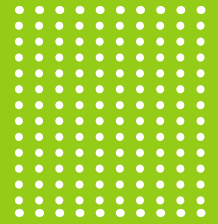


Portraits of Achievement

2023-2024 School Year



Escambia County
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

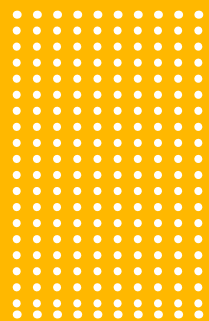


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Cover Photo: Mason Shiueh is the Kingsfield Elementary School fifth-grader who won the 48th Annual Sandy Sansing Spelling Bee and earned fifth place at the regionals for the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

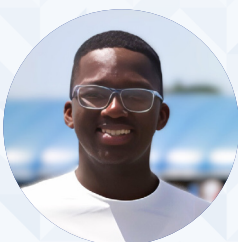


Photo Credit: The cover photo and all the full-page, environmental portraits were captured by a talented student photographer—Kendrick Sanders. Kendrick was a senior at West Florida High School, enrolled in the Multimedia Academy and involved in the ACE, or Advanced Career Experience program, where he utilized his talents in the workforce.

School Board Members

Kevin Adams

DISTRICT 1

Paul H. Fetsko

DISTRICT 2

David Williams

DISTRICT 3

Patty Hightower

DISTRICT 4

Bill Slayton

DISTRICT 5

ECPS Leadership

Keith Leonard

SUPERINTENDENT

Shenna Payne

DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT

Denny Wilson

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT – CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

Terry St. Cyr

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT – FINANCE AND BUSINESS SERVICES

Kelly Krostag

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT – HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES

Shawn Dennis

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT – OPERATIONS

Message from the Superintendent

The 2023-24 school year was filled with incredible achievements and new beginnings! As the superintendent for the Escambia County School District, we have a clear vision and a steadfast commitment to our mission: We are united for every student to succeed.

Our school district is focused on uniting students, employees, and the community to drive measurable improvement in three key areas: behavior, attendance, and stability.

Our primary commitment is, and always will be, to our students, and we know that a positive classroom environment is necessary for them to learn and grow. For this reason, we introduced teaching and hardwiring classroom strategies and procedures aimed at improving behavior. We are using every tool at our disposal because we know when students are engaged, when they feel like they're part of the lesson, behaviors improve and, more importantly, they learn and grow.

We also emphasized the importance of attendance. By ensuring that our students are present at school and that instruction is effective, we can give our students the best possible opportunity of success.

In addition, we focused on ensuring the stability of our student body by improving student recruitment, retention, and morale. To do this, we worked hard to create safe environments where students are fully engaged in the learning process.

While students are our top priority, our employees are the backbone of our district. Their dedication and commitment to our students is unparalleled, and we are committed to supporting them in return. This year, we ensured our workforce remained stable by attracting the best talent to our district, keeping them here, and making certain all of our employees feel valued and appreciated.

We believe everyone, not just school district employees, can contribute to the success and wellbeing of our students. We reached out to our friends and neighbors in the community to inspire one another to care about our public school system, to encourage our students in their academic journey, and to show up and participate in our school activities whenever possible.

As we look ahead, we're optimistic about the future of this district. We are committed to moving learning to the next level and ready to face any new challenges that come our way. We're all in this together — students, employees, and community — and, with your help, we can make Escambia County Public Schools a place where every student succeeds in school and in life.



A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Keith Leonard". The signature is stylized with a large, looping "L" and a cursive "D".

Mr. Keith Leonard
Superintendent

Core Comments to Our Core

FOR OUR STUDENTS, THIS IS WHAT WE STRIVE TO ACHIEVE IN
EVERY WAY, EVERY DAY.

Purpose

To inspire, empower, and graduate students
ready to contribute to society as productive,
responsible citizens.

Vision

United for Every Student to Succeed

Mission

ECPS provides equal access to quality public
education that embraces the uniqueness and
potential of each student.

Values

IMPACT

CAN-DO ATTITUDE

INTEGRITY

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

EXCELLENCE

RESPECT

INCLUSION



Clayton Nolen

Pensacola High School
Senior earned the highest
possible ACT composite
score of 36.

Portraits of Achievements: **Students**

OUR STUDENTS CONTINUE TO RAISE THE BAR AND REDEFINE SUCCESS.

We believe our work positively impacts those we serve. For all of the amazing teachers, staff, and mentors, it is why we do what we do. Whether we are in a classroom or lab, on a ballfield or bus, it is about seeing each and every student succeed in school and thrive in life. It is why showcasing the impressive achievements of our students brings smiles to our faces and joy to our hearts.

Clayton Nolen—Pensacola High School Senior earned the highest possible ACT composite score of 36.

Davis Sherman—Booker T. Washington Junior earned a 4.26 GPA, ranked 14th in his class, and scored a 1210 on the SAT.

Synoma Perea—Tate High School Senior was named the Sunshine State Scholar for Escambia County (STEM).

Adrianna Kearnbey—Middle School Student of the Year: Digital Discoveries Academy, Ferry Pass Middle School.

Carsyn Dortch—High School Career Academy Student of the Year: Culinary Arts Academy, Northview High School.

Chase Gray—High School Career Academy Scholar: Game, Simulation and Animation Academy, Tate High School.

Michael Kleback—High School Career Academy Student Intern of the Year: Agriculture Biotechnology Academy, West Florida High School.

Drake Driskell—Northview High School Senior was the winner of the EREC scholarship.

Jaquez Moorer—Northview High School Junior was the winner of the EREC 2023 Youth Tour.

