



# Succeeding in school and in life

2024-2025 School Year



Escambia County  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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**Cover Photo:** Isabelle Jenkins, a senior at the Pensacola High School, is part of the IB program; a National Merit Scholar; and the only local student to be recognized in the “Stars of Florida” program—to name a few of her accomplishments.

## School Board Members

**Kevin Adams**

DISTRICT 1

**Paul H. Fetsko**

DISTRICT 2

**David Williams**

DISTRICT 3

**Carissa Bergosh**

DISTRICT 4

**Tom Harrell**

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

It is hard to believe that another school year has concluded. The 2024–25 academic year was a remarkable period of growth, achievement and reimagination. We remain committed to working together to ensure the continued success of every student in Escambia County.

Our goals for the year centered on student attendance and school safety, creating an environment conducive to learning and development. Our school administrators, teachers, and support staff diligently worked each day to prioritize student learning and well-being. We plan to continue focusing on student attendance, because we know that if the students are in class they are learning.

While our students were engaged in their daily educational activities, it is important to recognize the efforts made outside the classroom and throughout the district to maintain safe and welcoming environments in our schools. It takes a community of people. Escambia County Public Schools sincerely appreciates the dedication and hard work of all of our support staff, employees, volunteers and mentors—oftentimes behind the scenes—who help to advance our mission of providing high-quality public education.

Looking ahead, we are eager to celebrate more successes and effectively resolve new challenges. With the continued support from parents, guardians, families, community and business partners, and all those invested in our students' education, we are confident in our ability to embrace the coming school year and find ways to raise the bar together.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith Leonard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "L" at the end.

**Mr. Keith Leonard**  
SUPERINTENDENT

**Core Commitments**—For our students, this is what we strive to achieve in every way, every day.

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**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

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The students in Escambia High School's Engineering Academy participated in the International NASA HERC competition against 49 other teams. **They finished as the number two high school in the world!**



# Portraits of Achievements: Students

## OUR STUDENTS ARE THRIVING IN THE CLASSROOM AND BEYOND

*“Success is not measured by the position one has reached in life, but by the obstacles one overcomes while trying to succeed,” — Booker T. Washington.*

True success in the classroom and in life is learning from any challenges and difficulties one encounters along the way. It’s a journey we all travel and our students continue to show us what resilience, dedication and success really look like.

### Superintendent’s Student Council

These outstanding high school students were named to the 2024–2025 Superintendent’s Student Council. The group is comprised of student leaders from each high school and meets with the Superintendent Leonard several times throughout the school year in order to help keep our leadership teams in tune with the students’ perspectives, priorities, and issues.

- |   |   |                                     |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| ◀ <b>Natalie George</b> —Tate HS            | ◀ <b>Chrissie Fuller</b> —West Florida HS | ◀ <b>Alex Kinney</b> —Pensacola HS  |
| ◀ <b>Aiden Bramblett</b> —Tate HS           | ◀ <b>Delaria Pogu</b> —Pine Forest HS     | ◀ <b>Payten Sim</b> —Escambia HS    |
| ◀ <b>Braden Glick</b> —Northview HS         | ◀ <b>Westin Rhymer</b> —Washington HS     | ◀ <b>Xandria Smith</b> —Escambia HS |
| ◀ <b>Maddie Driskil</b> —Northview HS       | ◀ <b>Da’Rieon Gilbert</b> —Washington HS  |                                     |
| ◀ <b>Randelaysia Grier</b> —West Florida HS | ◀ <b>Grace Guerrier</b> —Pensacola HS     |                                     |

### Academic Excellence

**Sofie Domulot, Estelle Lentini, and Victoria Roberts**—Tate High School students earning perfect scores on the Biology 1 Spring 2024 End-of-Course (EOC).

**Emmanuel Hurry**—Tate High School student with a perfect score on the FAA U.S. History Spring 2024 End-of-Course (EOC).

**Isabelle Jenkins**—Pensacola High School IB program and Florida Virtual FFA chapter member, was a National Merit Scholar; the only Escambia County student named a finalist in the highly coveted “Stars of Florida” award recognition program; a finalist for Outstanding District Officer of the year for the state; and was nominated for president of the 65,000 member Florida FFA Association. She was also the highest individual in the state aquaculture competition where her team of four won the state competition.

**Olivia Doyle and Kaylee Oswald**—Northview High School were selected by Escambia River Electric Cooperative to attend the 2025 Youth Tour in Tallahassee. The students got an up close and personal look at state government in action.

## Visual, Performing & Literary Arts

**Madelyn Calloway**—Northview High School, Atmore Post #7016 Veterans of Foreign Wars Voice of Democracy Essay Contest Winner.

**Brooklyn Summerlin**—Tate High School, color guard superior rating at the District 1 Music Performance Assessment.

**Gabby Handy**—Tate High School, first place in the Solo Vocals competition at the National Beta's state convention.

**Jax Hardnack** and **Brooklyn Summerlin**—Tate High School Showband of the South, seniors, received a superior rating for their performance at the State Solo and Ensemble.

**Carter Hayden**—Tate High School Showband of the South, junior, received a superior rating for their performance at the State Solo and Ensemble.

**Mason Soto, Kendra McDonald, Gracie Ferlo and Jaren Ridgon**—Tate High School Showband of the South, freshmen, received a superior rating for their performance at the State Solo and Ensemble.

## Student Athletes

**Carson White**—Tate High School, scholar athlete, 4.77 GPA.

**Thaddarius Witherspoon**—Pensacola High School, scholar athlete, 3.5 GPA.

**Chamiah Francis**—Booker T. Washington High School Girls Basketball, 1,000 pt mark.

**Max Little**—Booker T. Washington High School swimmer, one of the area's top swimmers.

**Emma Meyers**—Booker T. Washington High School graduate, the youngest member of the U.S. Paralympic Triathlon Team and the top American finisher in the PTS4 triathlon.

## Career Academy Awards

Middle School Student of the Year—**Sophia Nunn**, Digital Discoveries Academy, Beulah Middle School.

High School Career Academy Student of the Year—**Caleb Murphy**, Energy Academy, West Florida High School.

High School Career Academy Scholar—**Ryan Reid**, Flight Academy, Escambia High School.

High School Career Academy Student Intern of the Year—**Bethany Gurley**, New Media Academy, Pine Forest High School.

## National Merit Scholarships

◀ Annabelle A. Apel  
Pensacola HS

◀ Charles B. Benson  
Pensacola HS

◀ Isabelle R. Jenkins  
Pensacola HS

◀ Sophie B. Thompson  
Booker T Washington HS

## Construction Career Day Scholarships

These Northview High School students received Construction Career Days scholarships. The scholarship fund was established to assist high school graduates enrolling in college, trade/vocational education programs, or those entering directly into the workforce.

◀ Sarah Bailey

◀ Carsyn Dortch

◀ Lauren Stinson

◀ Abbie Hardy

◀ Kendal Beasley

◀ Braden Glick

◀ Mandell Smith

◀ Darrin Leatherberry

◀ Colton Criswell

◀ Ava Gurganus

◀ Gabriella Burkland



**Bethany Gurley**, New Media Academy, Pine Forest High School—High School Career Academy Student Intern of the Year and Take Stock in Children Scholar

## The State FFA Degree

The highest honor bestowed upon any regular member of the Florida FFA Association.

