students required to take the ACT test and therefore a drop in the overall state average was anticipated. The state average held steady at around 20.7 from 2006-2009, but dropped to 19.6 in 2010. The scores for Hawkins County students followed that same trend, dropping approximately one point from the previous year. Hawkins County tested 344 students in 2009 and 472 students in 2010. The ACT composite for Hawkins County students was 18.6. The scores for the subject areas were English 18.1, Math 18.1, Reading 19.1, and Science 18.6.

ACT is an area of focus for improvement in the Hawkins County School System. Teachers worked this summer to more closely align pacing guides in all subject areas to state and ACT standards. Director of Schools, Charlotte Britton has emphasized to her staff that both graduation rates and ACT scores are a K-12 focus, not simply a high school issue. Additionally, the system is working to inform parents of the changes to expect in the curriculum and how those changes will impact grades and test scores. Students are receiving counseling regarding job requirements and expectations to better prepare them for the workforce. The Hawkins County School District has worked to create a close relationship with area businesses in order understand their needs for creating and filling future jobs in our community. These initiatives will drive our instruction as we seek to continually improve the overall educational experience of Hawkins County students and prepare them to be successful candidates for future jobs or entrance into college.

HAWKINS COUNTY OPENS NEW SCHOOLS IN PHASE III

August 2010 celebrates the opening of two new schools for Hawkins County. Clinch School has moved to its new building for K-12 students . Church Hill Intermediate is a new construction with a new student body, grades 5-6, creating a transition between Church Hill Elementary, Carter's Valley

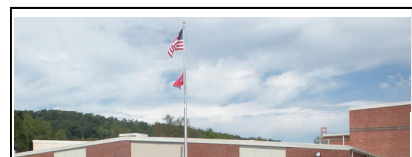
for attendance at 94%, above the NCLB goal of 93%. Our K-8 goal is 95%, compared to the 93% NCLB goal. The high school goal is 93%.

Hawkins County School System is proud to say we have met the system goal for the 2009-2010 school year, making it the sixth consecutive year. All schools met the NCLB attendance goal, and five met or exceeded the higher goal set by Hawkins County Schools.

Special recognition goes to:

- Volunteer High (94.40%) for meeting the goal for eight consecutive years.
- Cherokee High (93.54%) for meeting the goal for four consecutive years.
- Mt. Carmel Elementary (95.43%) for meeting the goal for seven consecutive years.
- McPheeter's Bend Elementary (95.30%) for meeting the goal for six consecutive years.
- Surgoinville Elementary (95.05%) for meeting the goal for the first time.

We continue to stress the importance of good attendance to students and parents through prevention and intervention for those at risk.



Elementary, McPheeter's Bend, Mt. Carmel Elementary and Church Hill Middle Schools.

These new schools are opening in the tenth year of three phases of Hawkins County building projects, impacting each district in the county.

Phase I included the Carter's Valley addition, new construction of Joseph Rogers Primary and Hawkins Elementary School classrooms.

Phase II renovations included new classrooms for St. Clair Elementary, Surgoinsville Elementary, Mooresburg Elementary, Church Hill Middle and Mt. Carmel Elementary Schools.

Phase III, now completed, has opened the Freshman Academy classrooms in Cherokee High School and Volunteer High School, new construction of Bulls Gap School, Clinch School and Church Hill Intermediate School.

Clinch School features an arts complex with music and art classrooms, self-contained early elementary classrooms and two separate grade-level science labs.

Church Hill Intermediate is unique with the geo-thermal heated and cooled building, science lab that accommodates classroom and lab activities, generous 5th and 6th grade classroom size and a new library.

Church Hill Intermediate held its official ribbon-cutting ceremony on Thursday, August 5.