Mason Shiueh—Kingsfield Elementary School fifth-grader was the winner of the 48th Annual Sandy Sansing Spelling Bee and earned fifth place at the regionals for the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

Emma Meyers—Washington High School Senior became a globally ranked para-triathlete.

Logan Robinson—Booker T. Washington Junior was selected as an All-American swimmer.

Olivia Morehouse—Tate High School Senior was selected to the Florida All State Honors Band.

Tyler Riggs—Northview High School Senior and FFA student received a \$1,100 grant to update and maintain the greenhouse at Northview High School.

Zoe Wade—Tate High School student was the winner of second place for her sculpture at the National Beta Club State Convention.

Connor Laughlin and Izek Keodouangdy—These Tate High School Seniors were winners of their respective weight classes at the 2023 USA Powerlifting Florida State Championships. Laughlin won the 165-pound (75 kilogram) weight class and Keodouangdy won the 148-pound (67.5 kilogram) weight class.

James Gruenwald, Wyatt Ramsey and Cody Pugh—These Northview High School FFA students received individual achievement honors at Florida FFA State Convention.

Forty students from eight of our middle and high schools won awards at the 69th Annual West Panhandle Regional Science and Engineering Fair.



Beulah Middle School

- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| » Henry Merritt | » Lauralai Scheper | » Christopher Taylor |
| » Elizabeth Flores | » Zachary Mitchell | » Kenley Bruck |
| » Audrey Small | » Rebekah Leibach | |

Booker T Washington High School

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| » Sophia Senarosa | » Sophie Thompson |
|-------------------|-------------------|

Brown-Barge Middle School

- | |
|-----------------|
| » Noah McIntyre |
|-----------------|

Jim C Bailey Middle School

- | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| » Kinley Lucas | » Ryu Heis | » Mason Kukulus |
| » Kade Leyran | » James Tockey | » Brantley Harvell |
| » Anastasia Leonisio | » Lilley Armour | » Jaxon McDonough |
| » Olivia Miller | » Caleb Carter | » Charles Turbiville |
| » Boston Rice | » Kayden Anderson | |
| » Lorelai Goulette | » Gian Torres | |

Pensacola High School

- | | | |
|----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| » Zella Trahan | » Alice Zhang | » Lark Keckler |
| » Aya Prince | » David Knoblock | » Ryan Schuhbauer |
| » Evana Lin | » Jack Doyle | » Roxanna Boland |

Ransom Middle School

- » Elisabeth Collins

West Florida High School

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| » Micah Frazier | » Jordan Foster |
|-----------------|-----------------|

Workman Middle School

- » Elisabeth Peters



Kylo Brumfield

Senior at West Florida High School, Critical Care and Emergency Medicine Academy student and ACE Program intern at the new Baptist Hospital.

Portraits of Achievements: Teaching & Learning

LEARNING STARTS IN THE CLASSROOM, BUT IT DOESN'T STOP THERE.

Not all students learn the same way. We are applying technology in our classrooms and advancing ways to engage the four types of learning styles: visual, auditory, reading/writing preference, and kinesthetic. The VARK (visual, auditory, read/write, and kinesthetic) model recognizes the diverse ways that students absorb and process information.

Teachers are also giving our students more opportunities to verbalize their thinking either in writing, speaking, or hands-on instruction because research shows that it helps them to learn more.

Beyond the Classroom

Parents are our biggest ally and we are always searching for ways to better team up with them. The Carol McIntosh Education Initiative is an exciting example of how we are generating more parental involvement in some struggling elementary schools in District 3.

Field trips are a great learning opportunity. For example, this year hundreds of STEM students from our elementary schools spent the day at NAS Pensacola gaining hands-on, behind-the-scenes insights into naval aviation.

Work-Based Learning

We continue to train the next generation of skilled workers. Trained and certified in their field, these students from our Academy programs are ready and prepared to fill more than 11 million open positions in our economy. Many of the positions do not require a four-year degree. Many of our graduates are working in Escambia County and contributing to communities along the Gulf Coast and across the country.

Our Advanced Career Experience or ACE program provides valuable hands-on training for the Academy students in all our schools. This year, WFHS Academy students were back training in all three local hospitals, post-pandemic. The reopening of these internship positions during the grand opening of the new Baptist campus made this opportunity even more historic for our students.

Alternative Classes

Students do not all learn the same way, nor do they take the same path. GED classes are offered at George Stone Technical College and several of our elementary schools. Classes are open enrollment and students can start anytime.

For more than two decades, we have provided educational services to juveniles behind bars who have been adjudicated as an adult. It is part of a cooperative agreement with Escambia County that allows our teachers to hold classes in the county jail.



Cassi McGee
Escambia County
Public Schools'
Teacher of the Year.

Portraits of Achievements: Teachers & Staff

STANDING IN THE FRONT OF EVERY CLASSROOM IS SOMEONE WHO INSPIRES OUR STUDENTS EVERY DAY.

Teachers are role models. Teachers are the ones that deserve press conferences—not celebrities and athletes. Teachers are the ones that impact the path of our children, our county, and our country. They are the ones inspiring the next President of the United States, tech guru, author, or nurse. For all of us, there is that teacher who impacted and influenced our lives. We recall how that person set us straight and set us on a positive path forward.

In our Escambia County Public Schools, we have great teachers and staff doing this every day and every year. We wish we could honor them all—for what they do in and out of our classrooms. We know that their students will not forget them and it is our privilege to shine a spotlight on these role models.

Teacher of the Year

Cassi McGee—Fourth-grade teacher at Pine Meadow Elementary was named Escambia County Public Schools' Teacher of the Year. McGee has been a teacher with us since 2005, when she began as a fifth grade teacher at Scenic Heights Elementary.