◀ Kaydon Biggs—Tate HS

◀ Brooke Hoomes—Tate HS

◀ Jackson Bridges—  
Northview HS

◀ Andrew Manning—  
Northview HS

◀ Blakely Campbell—Tate HS

◀ Phoenix Myrick—Tate HS

◀ Tyler Gilmore—  
Northview HS

◀ Isabelle Jenkins—  
Pensacola HS IB

◀ Christian Hollingsworth—  
Tate HS

◀ Ellen Rigby—Tate HS

## Tate High School Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)

Members showcased their exceptional skills and leadership at the District 1 FBLA Leadership Conference. The District Leadership Conference gave students the chance to compete in a variety of events, build connections with peers, and sharpen their professional skills through interactive workshops.

- Accounting I  
**Jaydin Bartholomew, Cody Rzepka**
- Accounting II  
**Connor Hall, Timothy Pac**
- Agribusiness  
**Brayden Gryskiewicz, Wyatt Kimbro**
- Business Communication  
**Carly Gray, Kyleigh Lovelace**
- Business Law  
**Kadence Lovelace, Hannah Sipes, Emily Tejada**
- Coding & Programming Team 1  
**Brycen Kirchharr, Gage Startzell, Tristan Whitson**
- Computer Application  
**Rubing Wu**
- Computer Problem Solving  
**Austin Dickens, Kaven Powell**
- Cyber Security  
**Nathaniel Meyer**
- Digital Animation  
**Carter Shaffer**
- Digital Video Production Team 1  
**Abigale Fowler, Addison Fowler, Jayce Latzer**
- Digital Video Production Team 2  
**Brogan Henley, Anthony Neptune, Aamir Sardar**
- Economics  
**Elizabeth LeDuc**
- Financial Math  
**Kyra Stokes**
- Future Business Educator  
**Gianna Della Ratta**
- Health Care Administration  
**Juayreaa Elnahrawy, Courtney Reichard**
- Impromptu Speaking  
**Dustin Burdette**
- Insurance & Risk Management  
**Kenneth Rathel**
- Introduction to Business Communication  
**Isabelle Eden, Kensee Gibson**
- Introduction to Business Concepts  
**Baylie Pittman**
- Introduction to FBLA  
**Mason Darby, Ariana Jorge**
- Introduction to Information Technology  
**Estelle Lentini**
- Journalism  
**Willow Beachner, Natalie George, Nicolas White**
- Networking Infrastructures  
**Aiden Maher, Carsyn Spurlock**
- Organizational Leadership  
**Wyatt Ormand**
- Personal Finance  
**Hayden Graybill, Landon Wise**
- Public Policy & Advocacy  
**Shacora Caldwell**
- Public Speaking  
**Anna Lippitt**
- Securities & Investments  
**Julie Young**
- Supply Chain Management  
**Marco Angel, Liberty Fernandez, Alysun Young**
- UX Design  
**Bodie Adams, Alexander Lakian, Logan Shoffner**
- Visual Design  
**Isabelle Aviles, Ryanna McClung**
- Word Processing  
**Jacelyn Seals, Eli Whitton**

## Meet our math whizzes!

Nearly 500 elementary students participated in the 2025 Annual Sunshine Math Competition, co-sponsored by the Escambia County Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

### Top Third Grade Individual Winners

1. **Grayson Polk**—Blue Angel ES
2. **Draper Dupree**—Pine Meadow ES
3. **Samuel Goble**—Bellview ES
4. **Liam Alamazon**—Beulah ES
5. **Cambria Marroquin**—Bellview ES
6. **Thien My Nguyen**—Lipscomb ES
7. **David Menard**—Pine Meadow ES
8. **Jackson Gray**—AK Suter ES
9. **Abigail Kusy**—Pine Meadow ES
10. **Benjamin Nguon**—Lipscomb ES

### Top Third Grade Teams

1. Pine Meadow ES Team B  
**Lucas Albano, John Butler, Draper Dupree, Natalie Smith**
2. Jim Allen ES Team B  
**Chase Dunlap, Bryson Salon, Penelope Clyburn, Desmond Mims**
3. Bellview ES Team B  
**Samuel Goble, Amarii Wilson, Emily Green, Princess Agcaoili**
4. Jim Allen ES Team A  
**Elizabeth Cooley, Piper Allen, Lukas Hattabough, Paisley Black**
5. Pine Meadow ES Team A  
**Benjamin Pearce, Abigail Kusy, David Menard, Gracie Ballwey**

### Top Fourth Grade Individual Winners

1. **Dowling Butler**—Pine Meadow ES
2. **Salvatore Gargiulo**—Blue Angel ES
3. **Beatriz Diniz**—Pine Meadow ES
4. **Geovanny Sanchez**—Scenic Heights ES
5. **Jace Johnson**—Kingsfield ES
6. **Keayon Fields**—Pine Meadow ES
7. **Lyric McHenry**—Jim Allen ES
8. **Parker Nichols**—Beulah ES
9. **Bryson Windham**—Beulah ES
10. **Daniel Ryan**—Pine Meadow ES

### Top Fourth Grade Teams

1. Pine Meadow ES Team A  
**Dowling Butler, Daniel Galvez, Beatriz Diniz, Evelyn Rowley**
2. Kingsfield ES Team A  
**Conner Gormely, Easton Bellringer, Jace Johnson, Haper Dove**
3. Pine Meadow ES Team B  
**Daniel Ryan, Allegra McCaw, Keayon Fields, Craig Macks**
4. Jim Allen ES Team A  
**Lyric McHenry, Taka Lindsay, Thea Helms, Easton Cobb**
5. Beulah ES Team A  
**Lana Pham, Bryson Windham, Carly Syverson, Parker Nichols**

### Top Fifth Grade Individual Winners

1. **Pax Fisher**—Pine Meadow ES
2. **Skylar Gibbons**—Pine Meadow ES
3. **Liam Olson**—Pine Meadow ES
4. **Deleia Marshall**—Pine Meadow ES
5. **Jaxson Albano**—Pine Meadow ES
6. **Avery Smith**—Beulah ES
7. **Kenneth Eichelberg**—Beulah ES
8. **Grayson Pettit**—Scenic Heights ES
9. **Harper Peeterse**—Pine Meadow ES
10. **Henry List**—Beulah ES

### Top Fifth Grade Teams

1. A.K. Suter ES Team A  
**Ezra Johnson, Isla Rex,  
Dempsey Henry, Nathalia Ramos**
2. Pine Meadow ES Team A  
**Skylar Gibbons, Deleia Marshall,  
Liam Olson, Harper Peeterse**
3. Hellen Caro ES Team A  
**Rowen Lefler, Skipper Ward,  
Lael Armendariz**
4. N.B. Cook ES Team B  
**James Chavez, Silas Chivers,  
Rylind Morgan, Lucas Senkbeil**
5. Scenic Heights ES Team A  
**Odette Brown, Alexandria Allen,  
Louis Tran, Grayson Pettit**



Tate High School's geometry and precalculus teams recently placed at the **50th Nicky Walker Math Tournament** featuring **than 200 students across Northwest Florida.**



These fifth grade students received **Shining Star Awards** for demonstrating exemplary citizenship, leadership and our core values.

