

ABCs results released by state

The release of the 2010 ABCs of Education results by the NC Department of Public Instruction once again confirms that Carteret County schools are providing high quality instruction to the students of the county. The results were released August 5, 2010.

That is the reaction of Carteret County Public School Superintendent Dr. Dan Novey.

Although the proficiency rates on the end-of-grade assessments in grades 3 through 8 held steady year-to-year, the proficiency rates for high schools students taking end-of-course assessments showed significant increases in a number of subject areas.

“Reflecting the quality of the instruction provided in county schools is the fact that all of our school system’s 16 schools met their Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) objectives in every sub-group in both Reading and Math,” Dr. Novey said. “The Carteret County Public School System is one of only seven school systems of the state’s 115 systems with all schools meeting AYP objectives.

“This was the first year since the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 was implemented that all schools in the county met AYP in the same year. These results are a direct result of the hard work, dedication and focus of our staff members, our students, our parents and our supportive community.”

Additionally, Dr. Novey noted that all 16 schools (100%) met or exceeded their Expected Growth objectives with 14 of the schools (87.5%) also achieving the state-established High Growth levels. As a comparison, only 86.4% of the schools statewide made Expected Growth and only 51.5% achieved High Growth.

Harkers Island Elementary, Broad Creek Middle, Croatan High, and West Carteret High lead the 2010 recognition list in Carteret County. Designated as Honor Schools of Excellence, all four schools achieved the highest recognition given by North Carolina for 2010 based on their exceptional cumulative proficiency rates (called the “Performance Composite” in the ABCs program).

To earn designation as Honor Schools of Excellence, schools in North Carolina must have a Performance Composite proficiency rate in excess of 90%, must meet their Expected Growth goals, and achieve Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) standards in all measured categories.

In addition to the four Honor Schools of Excellence, ten other county schools received recognition as Schools of Distinction for achieving Performance Composite proficiency rates between 80% and 89%. Only two as schools earned status as Schools of Progress for Performance Composite proficiency rates between 70% and 79%.

Definitions of each category are as follows:

- Honor Schools of Excellence must make at least expected growth; have at least 90 percent of their students’ scores at or above Achievement Level III and make AYP in all measured categories.
- Schools of Distinction must make at least expected growth and have between 80 and 89 percent of students’ scores at or above Achievement Level III.
- Schools of Progress must make at least expected growth and have between 60 and 79 percent of their students’ scores at or above Achievement Level III.

- Priority Schools have less than 60% of their students' scores at or above Achievement Level III.

In the county, Reading proficiency rates for the end-of-grade tests in grades 3-8 climbed by a modest 2.9 points from 79.2 percent proficient in 2009, to 82.1 in 2010.

Math proficiency across the county held essentially steady at 89.2 percent proficient, compared to 89.4 percent in 2009.

At the high schools, proficiency rates increased in all eight tested subjects with U.S. History increasing 16.6 points over 2009 scores from 73.0 to 89.6 percent proficient.

2010 Graduation Rates Improve

The NC Department of Public Instruction's report of the cohort graduation rate for Carteret County high schools shows continuing improvement with 84.1 percent of the students who started high school in 2006-07 graduating this past June. The 84.1% cohort graduation rate represents a 5 percent increase for the county since the cohort rate was first reported in 2007. The statewide 4-year cohort graduation rate for 2010 was 74.2 percent and the state's graduation since 2007 has increased by 4.7 percent.

NOTES: Comparisons between the ABCs results for 2009 and 2010 with previous years are problematic because of the changes made the computations used to determine school status each year. For example, in 2008, the end-of-Grade Reading assessment was new and student scores were not available for inclusion. Therefore, the 2008 ABCs computations for schools with grades 3 through 8 only considered the results of the End-of-Grade Math tests. For 2009 and 2010, both the Math and Reading assessment results are used and the End-of-Grade Science assessment results for grade 5 and 7 are also included in the ABCs computations.

Adding to the difficulty in making year-to-year comparisons, the State Board of Education directed that beginning in 2009 all students in grades 3 through 8 who did not achieve at least a proficiency Level III on their end-of-grade Reading, Math, or Science assessments would be required to retake the assessment. For those students, the higher of the two scores is then used in the year-end ABCs and AYP computations for each subject and the performance composite. In previous years, retest scores were not included in the analysis. Accordingly, a direct comparison of the performance composite figures for 2008 or years prior and either 2009 or 2010 could yield an incorrect conclusion.