“Her contributions epitomize the dedication, flexibility, and innovation so necessary to prepare our students for a successful and meaningful future. She is truly an invaluable asset to her students, her school, and this community as a whole.”

— Mr. Keith Leonard

Cassi McGee's students have consistently achieved learning gains and met or surpassed state-mandated benchmarks. In 2022-2023, 90% of her students made learning gains in math, with an average rise from a level 2 to 3.

She has also been a valuable asset at Pine Meadow as the Math Committee Chair and is active in the Writing and Language Arts committees. She serves

as a coach for Pine Meadow's award-winning Math and Battle of the Books teams each year. Thirteen years ago at Pine Meadow, she also started the safety patrol program for fifth-grade students, which is still thriving.

Other Teacher Awards and Recognition:

Shawn Platt—The teacher of the We Build It Better Program at Workman Middle School was honored as the Middle School Career Academy Teacher of the Year.

David “Bryan” Dawson—New Media Academy (Digital Video) teacher at Pine Forest High School was honored as the High School Career Academy Teacher of the Year.

Karen Bruening—Science Teacher at Pensacola High School was awarded a grant aimed to allow students to engage in hands-on research and increase their knowledge of science.

Mona Burch—Adaptive physical education instructor at Escambia Westgate School was recognized as a Veteran Making a Difference in our community.

Greg Pyle—Flight Academy teacher at Escambia High School was recognized as an elite teacher in his field. He was awarded the Panhandle Teacher of the Year in aviation instruction out of 200 instructors. As a result, he qualified for consideration for Embry Riddle University's most prestigious award, The Steve Castle Award.

Russell Bertles—Music teacher at A.K. Suter Elementary School marched in Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. He was a band director for 27 years in the district and taught at Tate High School, Ransom, Workman and Ferry Pass Middle Schools.

**Pictured here is the Escambia High School
NASA Rover Team who went to Huntsville:**

Tay Desota, Kaiden Foree (Driver), Bella Maltese (Social Media Head), JC Phillips (Safety Officer), Jaxson Schoeneberg, Brian Sheppard, Alijah Simmons, Jaelen Townsend, Jonathan Young (Caption, Driver). The team also included Madi Adams, Tivonchae Bryant, James Collier, Tim Corilla, Samari Johnson, Kayla Joseph, Josh Juntunen, Vincenzo Kauffman, Matthew McQueen, Kain Miller, Arlol Perry, Caveion Perry, Presley Richert, Kylar Russell, Ryan Schuchard, Nevaeh Seymour, Tyler Uher, and Deebo White.



Tim Deloge

Teacher of the Engineering Academy, with members of the Escambia High School team who were the 2023 winners of the NASA Human Rover Exploration Challenge.

Portraits of Achievements: Schools

OUR SCHOOLS SHINE WHEN OUR STUDENTS REACH FOR THE STARS AND FIND WAYS TO HELP OTHERS.

In our high schools, middle schools, and elementary schools, our students are excelling. Do we have more work to do? Absolutely! Our principals, teachers, and staff are focused on elevating public education and the performance of each school and every student. It is the achievements and successes, like these, that we will be building upon and measuring ourselves against.

Escambia High School—NASA Human Rover Exploration Challenge 2023 Winner - First place overall High School Division.

Ransom Middle School—Middle School Career Academy of the Year: Digital Discoveries Academy.

Northview High School—High School Career Academy of the Year: Skilled Trades Academy.

Tate High School cheerleaders—Florida High School Athletic Association Class 1A Small State Championship. The Aggies third state title.

Tate High School girls golf team—Florida High School Athletic Association's 3A Academic Team Champions for the fall of 2023-24. The team's unweighted GPA was 3.876.

Beulah Middle School and Tate High School—Top team honors in the District 1 FFA Forestry Career Development Event hosted by the Florida Forest Service.

Beulah Middle School FFA Aquaculture Team—Florida FFA State Convention 2nd place honors.

Northview High School FFA chapter—Florida FFA State Convention 2nd place honors for the Chapter Advocacy Award and third place honors for Outstanding Alumni Affiliate.

Tate High School Army JROTC—Gold star in ROTC Program for Accreditation (JPA) evaluation. The program has maintained the gold star rating since 1990.

Tate High School Agriscience students—Meals of Hope Fundraiser program that serves 60,000+ meals to local needy families.

Care Closet—C.A. Weis Elementary School program to help students dress confidently and diminishes clothing insecurity that distracts students from learning and hurts their social development.

By the Numbers

Enrollment

37,804

Advanced placement, honors, and college in high school courses, as of March 2024:

Advanced Placement **2,348**

International Baccalaureate **147**

Dual Enrollment **619**

Honors **7,290**

AP, IB, DE, or Honors **7,290**

1,201 Seniors with Highest Honors Roll - GPA 4.00 and above.

Employees

5,131 Total Employees

188
Admin

1,854
ESP

2,752
Instructional

353
Professional

11
Misc

53.11% Instructional



Escambia County
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Student Demographics

44.4%

White

34%

Black

10.8%

Hispanic/Latino

2.5%

Asian or Asian/
Pacific Islander

0.4%

American Indian
or Alaska Native

42.6% of students are economically disadvantaged.

Work Based Learning - Career Academies

67 Unique CAPE Certifications now being offered:

High School **68%**

Middle School **71%**

CAPE Certifications Earned:

22-23 SY **8,731**

23-24 SY **3,440**
(to date)

34,759 Certificates earned over the past 5 years (18-19 to 22-23).