- ◀ A. K. Suter ES—**Ja'Michael McCastle**
- ◀ Bellview ES—**Adalyn Robinson**
- ◀ Beulah ES—**Carly Jones**
- ◀ Blue Angels ES—**Major Suggs**
- ◀ Bratt ES—**Amahl Atallah**
- ◀ Brentwood ES—**Conner Spratt**
- ◀ Byrneville ES—**Kolin Rogers**
- ◀ C.A. Weis ES—**Sarah Zaremba**
- ◀ Cordova Park ES—**William Sherrill**
- ◀ Ensley ES—**Daniel Cano Gutierrez**
- ◀ Ferry Pass ES—**Harper Miller**
- ◀ Global Learning Academy ES—**Yaretzy Alvarez**
- ◀ Hellen Caro ES—**Ava Pope**
- ◀ Holm ES—**Cameron Steele**
- ◀ Jim Allen ES—**Chipper "Drew" Haney**
- ◀ Kingsfield ES—**Aiden Barnhill**
- ◀ L.D McArthur ES—**Alyson Le**
- ◀ Lincoln Park ES—**Lemuel Ade Taku**
- ◀ Lipscomb ES—**Kensley Adkisson**
- ◀ Longleaf ES—**Elan Thompson**
- ◀ Molino Park ES—**Emilee Marlow**
- ◀ Montclair ES—**Fiona Hop**
- ◀ Myrtle Grove ES—**Serenity Rowe**
- ◀ N.B. Cook ES—**Kelsie Barnhardt**
- ◀ Navy Point ES—**Maria Guevera-Garcia**
- ◀ O.J. Semmes ES—**Hope Johnson**
- ◀ Oakcrest ES—**Sophia Perez Virola**
- ◀ Pensacola Beach ES—**Jace Davis**
- ◀ Pine Meadow ES—**Vance Beeks**
- ◀ Pleasant Grove ES—**Eva Cunningham**
- ◀ Scenic Heights ES—**Zachary Goodyear**
- ◀ Sherwood ES—**Damion Felger**
- ◀ Warrington ES—**Willow Turner**
- ◀ West Pensacola ES—**Henry Ezell**

◀ Tate High School's geometry team took first place—**Kristina Vasileva, Bryan Chen, Aden Bailey, Fathi Abuokab, and Christopher Pennewell.**  
Coached by Cody Nelson.

◀ Tate's precalculus team claimed second place—**Courtney Reichard, Hayden Graybill, Carter Hayden, and Lawson Killingsworth.**  
Coached by Rachel Wisdom.

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Pensacola High School welding instructor **Joseph Moss** is one of those teachers whose students tell you brings light and magic into the classroom. Mr. Moss worked as a welder for several major corporations and left a six-figure job to become a teacher.



## Portraits of Achievements: Teaching & Learning

### STUDENTS LEARN IN DIFFERENT WAYS. WE'RE LEANING INTO DIFFERENT WAYS TO TEACH.

Public education in Escambia County is not a one size fits all approach. From the students who excel in school and have college in their headlights to students who are hands-on and want to get into the workforce to students with a whole range of different needs and challenges. Here are a few of the ways—paths, programs and classes—where we are helping our students succeed in school and in life.

#### New approaches to teaching.

This year, two of our elementary schools became K-6. Cordova Park and West Pensacola were the pilot programs for breaking the status quo with how we teach.

The Electrocar Competition gave high school students the chance to build and race electric go-karts at Five Flags Speedway in Pensacola. The event aimed to promote STEM education and teamwork, offering a hands-on experience for students.

About 140 students in marine science classes at Booker T. Washington and West Florida high schools experienced a new Artificial Reefs Curriculum in their coursework. The pilot program—a collaboration between Escambia County, the Escambia County school district, Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) and Sea Grant Florida—started in October. Some students are learning to design and construct artificial reefs that may eventually be used to help the area's marine life.

#### Individual Needs

At Escambia Westgate Center, the Lacey A. Collier Sensory Complex was specifically designed to provide a higher quality of education for our diverse population of students and their individual needs. Cathy Rudd, principal of Escambia Westgate School, is at the forefront of this unique place to help students shine. The innovative, multi-sensory complex is based on the Snoezelen® concept. Students utilize the sensory corridor, sensory garden and themed multisensory rooms—individually, in small groups or as a whole class—depending on the needs of each student. These environments employ colors, lights, textures, and music to elicit a variety of constructive responses from individuals with disabilities.

Project Search, a nationwide program, is another way for our students with disabilities to gain on-the-job experience. With multiple Innisfree hotels in Pensacola and Fort Walton Beach in the program, these graduates can intern at the hotels and learn all different aspects of hospitality and beyond.



# College Path

Take Stock in Children of Escambia County provides “scholarships, mentors & hope” to deserving young people selected at the end of their 6th or 7th grade year through a need-based application process. Students receive a college scholarship upon high school graduation as long as they maintain good grades, attendance and citizenship, remain crime and drug free, and meet weekly with a volunteer community mentor.

**This year, 40 new scholars were selected from the following schools:**

- ◀ Bailey MS—**Catalia Molina, Emma Willits**
- ◀ Bellview MS—**Daniel Finley**
- ◀ Beulah MS—**Crystal Gutierrez, Azaleah Ramos**
- ◀ Brown Barge MS—**Jade Bardoo, Ameria Jordan, Faith Lawson, Janiyah Roberson**
- ◀ Dixon School of Art & Science—**Helen Cummings, Naomi Cummings, Amaya Hooper, Zalayvia Jones**
- ◀ Ernest Ward MS—**Amanuel Dubose Jr., Logan McClurg, Nevaeh Tidd**
- ◀ Ferry Pass MS—**Jordan Bain, Thomas Bain, Harmony Farrington, William Jemison, Sophia Palmer, Sariyah Washington**
- ◀ Florida Virtual School—**Kydriah Badilishamwalimu**
- ◀ Montessori School—**Reed Erb**
- ◀ Ransom MS—**Kaylynn Grzejka, Desiree Hicks, Abbie Huynh, Khale Mooror**
- ◀ Warrington Prep—**Billy Dorsey, Dumarian Hawkins, Logan Kerr, Christian Rivera Jr., Tevin Robinson, James Smith, Arihanna Watts-Riley, Ja’Nae White**
- ◀ Workman MS—**Journey English, Harmoni Epps, Mahayla Epps, Trinity Marvray**

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# Work Path

Our Workforce Education Department continues to train the next generation of skilled workers. Trained and certified in their field, students from our Academy programs are ready and prepared to fill positions that do not require a four-year degree.

Students can begin to explore different career paths in middle school. It’s a great opportunity for them to test the water or drive headfirst into pursuing their dream job. For example, say a student wants to be an aircraft technician. The path to that job begins at Workman Middle School with the “We Build It Better” program. From there, the Aviation Technology Academy at Booker T. Washington High School gives students the foundational aerospace skills that prepare them for further training after high school. The final step is enrollment in our Aviation Maintenance program at George Stone Technical College.

Our Advanced Career Experience or ACE program gives Academy students valuable hands-on training. This year, Multimedia and New Media Academy students found new internship positions with the District’s Communications office. These new positions allowed one student from Pine Forest and one student from West Florida to get on-the-job and real-world experience. They produced a variety of marketing communication deliverables—billboards, social media and website graphics, videos—working alongside Cody Strother and a team of communications specialists at idgroup, a Pensacola branding company.

## Here is some of the other Workforce Education news:

**Tate High School Automotive Services Academy**—Re-established with funds from a Triumph Oil Spill Grant which allowed our Workforce Education Department to renovate and equip the former Auto Body building.

