

# Whitfield County Schools

## Accountability Report • Summer 2014

Louis Fordham, School Board Chairman

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

Dr. Judy Gilreath, Superintendent

## College and Career Ready Index (CCRPI)

The state's year-to-year comparisons of educational benchmarks report Whitfield County Schools as a district improved by nearly 7 percent.

Individual reports measuring school and district performance released in April by the Georgia Department of Education show 17 of 22 Whitfield County Schools

improved from 2012 to 2013. Some schools improved by more than 25 percent.

The scores, known as the 2013 College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI), compare student performance from year to year. The majority of the CCRPI is based on three categories: Achievement,

Progress, and Achievement Gap. Each category is worth a certain number of points that, when added together, total 100 points.

Some details about the results are included on page 2 of this report. Full results are available at the Georgia Department of Education website at [gadoe.org](http://gadoe.org).

## MAP: Students Moving in Right Direction

Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) provides a Student Growth Summary Report highlighting grade-level performances across the district and comparing student performance across the nation.

The column charts to the right show the calculated percentage of the district's targeted growth performance for each grade. The targets are based on a clear standard of growth targets across the nation.

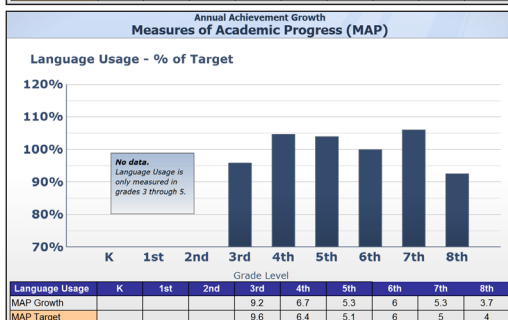
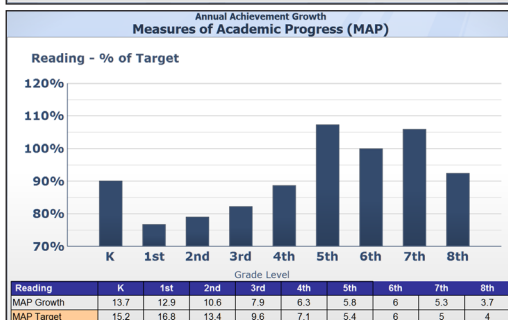
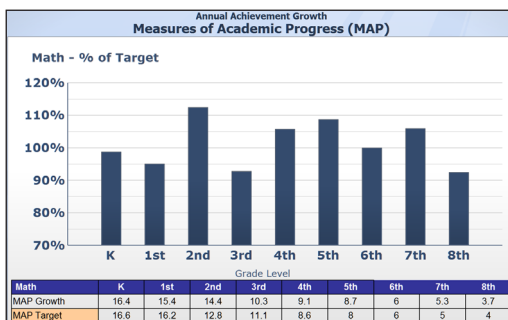
- 100% is on target
- Less than 100% is below the target
- Greater than 100% exceeds the target

MAP growth targets are based on 32 weeks of instruction between the Fall and Spring testing sessions. WCS students had roughly 26 weeks of instruction this year, causing growth scores to appear low. For your child's actual growth, please email [pam\\_pettyjohn@whitfield.k12.ga.us](mailto:pam_pettyjohn@whitfield.k12.ga.us).

### Free Summer Meals!

Learn about free meals on weekdays from June 2–July 31 for children 18 & younger.

<http://goo.gl/g5b8Gh>



## In this report...

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- Governor's Honors
- Georgia Scholars
- School Nutrition
- Career Pathway Completers
- Foundation Support
- ESOL Participation
- Meal Participation
- Project SEARCH
- Social Media Insights

## District Info

Whitfield County Schools  
[www.whitfield.k12.ga.us](http://www.whitfield.k12.ga.us)

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1306 South Thornton Avenue  
Dalton, GA 30721  
(706) 217-6780

Our building is open to the public from 7 a.m. until 5 p.m.



# Measuring Student Achievement

## Georgia Department of Education Releases Latest Index of Student Achievement Information

The College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) released in April compares the 2012–2013 school year to the previous 2011–2012 school year, a period lasting from August 2011 to May 2013. No information or data from the current school year is included in these latest reports.