Student Health & Wellness

31 School Nurses:

8 District RNs	18 RNs through ALOA Care Group	5 LPNs through ALOA Care Group
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89 School Counselors & Psychologists:

72 Counselors | **17** Psychologists

Community Partnership Schools with on-site clinics:

C. A. Weis Elementary School

Bellview Middle School

Pine Forest High School

Charter Schools

Beulah Academy of Science

Byrneville Elementary

Capstone Academy

Jacqueline Harris Preparatory Academy

Pensacola Beach Charter School

Pensacola State College Charter Academy

Warrington Preparatory Academy

Schools

32 Elementary

8 Middle

7 High

Alternative Centers

George Stone Technical College

Acceleration Academy

Escambia County Jail

Escambia Boy's Base

Escambia Juvenile Justice Center

Escambia Westgate Center

Hope Horizon

P.A.C.E. Program

Success Academy

Purple Star Schools

The purpose of the Purple Star School of Distinction Designation is to recognize schools that support the unique needs of military families, help military-connected students navigate critical challenges, and provide resources for military-connected students when transitioning to a new school environment. The program was established by the Florida Legislature (House Bill 429) and signed into law in June 2021.

To earn the Florida Purple Star School of Distinction Designation, schools are required to maintain the following:

A school military point of contact to serve as the central liaison for military families.

A school webpage for military students and families that includes resources like academic planning, transition planning, and educational opportunities.

A student-led transition program to assist military students coming into the school.

Staff professional development to identify and respond to the needs of military families.

Five (5) percent open enrollment seats for military students and families.

Three additional activities to support military families such as participating in a service project to connect the school with the military community, hosting an annual military recognition event, or offering a JROTC program, among others.

Purple Star Designation 2022

(Renew in 2025)

Bailey Middle School

Beulah Academy of Science

Blue Angels Elementary School

Escambia High School

Global Learning Academy

Jim Allen Elementary School

N.B. Cook Elementary School

Pine Meadow Elementary School

West Florida High School

Purple Star School Designation 2023

(Renew in 2026)

Bellview Elementary School

Beulah Elementary School

Hellen Caro Elementary School

Lipscomb Elementary School

Pleasant Grove Elementary School

Brown Barge Middle School

Ernest Ward Middle School

J.H. Workman Middle School

Booker T. Washington High

J.M. Tate High School

Pine Forest High School

Tech Resources

- » **1:1 digital devices** (Chromebooks and iPads) for all students in grades K-12 to support the personalized learning model.
- » **Metropolitan Area Network (MAN)** comprised of 10 Gbps connections to every major facility with some redundant fiber and point-to-point wireless connections.
- » **Local network and cloud service accounts** for all students and staff across a series of platforms (Google and Microsoft).
- » **Parent and community communication** through the district's websites, district's and school's social media, Drumroll newsletter, Podcast, Focus Messenger, phone calls, text messages, and streaming services such as graduations and School Board meetings.

Transportation

20,000 Students

>190

School buses

>30,000

miles/day

Food Service

Number of meals served:

Breakfast – **11,000**

Lunch – **20,000**

Top three favorite entrees:

Pizza | **Southwest nachos**

Chicken and waffles





New Connections

Podcast

Our Voices United in Education Podcast is a powerful new resource for parents, guardians, teachers, staff, students, graduates, volunteers, mentors, and residents of Escambia County. It allows us to practice what we teach by sharing stories about innovative collaborations, exciting programs, and important partnerships that impact the success of our students and community. We have recorded more than 100 episodes and have seen more than 16,000 downloads which can be accessed at VoicesUnitedinEducation.com or wherever you listen to podcasts.



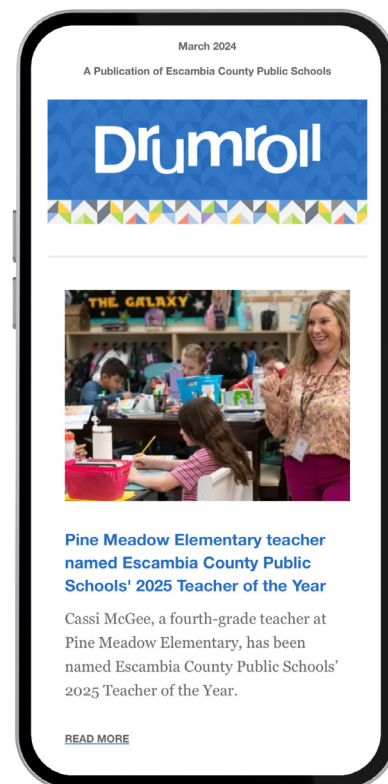
Community Outreach

More than 350 families attended our first Podcastapalooza on Saturday, March 2nd at Booker T. Washington High School. It was a special day and an incredible opportunity for parents and guardians to talk with the guests behind our Voices United in Education Podcast about free tutoring, after care, scholarships, and other programs and resources available to them and their children. The event included teachable moments with different species of critters, a live presentation by Animal Tales, and a heroic book reading by one of our graduates and local entrepreneurs.

Podcast to Podcastapalooza—none of this would have been possible without the talent and efforts of our podcast host and producer, Meredith Hackwith Edwards and all the incredible guests and participants who stand united in our vision for every student to succeed. It also takes a team to produce every episode and document the different storylines on video. Special thanks and credit goes to Rodney Durost, ECPS District Audio/Visual IT Support; Pine Forest High School Teacher of the New Media Academy, David "Bryan" Dawson; and Aaron Jett and Adrian Leonard, seniors in the New Media Academy at Pine Forest High School.