**George Stone Technical College**—Celebrated 55 years of preparing individuals for rewarding careers and providing local businesses and industry with a highly skilled workforce. The aviation program now offers a hands-on look at how jet engines operate, through a specially-designed demo engine donated by Pensacola company, King Aero.

## Alternative Pathways

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.

**Journey English, Workman Middle School**—Take Stock in Children Scholar



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**Kelly Reed**, kindergarten teacher at Global Learning Academy  
and **Escambia County Public Schools' Teacher of the Year.**



## Achievements by Teachers, Staff & Mentors

### SUCCESS CAN BE TRACED BACK TO THE PEOPLE WHO FOUND WAYS TO REACH, TEACH AND INSPIRE YOU.

In the classroom or cafeteria, ball field or band room, lab or workshop, the sense of purpose, pride and passion in our schools is undeniable. Every day, what happens—in big and small ways—at our schools shapes the future for our graduates. From elementary school to middle school to high school and beyond, it is the people, like the ones highlighted here, who are making a difference in our schools and in the lives of your children. Join us in recognizing and celebrating them.

**Kelly Reed**—Kindergarten teacher at Global Learning Academy was named Escambia County Public Schools' Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Reed has dedicated her career and interests to serving the community in which she was raised. A Pensacola native, Mrs. Reed graduated from Escambia County schools to pursue a lifelong calling in education.

From 2012 to 2019, Mrs. Reed devoted her passion to serving the community's most diverse students as an Access Points teacher at Escambia Westgate School. During her time at Westgate, she taught students of varying abilities and grade levels ranging from elementary students to high school students. In addition to instructional duties, Mrs. Reed generously led her colleagues by being the school's webmaster, Chairperson of Technology Committee, and a leader of a professional learning community. As a result of her efforts, she was voted as Westgate's 2019–2020 Teacher of the Year by her peers.

After seven years at Westgate, Mrs. Reed went to Pea Ridge Elementary until 2022. In 2022, Mrs. Reed returned to Escambia County Public Schools as a kindergarten inclusion teacher at Global Learning Academy. At Global, she has continued to use her unique background experiences to mentor her peers, serve as grade level chairperson, and is a member of the ECSD ELA Kindergarten Frameworks committee. Mrs. Reed accepts all students into her classroom, including those with varying academic levels and exceptionalities, physical impairments, and environmental barriers. Her mission is to remove any barriers needed for a child's success. According to Mrs. Reed, "The joy of their successes is the reason I am committed to helping students overcome all of their barriers and struggles to achieve their goals."

**Joann Janes**—Maintenance Services was selected as the Escambia County Public Schools' Stellar Employee of the Year.

Throughout her time with ECPS, Ms. Janes has shown dedication to both the maintenance department and Escambia County Public Schools. She provides high-quality support to both the administration and the department, demonstrating excellence by efficiently completing all job duties and tasks. She is a respected member of the maintenance services senior office staff and provides training, guidance, and support to new staff members.

During several disaster recovery and restoration events, Ms. Janes has proven to be an invaluable asset. Her dedication to providing excellent customer service for students and staff is evident in the positive feedback received from school-based and district staff. Ms. Janes consistently demonstrates professionalism, integrity, and a can-do attitude, striving for excellence in all her work for the department and the district.

Teacher of the Year

Employee of the Year

## Career Academy Awards for Teachers, Academies, Business & Industry Partners

- ◀ Middle School Career Academy Teacher of the Year—**Jessica Steele**, Cyber-IT Academy, Bellview MS
- ◀ High School Career Academy Teacher of the Year—**Nancy Barger**, Health Science Academy, Booker T. Washington HS
- ◀ Middle School Career Academy of the Year—**Digital Discoveries Academy**, Beulah MS
- ◀ High School Career Academy of the Year—**Game, Simulation and Animation Academy**, Tate HS
- ◀ Agriculture Business/Industry Academy Partner Award—**Escambia County Farm Bureau (Scott Cunningham, Chapter President)**
- ◀ Communication Business/Industry Academy Partner Award—**UWF Communication Department (Christian Garman, Instructor)**
- ◀ Culinary Business/Industry Academy Partner Award—**UF/IFAS Extension Family Nutrition Program (Jolynn Peoples, Nutrition Educator)**
- ◀ Electrical Business/Industry Academy Partner Award—**Casey Electric (Roger Casey, Owner)**
- ◀ Multimedia Business/Industry Academy Partner Award—**WEAR ABC 3 News, Pensacola (Jack Canavan, Studio Manager)**

## Other Honors and Recognition

- ◀ **Roger Mayo**—Legendary Escambia High School baseball coach, inducted into Florida Athletic Coaches Association Hall of Fame.
- ◀ **Mike Davis**—Escambia High School softball coach, celebrated his 500th career win in his 33rd season of coaching.
- ◀ **Juliana Pearce**—Fifth grade science teacher at Sherwood Elementary School, won a \$50K “STEM classroom makeover grant” from Florida Power and Light.
- ◀ **Inette Gardner**—Media specialist at Beulah Middle School, the 2025 recipient of the Dr. Paula Gleason Award, presented by the Escambia County School Library Association to one school media specialist for their commitment to excellence in their library program.
- ◀ **Sherry White**—Pine Meadow Elementary PTA honorary lifetime membership. An award recognizing White’s contributions to the PTA community and her unwavering dedication to the school.
- ◀ **Marquette Oliver**—Pine Forest High School, is teaching students to look the part, by presenting your best self through dress. Coach Oliver is introducing the students to a completely different playbook and a critical life lesson as a good citizen and employee.
- ◀ **Mr. Anterio Minor**—Custodian at McArthur Elementary, became a hero this year when he saved a student by performing the Heimlich maneuver. Not all heroes wear a cape.
- ◀ **Cami Simmons**—Resident grandma for Global Learning Academy for three years, brings the magic. No surprise to anyone, her daughter is the Teacher of the Year, Kelly Reed.

**Escambia County's Teacher of the Year finalists,**  
Beulah ES—**Brooke Ferrara**, Beulah MS—**LeAnne Jenkins**,  
Ransom MS—**Stacey Hammer**, Tate HS—**Kristin Maum**.