The district's overall score, which increased 10 percent from 66.7 to 73.4 points, is based on 100 possible points in three categories:

- **Achievement** (60 points), test scores
- **Progress** (25 points), year-to-year performance
- **Achievement Gap** (15 points), gap between lowest performing students and state benchmark

Achievement and Progress are the easiest to understand. Achievement points are earned based on content mastery, getting students ready for life after graduation, and the high school graduation rate. Progress points accumulate based on student performance from one year to the next.

Achievement Gap is a little more complicated. Without getting too deep into the math of statistics, the Achievement Gap measures the difference in achievement between the lowest performing Whitfield County students and a statewide benchmark. The smaller the gap, the more points a school or district earns.

### Challenge Points

Up to 10 additional Challenge Points available to schools and districts—a sort of extra credit—are divided into two categories:

- Economically-Disadvantaged/English Learner/Students with Disabilities (referred to together as ED/EL/SWD)
- Exceeding the Bar (ETB)

Schools and districts earn points based on the performance of the three subgroups in the first category.

Exceeding the Bar is still a new idea in Georgia based on extraordinary performance such as a high number of students earning credit in advanced courses like physics.

### Changes since last year

#### New Weights for Achievement & Progress

- Credit for Achievement has decreased to 60 points (from 70 points last year)
- Credit for Progress has increased to 25 points (from 15 points last year)

#### Graduation Rate: cohorts & weights

- *New Calculation*
  - 4-year cohort graduation rate weighted at 2/3
  - 5-year cohort graduation rate weighted at 1/3
- *Old Calculation*
  - 4- and 5-year cohort graduation rates received the same weight

#### Major Indicator Changes Impact Scores

- 5th grade students passing 5 core courses (now including reading) must also pass all CRCTs. The former CCRPI required passing only 4 core courses and did not require passing CRCT scores for credit.
- 8th grade students passing 4 core courses must also pass all CRCTs and required EOCTs. The former CCRPI did not require passing scores on the CRCTs and EOCTs.
- 9th grade Students with Disabilities earning 3 credits in core courses now must pass the required EOCT. The former CCRPI did not require passing EOCT scores.
- 9th grade students earning 4 credits in core courses now must pass the required EOCTs. The former CCRPI did not require passing EOCT scores.

### CCRPI results show increases in student achievement from 2012 to 2013.

Whitfield County Schools	Achievement (60 pts possible)		Progress (25 pts possible)		Achievement Gap (15 pts possible)		Performance Points		Exceeding the Bar		Total Challenge Pts (10 pts possible)		CCRPI Score (110 pts possible)	
	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013
All Elementary	42	46.3	14.6	16.4	4	8	4.6	3.5	0	0	4.6	3.5	65.2	74.2
All Middle	44.6	45	15.2	16	8	7	1.9	2	0	0	1.9	2	69.7	70
All High	39	40.2	15.8	17	6.3	11.3	4.2	4	0	0	4.2	4	65.3	72.5

## A Million Miles a Year! ESOL Participation



Whitfield County school buses drive approximately 1,000,000 miles a year to carry more than 9,000 students to and from school every day.

Transportation staff manage and maintain a fleet of 169 buses running 120 routes a day on multiple tiers across the county's 291 square miles.

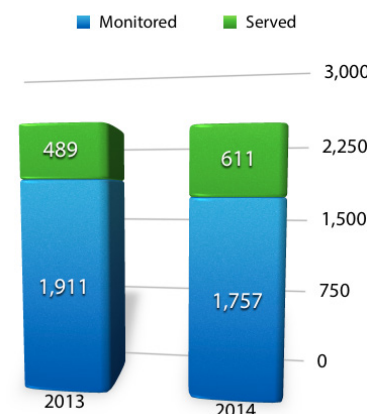
Three activity drivers also work full time to safely carry students to athletic events and field trips.

English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) is a state-funded instructional program for eligible English Learners (ELs) in grades K-12.

Title III is a federally-funded program that provides eligible Local Education Agencies with supplemental funding for existing ESOL services.