Newsletter

Our Drumroll newsletter is published once a month and shares the latest and greatest news being covered in Escambia County about our incredible students, talented teachers, successful graduates, innovative programs, and more. Don't miss a beat! Become a subscriber by signing up on our website.



Strategic Plan

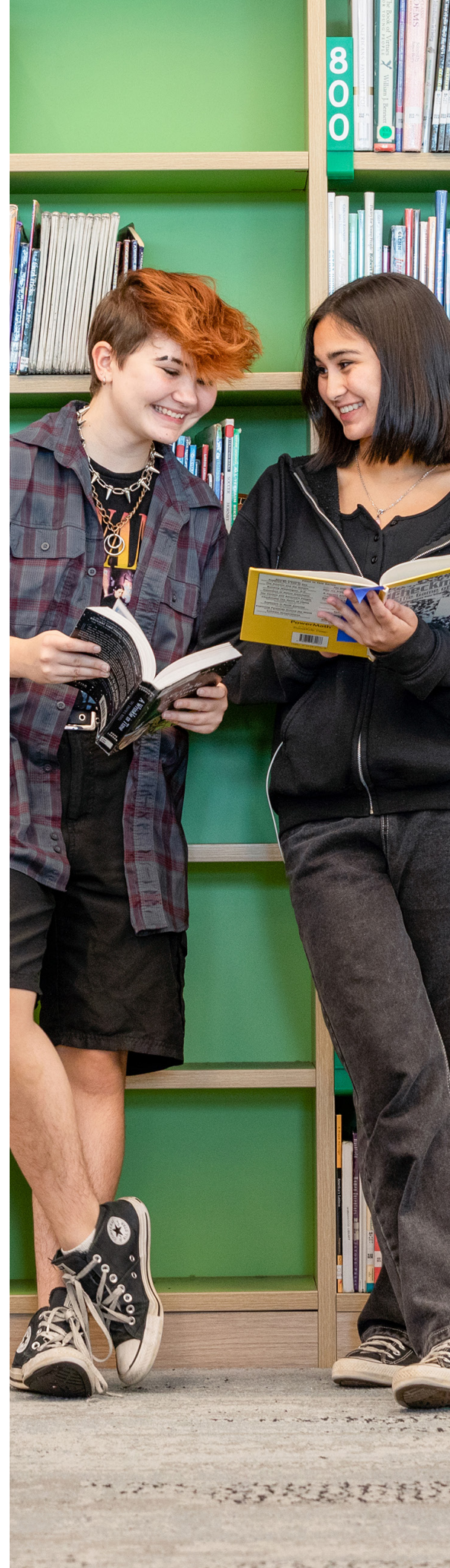
In 2023, we launched a five-year Strategic Plan for the Escambia County Public Schools. The plan reflects our commitment to achieving the vision that emerged from the planning process—United For Every Student to Succeed. This vision provides a singular focus for our destination and the plan is our roadmap for getting there.


The following five areas of strategic focus continue to serve as our guideposts:

- 1. Students.** Our students are at the center of all we do. We will build on our successes while intensifying our emphasis on preparing all students to graduate ready to become productive citizens.
- 2. Employees.** We know learning is elevated when students are surrounded by people who can unleash their full potential. Thus, establishing a healthy culture that supports high-performing teachers, leaders, and staff is critical.
- 3. Leadership.** Our system is complex. We must work in unison to achieve shared goals. Agreed upon planning and reporting structures will support a unified, results focused leadership team that advances the performance of our entire school system.
- 4. Business.** Escambia County Public Schools must be a good steward of funding and other resources entrusted to our organization. We will prioritize financial and operational resources in the best interest of all students and the community.
- 5. Community Engagement.** Educating our students is bigger than what happens in the classroom. We need our entire community unified and "All In" to advance the success of our students. Thus, we will be proactive in our resolve to build the excellence of Escambia County Public Schools on the foundation of support from our community of stakeholders.

These five areas provide focus for our efforts and resource allocations through the next five years. Our divisions, departments, and schools are adding additional details to this plan which are tied to a dashboard for reporting our progress.

We are optimistic about the future of our schools and the future we are building for our students.





Our vision
is bold. Our
mission is clear.
We will stand
united for
every student
to succeed.

Five Areas of Strategic Focus



Area of Strategic Focus #1 Students

All Students Graduate
Ready to Become Productive
Citizens

Statement of Intention:

We uphold a "student first" approach to preparing today's learners for tomorrow's opportunities. By providing inspirational, world-class instruction, we will close the achievement gap while supporting the development of well-rounded students.

Key Performance Indicators:

- » On-Time Graduation Rate of 90% or Higher.
- » Elementary Reading, Writing, and Math Scores of 3 or Higher.
- » Middle School Reading, Writing, and Math Scores of 3 or Higher.
- » High School Reading, Writing, Algebra, and Geometry Scores of 3 or Higher.
- » Annual Increase in Student Acceleration Scores.

Goals:

- » Close the academic achievement gap throughout the school system.
- » Deliver highly effective instruction and challenging curriculum and programs.

Area of Strategic Focus #2 Employees

A Healthy Culture that
Supports High-Performing
Teachers, Leaders, and Staff

Statement of Intention:

We create a positive organizational climate where employees feel encouraged, supported, and valued. Through our commitment to collaboration, professional development, and amplifying experts within our ranks, we will increase employee engagement and commitment.

Key Performance Indicators:

- » Employee Engagement Assessments Scores of 4 or Higher.

Goals:

- » Unify employee commitment and ownership of our mission.
- » Recruit and retain employees committed to our mission.
- » Support a positive organizational climate.