### Escambia County's Teachers of the Year by school

◀ Jim Allen ES <b>Jacey Taylor</b>	◀ Lipscomb ES <b>Aurora Paul</b>	◀ C. A. Weis ES <b>Brianna English</b>	◀ Booker T. Washington HS <b>Karen Privett</b>
◀ Bellview ES <b>Natalie Hardeman</b>	◀ Longleaf ES <b>Christine Dunson</b>	◀ West Pensacola ES <b>Brittany Langlois</b>	◀ West Florida HS <b>Tiffany Odom</b>
◀ Beulah ES <b>Brooke Ferrara</b>	◀ McArthur ES <b>Jodie Langford</b>	◀ Bailey MS <b>Clif (William) Cone</b>	◀ Alternative Education <b>Christopher Baker</b>
◀ Blue Angels ES <b>Christina Cardenas</b>	◀ Molino Park ES <b>Heidi Robar</b>	◀ Bellview MS <b>Vicki Davis</b>	◀ Beulah Academy of Science <b>Kara List</b>
◀ Bratt ES <b>Sherri Carter</b>	◀ Montclair ES <b>Maxine Mathis</b>	◀ Beulah MS <b>LeAnne Jenkins</b>	◀ Achieve Academy <b>Jayla King</b>
◀ Brentwood ES <b>Jill Stewart</b>	◀ Myrtle Grove ES <b>Carrie Lawson</b>	◀ Brown Barge MS <b>Nora Guy</b>	◀ Success Academy <b>Pam Carter</b>
◀ Hellen Caro ES <b>Erin Quinlan</b>	◀ Navy Point ES <b>Tanya DeGruccio</b>	◀ Ernest Ward MS <b>Maria Willis</b>	◀ Escambia Virtual <b>Kimberly Rayburn</b>
◀ N. B. Cook ES <b>Kheri Murphy</b>	◀ Oakcrest ES <b>Deja Ramsey</b>	◀ Ferry Pass MS <b>Kristen Amerson</b>	◀ Escambia Westgate <b>Terri Michelle Price</b>
◀ Cordova Park ES <b>Margaret Fox-McClellan</b>	◀ Pine Meadow ES <b>Kristen Whiddon</b>	◀ Ransom MS <b>Stacey Hammer</b>	◀ ESE <b>Kirsten Kappler-Bennett</b>
◀ Ensley ES <b>Mary Springer-Alonzo</b>	◀ Pleasant Grove ES <b>Theresa Restifo</b>	◀ Workman MS <b>Cynethia Gosse</b>	◀ Hope Horizon <b>Heather Turner</b>
◀ Ferry Pass ES <b>Jina Bradley</b>	◀ Scenic Heights ES <b>Amanda Byers</b>	◀ Escambia HS <b>Alicia Gifford</b>	◀ George Stone TC <b>Garry Ellison</b>
◀ Global Learning Academy ES <b>Kelly Reed</b>	◀ O.J. Semmes ES <b>April Scott</b>	◀ Northview HS <b>Obreonne Parker</b>	◀ Pensacola Beach Charter <b>Heather Gagnet</b>
◀ Holm ES <b>Lynette Chandler</b>	◀ Sherwood ES <b>Patrice Majewski</b>	◀ Pensacola HS <b>Justin Aultman</b>	
◀ Kingsfield ES <b>Laura Wiggins</b>	◀ A. K. Suter ES <b>Tracy Eiser</b>	◀ Pine Forest HS <b>Jonetta Moody</b>	
◀ Lincoln Park ES <b>Janie Hayes</b>	◀ Warrington ES <b>Sylvia Harvey-Thomas</b>	◀ Tate HS <b>Kristin Maum</b>	

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Four Ferry Pass Middle School Odyssey of the Mind Teams competed at the Florida Odyssey of the Mind State Tournament in Orlando, Florida. **One of the teams qualified for the World Finals at Michigan State University and placed 7th out of 58 World Teams—TOP 10 in the WORLD!**



# Achievements by Schools

## OVERALL GRADUATION RATES ARE UP. OVERALL MILESTONES CONTINUE TO SOAR—STATEWIDE AND INTERNATIONALLY.

In January of 2025, the state of Florida announced that graduation rates for the 2023–2024 school year rose to 89.7%. The overall graduation rate for Escambia County Public Schools was 84.2%, up from 80.5%.

The 2023–2024 statewide high school graduation rate represents the highest rate in Florida history, with the exception of the pandemic school years in which graduating classes were exempt from statewide, standardized assessment requirements stipulated in state law.

### Graduation rates by school

◀ Tate HS 93.3%, up from 91.3%	◀ Pensacola HS 87.9%, up from 78.1%	◀ Escambia Virtual 100%
◀ Northview HS 92.3%, up from 90.3%	◀ Pine Forest HS 85.4%, up from 80.9%	◀ Pensacola State Charter 100%
◀ West Florida HS 98.6%, up from 98.4%	◀ Washington HS 86%, slightly down from 86.9%	
◀ Escambia HS 94.1%, up from 94%	◀ Success Academy 78.4%	

### Small steps, big milestones

No stage is too large. No moment too big. Our schools and programs continue to challenge other schools across the state and around the world.



## **Escambia High School**—International NASA HERC competition, 2nd place overall in High School Division.

Every spring since 2014, students in Escambia High School's Engineering Academy have competed in NASA's Human Exploration Rover Challenge (HERC). This is an international engineering competition held at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama each spring. It attracts teams from universities, colleges, and high schools from around the world. This competition exists to motivate aspiring engineers by challenging them to create and develop new ideas and designs for manned rovers on the moon and Mars. Each team designs and builds a vehicle driven, or piloted according to NASA, by two students who attempt at least one run on a punishing track that mimics Lunar and Martian terrain.

This was another year where a team of our engineering students represented Escambia High School and Escambia Public Schools phenomenally. This event is the culmination of a lot of work throughout the school year. Some of them gave up their time early before school and late after school. Some worked Saturdays fabricating parts like carbon fiber wheel rims and spokes. Some learned to weld. Others learned how to create molded parts based on 3D prints from CAD models. Some led STEM outreach to middle school students, teaching them engineering principles based on their work with the rover. They all contributed to approximately 100 pages of technical report content spread throughout the year.

That began with writing a proposal that NASA accepted just to get into the competition. They planned. They designed. They created. And they tested their work against the 49 other teams accepted into the competition. In the end, they finished as the number two high school in the world!

### **These were the students involved:**

- ◀ **Jackson Domholdt**—11th grade
- ◀ **Gabrielle Gholston**—11th grade; Safety Officer
- ◀ **Chayce Grant**—11th grade
- ◀ **Schyra Gray**—11th grade
- ◀ **Jordan Jacobson**—11th grade
- ◀ **Samari Johnson**—12th grade
- ◀ **Connor Luu**—12th grade; Team Lead
- ◀ **Rhyleigh Meyers**—11th grade
- ◀ **Kain Miller**—12th grade
- ◀ **Aiden Niau**—12th grade
- ◀ **Gabrielle Osten**—11th grade
- ◀ **Jayla Pearson**—11th grade
- ◀ **Ella Pittenger**—11th grade
- ◀ **Presley Richert**—12th grade
- ◀ **Clayton Sanders**—11th grade
- ◀ **Julian Smith**—11th grade
- ◀ **Sean Smudde**—12th grade; Pilot
- ◀ **Jeremiah Tyson**—12th grade
- ◀ **Tyler Uher**—12th grade
- ◀ **Regan York**—11th grade; Pilot
- ◀ **Zachary Yost**—11th grade

**Ferry Pass Middle School  
Odyssey of the Mind**

Three of the four teams placed in the TOP 10 of the Florida rankings. Our students represented the Emerald Coast Region competing against teams from all over Florida. One of the teams placed 3rd, qualifying them for the World Finals at Michigan State University in May. The students will represent Florida against teams from all 50 states and International teams from Switzerland, Poland, Japan, Singapore, Germany, Canada, Mexico, and many more.

**Beulah Academy of  
Science FFA**

Team A, first in the middle school division at a District Forestry Contest hosted by the Florida Forest Service.

**Tate High School  
Wind Ensemble**

Achieved a straight superior rating at the District 1 Music Performance Assessment.

**Tate High School  
Aggie cheerleaders**

Named the Florida High School Athletic Association Region 1 Competitive Cheerleading Champions.

**Tate High School  
JV cheerleaders**

Placed eighth in the nation. The first Tate Aggies JV squad to make the finals at the UCA National High School Cheerleading Championship.