Both ESOL and Title III hold students accountable for progress in, and attainment of, English language proficiency. Upon attainment of English language proficiency, students exit from supplemental language services.

### Participating ESOL Students

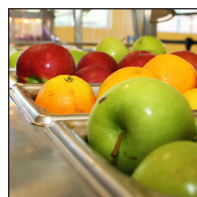


SOURCE: GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

## Feeding Students, Feeding Minds

Most of the meals prepared by Whitfield County Schools nutrition staff are for students during the school year, though with the USDA Summer Food Service Program<sup>1</sup> keeps them busy year-round.

Reports show an average of 86.1 percent of students eat lunch in one of the school district's cafeterias, which exceeds the state average of 70.5 percent.

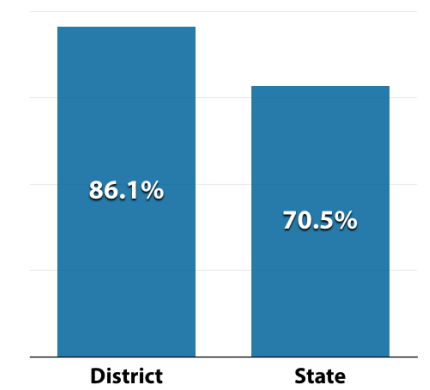


The culinary professionals across the school district manage incredibly efficient kitchens, cranking out more than 180,000 meals a month at approximately \$2.77 a plate, again beating the state average of \$2.96 a plate for a mind-blowing 162,130,640 meals a year.

The \$0.19 savings over the state average meal cost saved the district nearly \$275,000 this year!

1. [www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/summer-food-service-program-sfsp](http://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/summer-food-service-program-sfsp)

### Average Meal Participation Rate



## State Honors

### Georgia Scholars

James Zhong, NHS

Michaela Yip, NHS

### Governor's Honors

Megan Parker, NHS (Ag. Science/Environmental)

Tyler Linder—Chemistry, NHS

Shelbi Bryant—Communicative Arts, SHS

Bryan Gage Moss—Mathematics, SHS

Natalie Wright—Mathematics, NHS

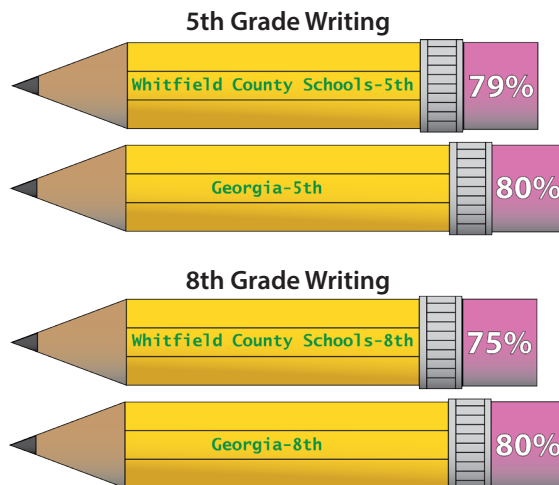
## Writing Tests

Georgia's performance-based writing assessments evaluate student writing samples on an analytic scoring system to provide diagnostic feedback to teachers, students, and parents about individual performance.

The writing assessments provide information to students about their writing performance and areas of strength and challenge. This information is useful for instruction and preparation for future writing assessments.

The Georgia Grade 5 Writing Assessment is a test of narrative, informational and persuasive writing. In eighth grade, the test measures students expository or persuasive writing skills. Students will be given a writing topic in one of those grade-specific areas. Students may receive any one of the writing topics requiring them to be prepared to write in any of the possible genres.