Area of Strategic Focus #3 Leadership

Unified, Results-Focused Leadership

Statement of Intention:

We elevate the performance of the entire school system by breaking down silos to leverage our combined efforts. By aligning our goals through consistent and transparent communication, we will increase teamwork, responsiveness, and efficiencies to drive exceptional outcomes.

Key Performance Indicators:

- » Leadership Alignment Assessment Gap Reduced Each Year.

Goals:

- » Align school and department-based planning with the district-level strategic plan.
- » Align systems to increase responsiveness, efficiency, and results.
- » Communicate performance improvements proactively and with transparency.

Area of Strategic Focus #4 Business

Financial and Operational Stewardship

Statement of Intention:

We prioritize resources in the best interest of all students and the community. By operating in a strategic, responsible, and transparent manner, we will demonstrate our commitment to being good stewards of taxpayer dollars.

Key Performance Indicators:

- » Operational efficiency and effectiveness in the top quartile annually.
- » Financial condition ratio of 8%.

Goals:

- » Align, develop, and allocate resources as guided by the district vision.
- » Demonstrate financial efficiency and transparency.
- » Operate safe, secure, and well-managed facilities.

Area of Strategic Focus #5 Community

Informed, Engaged Stakeholders as Advocates

Statement of Intention:

We build the success of our schools on the foundational support from our community of stakeholders. By continuously creating avenues for communication, engagement, and advocacy, we will increase pride in, and support for, our schools.

Key Performance Indicators:

- » Stakeholder Perception and Engagement Assessment Scores of 100%.

Goals:

- » Position Escambia County Public Schools as the first choice for education and employment.
- » Promote community-wide advocacy and investment to support student success.
- » Build community pride in, and support for, Escambia County Public Schools.



Student Ambassadors with the C.A. Weis Health Ambassador Program



District Highlights

We are two years into our five-year strategy plan. Our focus on what needs to be done and where we need to go has never been more intense and ingrained. We have made significant progress and taken some groundbreaking steps this year, but we are far from finished.

Change is challenging. We are working hard to innovate and elevate public education in Escambia County. The initiatives that we have completed and the things that we have put into place reinforce and reach for our Vision of being united for every student to succeed.

New Community Partnership Schools

Pine Forest High School and Bellview Middle School joined C.A. Weis Elementary School as Community Partnership Schools. Thanks to the partnership with Community Health of Northwest Florida, Children's Home Society of Florida, and University of West Florida, students at these Escambia County Public Schools have access to health and wellness services at an onsite medical clinic. Students at these three schools also have access to healthy foods and help with school work, mentoring, leadership opportunities, and more.

In 2016, C.A. Weis was the first elementary level community partnership school in the state of Florida. Today, the Health Ambassador program at C.A. Weis gives students hands-on experience in the healthcare field. Outfitted with Community Health Northwest Florida scrubs and lab coats, student ambassadors are learning how to be healthy while they explore a potential career path.

Groundbreaking Steps

We expanded two elementary schools to include 6th grade, taking a forward step in education. These pilot programs will begin in the 2024-2025 school year.

We launched an innovative gaming program thanks to a \$1.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Defense Education Activity. The funding is centered on gaming and military-connected students with

a mission to expose kids to technology, teamwork, competition, and diversity.

Our students are receiving hands-on CPR training to boost emergency preparedness. CPR training is a requirement for Florida students to graduate so Nemours Children's Health and the American Heart Association have teamed up with us to provide this training for our students.

Notable Programs

Bright Futures Scholarship—Helping unlock a path to college or vocational education.

Questbridge—A special college scholarship program for high-achieving, low-income students that matches these students with prestigious universities.

IB Diploma Program—An academically rigorous program, not just accessible to gifted students, but motivated students.

Navigator Program—Working with students and their families to navigate food insecurity and other challenges that affect learning.

Common Sense Media—Teaching our students how to vet information online, be a good digital citizen, and when to walk away from technology.

Canvas—This single platform is helping students be more successful in the classroom by streamlining and opening communications between parents, teachers, and K-12 students.

START—A transformation program where savvy and seasoned teachers serve as a Sherpa and guide new teachers for the entire year.



Principal Nicole Owens-Braggs is proud of our newest school, Pleasant Grove Elementary and what this high-tech facility offers our students.

District Highlights

Brick & Mortar Improvements

We build minds. We instruct. We create environments that inspire learning. This doesn't happen without a great deal of thought and care. This year we invested in the building of a new school, major upgrades, and renovation projects to make our students comfortable and excited to learn.

New School

Pleasant Grove Elementary is the first new school since Kingsfield Elementary and Beulah Middle schools opened in 2018. The \$44.6 million facility opened this school year to 800 students. It not only replaced the existing Pleasant Grove Elementary but helped to reduce overcrowding at both Blue Angel and Hellen Caro elementary schools. The school is surrounded by greenspace and the classrooms are immersed in technology—from advanced lighting to “teaching walls” with whiteboards and flat screens that allow teachers to cast to during lessons. The lighting also has precise controls that can change how dim the light is or the color hue in a specific area. This helps students feel more comfortable which fosters a better learning environment and experience.

Upgrades & Renovations

The district has completed or is nearing completion of \$60 million worth of facility upgrades in the past 24 months. Much of which was funded by ESSER, however, in effort to make the funds go further it was augmented with sales tax. This allowed for interior renovations at OJ Semmes, West Pensacola, PHS, Ferry Pass Middle, and Ensley in conjunction with the ESSER funded projects. These projects include new windows, doors, ceilings, lights, and casework. Upgrades to the mechanical systems and a new system entirely at PHS. During the summer of 2022, the district replaced all of the windows at Cordova Park and Montclair. Flooring was also replaced at Lipscomb, Northview, Cordova Park, Montclair, Bellview Elementary, and Ferry Pass Elementary.