**Tate High School FFA**

First place among high schools at a District Forestry Contest hosted by the Florida Forest Service.

**Pensacola High School**

110 students in the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Program competed at the state competition. 21 students made it to the national level, of which 15 students will be competing this summer at the FBLA National Competition in Anaheim, California.

**Booker T. Washington  
High School**

Booker T. Washington High School—12 students in the Health Science Academy went to the regionals and six students went to the state Health Occupational Students of America (HOSA) competition. Niya Thomson is headed to the International HOSA competition. Last year, Claudia Johnson was 7th in the World for Medical Terminology.

At the 7th Annual Elementary Science Olympiad, teams of students from **20 Escambia County elementary schools** competed in 10 different events.

**A is for Anatomy:**

- 1st: Bratt ES
- 2nd: Pine Meadow ES
- 3rd: Kingsfield ES
- 4th: Hellen Caro ES & Scenic Heights ES
- 6th: Montclair ES

**CodeBusters:**

- 1st: Pine Meadow ES
- 2nd: Hellen Caro ES
- 3rd: Scenic Heights ES
- 4th: Kingsfield ES
- 5th: Molino Park ES
- 6th: McArthur ES

**Grasp a Graph:**

- 1st: Kingsfield ES
- 2nd: NB Cook ES
- 3rd: Pleasant Grove ES
- 4th: Oakcrest ES
- 5th: Molino Park ES
- 6th: Sherwood ES

**Mystery Powders:**

- 1st: Hellen Caro ES
- 2nd: NB Cook ES
- 3rd: Pleasant Grove ES
- 4th: Kingsfield ES
- 5th: Scenic Heights ES
- 6th: Molino Park ES

**Robotics Task:**

- 1st: Pine Meadow ES
- 2nd: Hellen Caro ES
- 3rd: Bellview ES
- 4th: Sherwood ES
- 5th: Scenic Heights ES
- 6th: Molino Park ES

**Robotics Pathways:**

- 1st: Beulah ES
- 2nd: Bratt ES
- 3rd: Lipscomb ES
- 4th: Longleaf ES
- 5th: Hellen Caro ES
- 6th: Oakcrest ES

**Rock Hound:**

- 1st: Oakcrest ES
- 2nd: Scenic Heights ES
- 3rd: Global Learning Academy ES
- 4th: Beulah ES
- 5th: Bratt ES
- 6th: Pine Meadow ES

**Science Bowl:**

- 1st: Pine Meadow ES
- 2nd: McArthur ES
- 3rd: Jim Allen ES
- 4th: Hellen Caro ES
- 5th: Kingsfield ES
- 6th: Ferry Pass ES

**Tower Challenge:**

- 1st: Pine Meadow ES
- 2nd: Molino Park ES
- 3rd: Warrington ES
- 4th: Scenic Heights ES
- 5th: Bratt ES
- 6th: McArthur ES

**Write It, Do It:**

- 1st: Hellen Caro ES
- 2nd: Molino Park ES
- 3rd: Pine Meadow ES
- 4th: Oakcrest ES
- 5th: Longleaf ES
- 6th: Beulah ES & Scenic Heights ES

**Overall:**

- 1st: Pine Meadow ES
- 2nd: Scenic Heights ES
- 3rd: Hellen Caro ES

**Spirit Award:**

- NB Cook ES

Tate High School student at Construction Career Days



## By the Numbers

**Enrollment** 36,156

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

Advanced Placement	2,188
International Baccalaureate	107
Dual Enrollment	639
Honors	7,551
AP, IB, DE, or Honors	10,485

1,215 Seniors with Highest Honors Roll – GPA 4.00 and above.

## Student Demographics

< 43.51% White	< 2.54% Asian or Asian/Pacific Islander
< 34.21% Black	< .38% American Indian or Alaska Native
< 11.29% Hispanic/Latino	

**73.8 %** of students are economically disadvantaged.

## School Grades

14 includes PSC and Pensacola Beach Elementary	A
13 includes EVA and Beulah Academy	B
26 Includes K-12 LLC and Byrneville Elementary	C
1 Warrington Prep	D

## Employees

**7,655**

Total Employees

< Admin: 185	< Professional: 359	< Subs: 1,637
< ESP: 1,872	< Charter: 280	< Misc: 125
< Instructional: 2,945	< Contract: 252	<b>53.11% Instructional</b>

## Work Based Learning Career Academies

69 Unique CAPE Certifications now being offered.	CTE Enrollment	Percentage of students earning CAPE Certifications:	CAPE Certifications Earned:
	< 70% High School	< 54% High School	< 22-23 SY: 8,731
	< 74% Middle School	< 68% Middle School	< 23-24 SY: 10,835
			< 24-25 SY: 12,654

**45,742** Certificates earned over the past 5 years (including 2024/2025)

## Volunteers & Mentors

< Volunteers   All Grade Levels	12,123
< Volunteer Hours	225,556
< Mentors   District wide	1,295
< Mentor Hours Logged	35,812

## Schools

< Elementary	32
< Middle	8
< High	7

## Alternative Centers:

< George Stone Technical College
< Acceleration Academy
< Achieve Academy
< Escambia County Jail
< Escambia Juvenile Justice Center
< Escambia Westgate Center
< Hope Horizon
< P.A.C.E. Program
< Success Academy

## 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

## Student Health & Wellness

	27 School Nurses	6 District RNs	18 RNs through ALOA Care Group	3 LPNs through ALOA Care Group	58 Health Technicians
89 School Counselors & Psychologists	67 Counselors	16 Psychologists	11 High School Academic Advisors	32 Mental Health Counselors	
Community Partnership Schools with on-site clinics:	C. A. Weis ES	Bellview MS	Pine Forest HS		

## 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.
- ◀ Staff professional development to identify and respond to the needs of military families.
- ◀ 5 percent open enrollment seats for military students and 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.
- ◀ 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.

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## Purple Star Designation 2022—Renew in 2025

- ◀ Bailey MS
- ◀ Escambia HS
- ◀ N.B. Cook ES
- ◀ Beulah Academy of Science
- ◀ Global Learning Academy ES
- ◀ Pine Meadow ES
- ◀ Blue Angels ES
- ◀ Jim Allen ES
- ◀ West Florida HS

## Purple Star School Designation 2023—Renew in 2026

- ◀ Bellview ES
- ◀ Pleasant Grove ES
- ◀ Booker T. Washington HS
- ◀ Beulah ES
- ◀ Brown Barge MS
- ◀ Tate HS
- ◀ Hellen Caro ES
- ◀ Ernest Ward MS
- ◀ Pine Forest HS
- ◀ Lipscomb ES
- ◀ Workman MS

## Purple Star School Designation 2024—Renew in 2027

- ◀ Ferry Pass ES
- ◀ Beulah MS
- ◀ Pensacola HS
- ◀ Kingsfield ES
- ◀ Ransom MS
- ◀ George Stone TC
- ◀ Navy Point ES

## 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, phone calls, text messages, and streaming services such as graduations and School Board meetings.
- Canvas was implemented as our Learning Management System in 2022-2023 to benefit stakeholders connected to Escambia County Public Schools.
  - For teachers, Canvas streamlines course management, enhances communication, simplifies grading, provides data insights, and acts as a central resource hub.

- For students, Canvas offers easy access to materials, improves organization, enhances communication, and provides real-time feedback.