## Good Scores Behind State in 5 and 8



## Number of Students Completing Career Pathways in 2014

3 – Accounting	13 – Fashion Marketing
3 – Marketing Management	15 – Broadcast Video Production
7 – Medical Services	15 – Cosmetology
7 – Sports & Entertainment Marketing	15 – Web Design
11 – Agricultural Science	19 – Law & Justice
11 – Transportation Logistical Support	20 – Early Childhood Education
12 – Culinary Arts	31 – Family & Consumer Science

## From the Superintendent

*This year we began publishing our Accountability Report in an effort to provide our parents, community, and staff a convenient and concise summary of the many good things that are taking place in Whitfield County Schools. This is the third and last issue for this school year.*

*As we thought about the information that you, our stakeholders, would like to have, we tried to focus on the highlights of our year, as well as give information on areas in which we may need to improve. We have included quantitative and qualitative data in the hope that you get a well-rounded view of our system. As always, we welcome your comments and suggestions for making this, your report, informative, and useful.*



Dr. Judy Gilreath



# Social Media



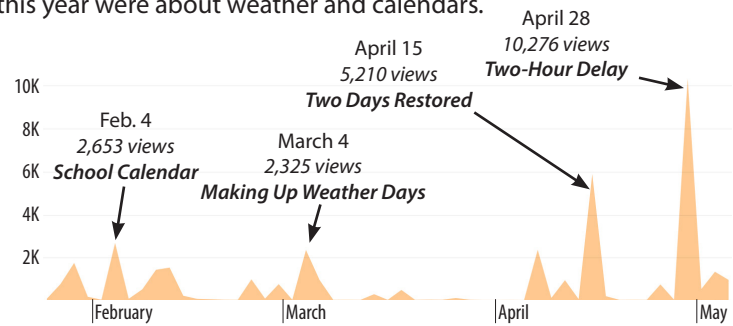
2,600 follow  
@WCSchools on Twitter



6,500 like  
facebook.com/WCSchools

## Weather and Calendars are Popular!

Top stories during largest traffic spikes on Facebook this year were about weather and calendars.

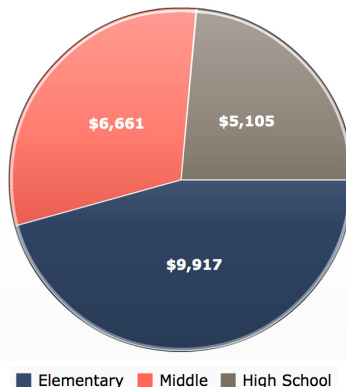


## Boosting Support for Classroom Instruction



Chattanooga celebrity David Carroll of WRCB-TV 3 presents the top trophy to top speller Lori McDaniel, vice president of marketing and public relations for Dalton Utilities, center, with support from foundation executive director Mary Ellen Kinsey at right. Carroll emceed the Whitfield Education Foundation's first Celebrity Spelling Bee.

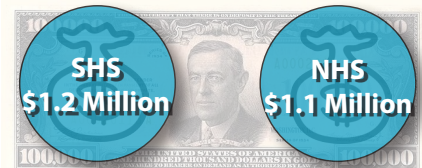
The Whitfield Education Foundation's latest innovation was the addition of the Celebrity Spelling Bee, a fundraiser supporting the foundation's Innovative Teaching Grants. During the 2013–2014 school year, the foundation funded 15 projects totaling \$21,683. Learn more about the foundation at the district website!



## Student Scholarships



Nearly  
**\$3 Million**  
Districtwide!



Whitfield County students report that:

- 25.3% plan to pursue a Science, Technology, Engineering, or Math (STEM) career
- 51.6% will be the first in their family to attend college
- 93.8% plan to attend a four-year institution

SOURCE: MY COLLEGE OPTIONS

## Tradition of Success Continues for Students in Project SEARCH

Project SEARCH is a one year, high school transition program which provides training and education leading to employment for individuals with disabilities. Whitfield County Schools in conjunction with Dalton Public Schools, Hamilton Medical Center, Cross Plains Community Partner and vocational Rehabilitation sponsors the program. Each student applies to the program and is accepted through a selection committee process. The cornerstone of Project SEARCH is total immersion in a large business.



For five days a week, students report to the business. Students get continual feedback from the internship manager, coworkers and Project SEARCH staff.

- Students working 6 hours a day clocked approximately 900 hours per student this year
- Each student works three rotations, so the six totaled 18 work rotations in seven departments
- Four students from Whitfield County Schools and 2 from Dalton Public Schools
- Two students have already been placed in jobs
- Students received more than 300 hours of instruction on job skills, resumes, interviewing skills, communication skills, and more.