Tate High School underwent a renovation to the Jennings Building with a considerable mechanical

upgrade. The new Tate Ag Building was occupied in the Fall of 2023. It is a 16,000 square foot state-of-the-art classroom building for one of the largest agriculture programs in the state, if not the largest.

The J. E. Hall Center received new windows and a new mechanical system was installed in the McDaniel Building. In addition, a new cafeteria and administration suite was opened at Beulah Elementary School.

The new \$4.5 million cafeteria was part of \$9.5 million in upgrades at Beulah Elementary School, which included the conversion of the old cafeteria into a classroom, P.E. facilities, and \$1.5 million earmarked for construction sitework including stormwater retention, sidewalks, and other improvements.

Other projects planned for the summer of 2024 include Ferry Pass Middle School cafeteria renovation, Pine Meadow Elementary School window replacement, and the continuation of the Pensacola High School and Tate High School renovation projects.

Safety & Security

Escambia County Public Schools has 24 School Resource Officers and 37 School Guardians-Campus Security Officers.

In September, Escambia County Sheriff's Office K-9 Buster began working at our schools to detect firearms, which are not permitted on Escambia County Public Schools campuses at any time. Buster specializes in the detection of firearms and ammunition.

The School Board also created a new position to chair a newly established District Threat Management Team and to oversee all school-based threat management teams.

A new statewide program for managing threats and concerning behavior was implemented. School based team members attended multiple training sessions

District Highlights

in October, November, and December in preparation for rolling out the new assessment processes. In January, every public school established a school based threat management team to assess threats and concerning behaviors. These teams include personnel with expertise in school administration, law enforcement, instruction, and mental health.

OPENGATE was rolled out as a new screening tool to assist with detecting and preventing weapons on school campuses and extra-curricular events. We piloted the system at a secondary school and screened 100% of students daily as they arrived for school. We will continue rolling the program out in stages to all secondary schools. Beginning in the 24-25 school year, OPENGATE will be used to screen all patrons attending select extra-curricular/sporting events. OPENGATE is just one more program in place to assist with keeping our schools safe.

In partnership with the Escambia County Sheriff's Office, we began our ninth Guardian Training Academy which will support the addition of 10 school Guardians for the 24-25 school year.

Community Partnerships

Achieving our Vision requires partnerships with partners and members of the community who care about the legacy that we are leaving behind. Here, in Escambia County, we are extremely fortunate to have an incredible number of close partners and long-term partnerships as well as a sea of incredible volunteers and mentors. We can always use and would welcome more, but the support we have is overwhelming and is making a difference in the lives of our students, their families, and our community.

Partners in Education Program

The Office of Community Involvement helps secure and foster relationships with many local businesses, churches, and civic organizations. Each partnership is unique as we look to pull from the strengths a partner may wish to share with the students and schools of the Escambia County School District. A business may decide to become a partner with

one school, or with several. A wonderful example of a school with a strong school-based Partner in Education Program is N.B. Cook Elementary.

Some of the most recent partners to join forces with N. B. Cook are:

Gulf Coast Panorama - Arts & Media Company

Fishbein Orthodontics

Smart Smiles Orthodontics

The Tuscan Oven

Bombshell Blowout Bar

Better Homes & Gardens Real Estate

Mathnasium of Pensacola

Logo Motion Productions, Inc

Remarkable Arts

Jay Zito Financial Services

Woodfin Cabassa Orthodontics

FASTSigns of Pensacola

Saltmarsh, Cleaveland, & Gund

Texas Roadhouse

Oren International

Hess Family Dentistry

FAST Automotive

Undertow Marine Towing & Salvage

Coastal Inspections

Additionally, there are partners who prefer to collaborate at the district level. Among those you'll find Fishbein Orthodontics and the Pensacola Blue Wahoos. Fishbein Orthodontics has, for several years, provided invaluable resources and services to our district through their water bottle distribution and mentor program support. The Pensacola Blue Wahoos is also a valued district partner who generously lends support of our Teacher of the Year Program and other student-focused endeavors. District partners serve students in the entire district and touch many lives in doing so.

Volunteer Program

The Escambia County Public Schools Volunteer program is one that flourishes under the direction of each schools' volunteer coordinator. Every one of our public schools benefits from having volunteers. A volunteer is someone who performs many tasks within the school day from assisting in the car line, hallway, and cafeteria monitoring, or even reading to students and assisting with homework. The work of our thousands of school-based volunteers who willingly give of their time, talents, and treasures is invaluable.

Mentor Program

The Escambia County Public Schools Mentoring Program is unique. The program is unique in that a mentor is paired to meet with a student one-on-one. We believe that mentoring is one of the greatest gifts that you can give a child during their formative years. A mentor/mentee relationship can positively impact the lives of both people involved. Mentees receive social and emotional support, building confidence and resilience, and mentors enhance their leadership skills and creativity, while giving back to their community. We currently have in excess of 400 active mentors.





David Gardner is an employee in the Escambia County School District warehouse and the visionary behind the Tools for Teachers program.

District Highlights

Escambia County Public Schools Foundation

The Mission of the Escambia County Public Schools Foundation is to enhance education by investing in our students to ensure their success. The Foundation is proving to be a strategic partner in education with the Escambia County Public Schools through collaboration and focused programs that align with the district's strategic plan.

The Foundation has grown exponentially over the past two years in both revenue and new programs. New Board Members bring a broad range of experience and expertise, and a new Program Manager supports the programs and grant reporting.