### Student Usage

22-23: 12,323  
23-24: 17,965  
24-25: 29,525  
139% increase since 22-23

- For families, Canvas increases visibility into their child's progress, improves communication with teachers, grants access to resources, and allows for progress monitoring.

Overall, Canvas enhances the educational experience by improving organization, communication, and accessibility for all users.

Since adopting Canvas two years ago, we have seen a dramatic increase in usage at the school level due to a concerted training effort with administrators, teachers, and families. The statistical data below outlines this growth:

### Teacher Usage

22-23: 465  
23-24: 942  
24-25: 1,846  
297% increase since 22-23

### Course Usage

22-23: 1,743  
23-24: 3,836  
24-25: 4,858  
179% increase since 22-23

## Transportation

18,509 students

- 190 school-based activity buses and spare buses
- >226 daily school buses
- >29,177 miles/day
- 416 total buses

## Tech Resources

Number of meals served:

- Breakfast – 11,000
- Lunch – 21,000

Top three favorite entrees:

- Pizza
- Southwest nachos
- Chicken sandwich



## Weekly 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 151 episodes that have seen more than 39,876 downloads which can be accessed at [VoicesUnitedinEducation.com](https://VoicesUnitedinEducation.com) or wherever you listen to podcasts.



The top episodes during the school year were 133, 135 and 138. We want to thank Tyler Newton with Klondike Archery Park, Jamal Sharp with BAM! Snoballs, and Dan Helms with the Santa Rosa Creek Tribal Educational Center for being the guests on these episodes.

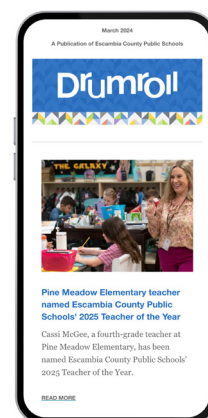


More than 350 families attended our second Podcastapalooza on Saturday, February 1st at Booker T. Washington High School. It was a special day and an incredible opportunity for parents and guardians to talk with the guests behind our Voices United in Education Podcast about free tutoring, after care, 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.

Podcast to Podcastapalooza—none of this would have been possible without the talent and efforts of our podcast host and producer, Meredith Hackwith Edwards with Outsider Advantage, 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 for the community to hear.

## Monthly Newsletter

Our Drumroll newsletter 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.



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.

- 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

## 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 #1: Students

## 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.
- ◀ Support a positive organizational climate.
- ◀ Recruit and retain employees committed to our mission.

Area of Strategic Focus #2: Employees

## 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.
- ◀ Communicate performance improvements proactively and with transparency.
- ◀ Align systems to increase responsiveness, efficiency, and results.

## 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.
- ◀ Operate safe, secure, and well-managed facilities.
- ◀ Demonstrate financial efficiency and transparency.

## 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.

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### Key Performance Indicators:

- ◀ Stakeholder Perception and Engagement Assessment Scores of 100%.
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### Goals:

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

Chamiah Francis, Booker T. Washington High School—1,000 pt mark



## District Highlights

In year three of our five-year strategic plan, we made great strides, at every level, to achieve our five Areas of Strategic Focus. All starting at the top with the resolute and passionate leadership from our school board, especially the guidance given by our two retiring and honorable members of our school board, our new chair and our new District 4 and District 5 representatives.

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### School Board

- ◀ David Williams, District 3 Representative, was elected the 2024-2025 chair of the board.
- ◀ Patty Hightower, District 4 representative and Bill Slayton, District 5 representative, retired after serving on the school board for four terms.
- ◀ Carissa Bergosh, District 4 representative and Tom Harrell, District 5 representative were elected and sworn into the Escambia County school board.

### Food Services

- ◀ Successfully rolled out a made from scratch pizza that the students love at two high schools and one middle school. Schools will continue to be added to the program over the next few years.
- ◀ After satelliting from another school for four months, the cafeteria staff at Ferry Pass Middle School is enjoying a newly renovated kitchen.
- ◀ Escambia County's operation of the Child Nutrition Programs, including the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP), underwent a recent massive Federal Administrative Review. The comprehensive evaluation covered meal access and reimbursement, nutritional quality, resource management, and general program compliance. The Division of Food, Nutrition and Wellness concluded that our district operates an exemplary food service program. The review identified no findings, and no corrective action is required. This achievement reflects our commitment to providing nutritious and healthy meals that support the well-being and learning of every child in Escambia County.

### Transportation

- ◀ Purchasing 6-passenger Vans for activities that involve a small number of students, such as small teams.
- ◀ Improved procedures for loading students on buses further enhancing the safety of our students.

### Facilities Planning

- ◀ Interior Renovations continue this summer at Pensacola High School and Pine Meadow.
- ◀ Cafeteria Expansion at Pine Forest High School should be complete by fall of 2025.
- ◀ New Myrtle Grove Elementary School should be complete by Spring of 2026.
- ◀ A major HVAC project is coming to Booker T. Washington High School in the summer of 2025 (two year project).
- ◀ The one-half cent sales tax passed in November. It is funding the new \$44 million Myrtle Grove Elementary. Over the past decade, replacement schools A.K. Suter Elementary, Ernest Ward Middle and Pleasant Grove Elementary, and new schools, Global Learning Academy, Kingsfield Elementary and Beulah Middle, were funded using the sales tax. The sales tax also funded renovations and additions at West Florida High, O.J. Semmes Elementary, Ferry Pass Middle and Pensacola High.

### Information Technology

- ◀ Replaced infrastructure components to improve availability of digital resources.
- ◀ Improved data and analytics capabilities offered through the district's enterprise resource systems.

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## Maintenance

**Maintenance / Custodial has established a number of new procedures:**

- ◀ Quality control procedure in our work order system, which is making the Department accountable and more efficient.
- ◀ An in-house Gymnasium floor finishing and maintenance process, which has saved the District thousands of dollars.
- ◀ Establishment of a pressure washing crew, in order to give our schools a cleaner appearance on a more routine basis. This has made a tremendous positive impact on the appearance of our schools.

**Energy Management, in conjunction with Facilities Planning, processed \$195,000 in rebates.**

- ◀ These rebates are from Florida Power & Light Company's Business Heating Ventilation & Air Conditioning ("HVAC") rebate program.
- ◀ This program incentivizes Facilities Planning's effort to install electric high-efficiency Business Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning ("HVAC") systems.

## Community Outreach

- ◀ During the District's holiday food drive, Escambia County Public Schools collected the equivalent of 16,837 meals for Manna Food Pantries. The food feeds neighbors in need during the winter months, when donations tend to be slow

## Funding

- ◀ Escambia County School District received a \$50,000 grant to increase ELL (English Language Learners) proficiency by allowing more professional learning opportunities for teachers and administrators.

## Funding: Escambia Children's Trust

- ◀ Approved a \$804,000 Health School grant to provide on-site health services and education at O.J. Semmes Elementary and Global Learning Academy. The Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child program is supported by the Centers for Disease Control and is a framework for addressing health in schools.
- ◀ Funded a \$1,190,620, three-year pilot STEM program for at-risk students from seven or eight Escambia County schools. The program's curriculum aligns with state Department of Education standards and includes science, technology, engineering and math disciplines along with life skills such as communications, teamwork, problem solving, critical thinking and leadership. Between 36 to 42 students a week from different middle and high schools attend the National Flight Academy on a rotating basis.

## Backpack Program

- ◀ Backpack Project USA, benefits approx. 550 local children who are found to be in need of food assistance by their teachers or other school personnel. Students receive a bag of nutritious food every week of the school year (including academic breaks and holidays) that includes a healthy, balanced menu of 13-14 items including protein, vegetables, fruit, grains, and dairy.
- ◀ Last year, this program distributed 70,115 pounds of healthy food contributing more than 19,000 "backpacks" of food to Escambia County students at 19 elementary, middle, and high schools.
- ◀ Backpack Project USA is able to make such an impact in our community because of donors and partnerships like Pensacola Big Game Fishing Club, American Heart Association, Manna, The Law Firm of Levin Papantonio, Navy Federal, Fishbein Orthodontics, Community Foundation of NWFL and many other community partners and event sponsors. Thank you for helping our students stay focused on learning and not hunger.

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Barrett Lee, a fourth-grade student at Cordova Park Elementary School, is an avid reader and inspiration to us all. After his treatment for leukemia, he launched a movement for a new book cart at the Studer Family Children's Hospital in Pensacola, so like Barrett, other kids could use books as an escape from hospitalization and all they are going through.



## District Highlights

### District's Internal Auditing Office

Escambia County Public Schools maintains a highly effective internal auditing function. The Office of Internal Auditing, under the supervision of the Audit Committee and School Board, and in cooperation with the Superintendent and District staff, performs a wide variety of activities which help contribute to the District's success. Each year, the Office of Internal Auditing conducts audits of the internal accounts of 50 District schools. Over \$7 million flows in and out of these accounts each year.

In addition, the Office helps safeguard the District's assets by conducting physical asset inventories each year of the District's 43,000+ assets, valued at over \$100 million, which include items such as computers, furniture, vehicles, athletic equipment, etc.

The Office assists with the District's various governance activities, including the monitoring of approximately 80 outside support organizations such as booster clubs, PTAs, etc. Approximately \$3 million flows through these organizations each year. The Office also assists in monitoring of the District's Fraud, Waste, and Abuse Anonymous Reporting Hotline.

Pursuant to its annual work plan, the Office conducts regular audits and reviews of the District's operations, with the goal of improving efficiency and ensuring compliance with laws, rules, contracts, policies, and best practices. One of the Office's most vital functions is the coordination of financial recoveries from insurance and FEMA for natural disasters. Over the last 25+ years, the Office has recovered over \$125 million from nine major disasters. The Office is proud to be one of the many District functions that are United for Every Student to Succeed.



## Long Term Financial Planning

The District's financial objectives for general operating revenue may be summarized as follows:

- ◀ Provide for adequate classroom resources and operational support to accomplish curriculum and instructional goals.
- ◀ Provide for a competitive salary and benefits program for all employees.
- ◀ Maintain adequate fund balance and financial condition consistent with School Board policy.

## Awards and Acknowledgements

The District's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, received the following awards:

- ◀ The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA).
- ◀ The Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Association of School Business Officials (ASBO).

This was the sixteenth consecutive year that the District's ACFR has been so recognized and demonstrates the District's commitment to transparency for the benefit of the taxpayers of Escambia County. Accordingly, the District will also submit the current 2023-24 ACFR for such consideration.

The timely preparation of this report was made possible by the dedicated service of the entire staff of the Finance and Business Services department. Each member of the department has our sincere appreciation for the contributions made in the preparation of this report.



## Safety & Security

- ◀ Virtual Reality Simulator – ECPS has introduced a virtual reality simulator to assist with training school staff and community members on emergency response preparedness. VirTra, secured through a \$186,000 federal grant, provides real-time training scenarios. School Guardians and school administration will receive regular training on how to appropriately respond to emergency incidents on a school campus.
- ◀ School Based Threat Management Teams – ECPS has continued to lead the way in ensuring threatening and concerning behaviors are addressed in our schools. Multidisciplinary teams that include administrators, teachers, law enforcement and mental health meet at least monthly to review student threats and concerning behaviors. Teams implement interventions that address concerning behaviors while ensuring the safety of all students and staff. A newly established District Threat Management Team meets regularly to review the work of the school based teams.
- ◀ Critical Incident Mapping – ECPS was awarded grant funding to facilitate critical incident mapping of our schools. The new mapping will support public safety agencies in their response to a critical incident on our school campuses.
- ◀ AEDs and Stop The Bleed Kits – ECPS rolled out over 130 new AED (Automated External Defibrillators) and 250 Stop The Bleed Kits to all schools and administrative sites. ECPS trainers annually certify over 500 staff members in CPR/AED and First Aid Training through the American Heart Association. This is in addition to the hundreds of staff members who maintain certification through outside trainers.

New and exciting K-6 structure at Cordova Park Elementary School and other schools

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Teacher to mentor and the Student Services Coordinator for Take Stock in Children, Mrs. Sally Lee, is closing this chapter of her life and career in education. After 25 years in this role, her legacy in our community is one that has impacted the lives of hundreds of children and adults who keep mentoring year after year—helping children not only attend college, but graduate.



# 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 three years in both revenue and new programs. New Board Members bring a broad range of experience and expertise, and the Program Manager supports the programs and grant reporting.

## Major Programs

\$101,476.61 was awarded for 19 projects in classrooms, at schools, and to departments through the Grants for Excellence that focus on literacy, low-performing students and improving graduation rates. Projects ranged from flexible seating, horticulture learning center & garden shop, interactive Promethian boards, Career and Technical Student Organizations, books for libraries and classrooms (including a book vending machine!), broadcasting, athletics, and many variations of STEAM. The State of Florida Matching Grant Program funded half of the Foundation GFE program in 2025.



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.

During the 2024–2025 school year, Tools for Teachers cost \$150,000 to operate. The Central Warehouse processed 2,000 orders to educators district-wide this year, doubling last year's orders.

1,706 district employees were able to place orders

for 34,897 items. The most popular item was facial tissues with 6,512 boxes distributed. Cheezits were the most popular snack with 1,002 teachers ordering 1,270 Sam's Club sized boxes of them!

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!

## 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 ECPS 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 167 students, grades 7–12, are in the program and 90 students are attending college. Since inception, there have been 159 college graduates that were in the Escambia County Take Stock in Children Program.

## Grants

The Foundation received over \$240,000 in grants from Florida School District Education Foundation, HCA, FPL, International Paper, Wells Fargo, 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 HogFest 2024 and the 2024 Dragon Boat Festival on Bayou Texar raising \$35,000 towards Foundation programs and the club's mission of kindergarten readiness.
- ◀ Navy Federal Credit Union supported the Escambia County Public Schools Foundation through the proceeds from their annual 5K Run in downtown Pensacola. In 2024, Navy Federal donated \$25,194 to the Foundation in support of public education.
- ◀ Florida Power & Light donated \$25,000 to the Escambia County Public Schools Foundation in support of Tools for Teachers.
- ◀ Pensacola Association of Realtors donated \$6,580.53 in proceeds from their Chili Cookoff to the Escambia County Public Schools Foundation.
- ◀ Other major donors were Greenhut Construction, PenAir Credit Union, Members First Credit Union, Wharton-Smith, Inc. and Construction Group.







# Escambia County

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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75 North Pace Blvd, Pensacola, FL 32505



850.432.6121



[escambiaschools.org](http://escambiaschools.org)