Major Programs

\$100,000 was awarded for 17 projects in classrooms, at schools, and to departments through the Grants for Excellence that focus on literacy, low-performing students and improving graduation rates. The State of Florida Matching Grant Program funded half of the Foundation GFE program in 2024.



School District Education
Foundation Matching
Grant Program

Tools for Teachers

This online teacher resource store was launched in September, providing free classroom supplies to teachers and their students. A collaborative project with the Escambia County Public Schools Warehouse, the program serves 2,800 teachers in our county. The



online store includes supplies that teachers identified as the ones they most often use their own money to purchase.

Large private donations, grants, and part of the State of Florida Matching Grant Program funds were used to purchase inventory. This is a true community flagship project that will require partnership and support to sustain, at a minimum cost of \$150,000 per year.

MIRA & Senior Academic Awards

Each year, the Foundation recognizes the top seniors in the Arts and Academics at our high schools. Ten students at each high school are awarded MIRA Awards for their creative and artistic talents in fine arts. Academic Awards are given to the Top Five students—top students in each major subject area and National Merit Finalists at each High School. Recipients receive a medallion to wear with their cap and gown at graduation and are recognized at Senior Night.



Family Fun Day—Employee Appreciation

The Foundation partners with local sponsors to host an annual event inviting all 5,131 employees and their families to a Family Fun Day at the Wahoos Stadium to show our appreciation for their dedication to the students in Escambia County.

Take Stock In Children



Take Stock in Children is a statewide program operated locally by the Escambia County Public Schools Foundation. This program provides a mentor,

a college success coach, workshops, and college readiness assistance. Students are held accountable for their grades, attendance, behavior, and commit to remain crime and drug free. At graduation, if standards are maintained, students receive a 4-year tuition scholarship. Currently 146 students, grades 7-12, are in the program and 70 students are attending college. Since inception, there have been 153 college graduates that were in the Escambia County Take Stock in Children Program.

District Highlights

Grants

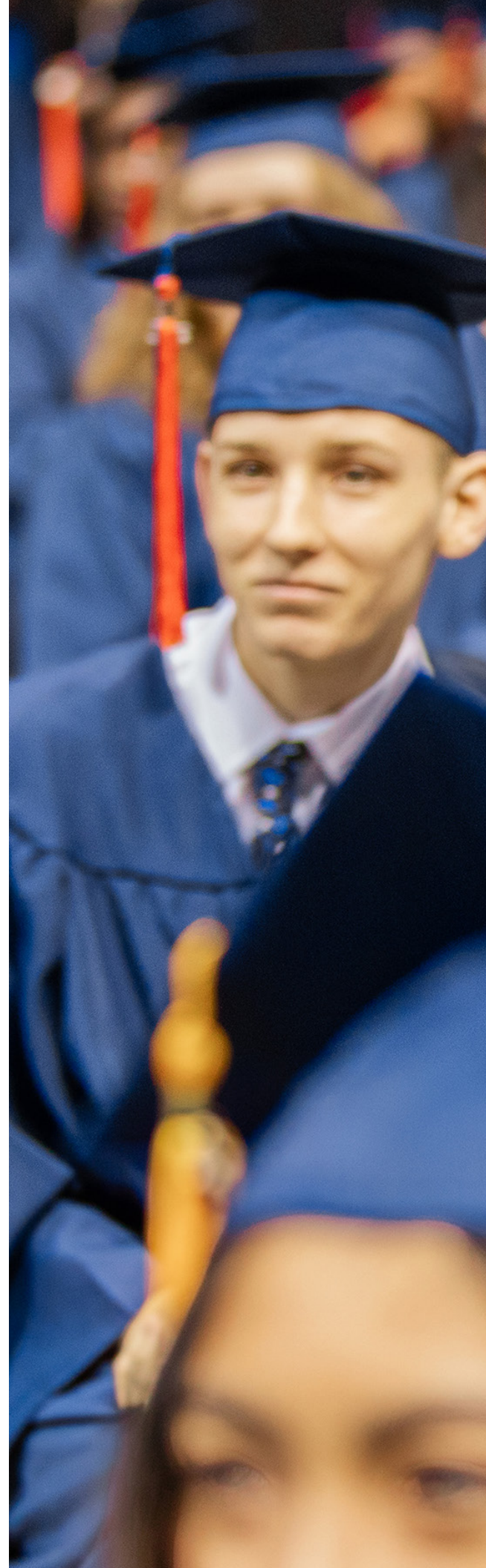
The Foundation received federal grant funds totalling over \$400,000 to develop and implement a District Response Team and Reunification Plan for the entire Escambia County area should a major event occur. Collaboration between the Foundation and the district Protective Services Department has led to a strategic, multi-faceted, collaborative plan for the district, law enforcement, mental health services, faith based community, the media, and the community. This project will be shared with other districts around the state and country and will be "the playbook" used in response to any incident on a large scale at school or district buildings.

The Foundation has also received grants from Florida Blue, International Paper, Wells Fargo, Florida KidCare, and other organizations benefiting programs, schools, teachers, and students in Escambia County.

Partnerships For Success

The Foundation partnered with the Northeast Pensacola Sertoma Club as the beneficiary of the 2023 Dragon Boat Festival on Bayou Texar raising \$5,000 towards Foundation programs. The Foundation has been chosen again to be a 2024 beneficiary.

Navy Federal Credit Union named Escambia County Public Schools Foundation as beneficiary of the proceeds from their annual 5K Run in downtown Pensacola. In 2023 and 2024, Navy Federal donated more than \$50,000 to the Foundation in support of public education.







Escambia County
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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