



PULASKI COUNTY SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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“District Excited with Latest Test Results: Number of Students Scoring at Proficient or Advanced Levels in 11th Grade Literacy Jumps from 20% to 38% for the District as a Whole”

The latest results from the State's ACTAAP 11th Grade Literacy End-of-Course test scores show that 38% of the District's students (see attachment) scored at the proficient or advanced levels in Spring 2002, in contrast to 20% at the proficient/advanced levels in Spring 2001, just one year previous. This represents a near doubling of the number of students that scored at these levels over the previous year.

Dr. Don Henderson, interim superintendent for the Pulaski County Special School District, said, “The District is excited about these results. If we can do this at the 11th grade, we can do it at all grade levels.” Dr. Henderson went on to add that, “While this is great news, more work and effort will follow.”

Dr. Henderson noted that in comparison with 2001 scores, the District saw a 12% reduction in students scoring at the Below Basic level and a 5% reduction in students scoring at the Basic level. This reduction led to an 18% increase in students scoring at the Proficient/Advanced levels. (The State's criterion test results place students into one of four levels: Below Basic, Basic, Proficient, or Advanced.)

Principals clearly credited their dedicated faculty for taking a hard look at school improvement planning and putting dialogue into action to improve test scores. Examples of these efforts at the schools included an emphasis in literacy and writing across the curriculum, an emphasis for both faculty and students to learn more about

“rubrics” (scoring guides) and become more familiar with how the tests are scored by the State. Principals also mentioned an increased movement toward higher expectations coupled with school pride. Staff development provided at both the District and school level, which addressed State-mandated testing, was said to be a positive factor in developing strategies to increase student learning and achievement.

While the District as a whole made significant strides, each high school showed improvements, noted below, comparing Spring 2002 test scores with 2001 scores:

PCSSD Overall	a 12% reduction in scores at the Below Basic level a 18% increase in scores at Proficient/Advanced
Jacksonville High School	a 15% reduction in scores at the Below Basic level a 12% increase in scores at Proficient/Advanced
North Pulaski High School	a 21% reduction in scores at Below Basic/Basic a 21% increase in scoring at Proficient/Advanced
Oak Grove High School	a 20% reduction in scores at the Below Basic level a 23% increase in scoring at Proficient/Advanced
Robinson High School	a 15% reduction in scores at the Below Basic level a 9% reduction in scores at the Basic level a 25% increase in scoring at Proficient/Advanced
Sylvan Hills High School	a 12% reduction in scores at the Basic level a 10% increase in scoring at Proficient/Advanced
Mills High School	a 15% reduction in scores at the Below Basic level a 12% reduction in scores at the Basic level a 26% increase in scores at Proficient/Advanced

For more information, contact:

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*This press release may be found on our website or by the following direct link:
http://pcssd.org/account/Press_Release_ACTAAP_8_13_2002.PDF*

End-of-Course Literacy (Grade 11)

Spring 2002

Scores	PCSSD Below Basic	State Below Basic	PCSSD Basic	State Basic	PCSSD Proficient	State Proficient	PCSSD Advanced	State Advanced	PCSSD Not Proficient	State Not Proficient	PCSSD Proficient/ Advanced	State Proficient/ Advanced
District / State	18%	14%	45%	43%	37%	41%	1%	2%	63%	57%	38%	43%
Jacksonville High	18%	14%	53%	43%	29%	41%	0%	2%	71%	57%	29%	43%
Mills U. Studies High	12%	14%	35%	43%	51%	41%	2%	2%	47%	57%	53%	43%
North Pulaski High	20%	14%	47%	43%	32%	41%	1%	2%	67%	57%	33%	43%
Oak Grove High	13%	14%	43%	43%	42%	41%	3%	2%	56%	57%	45%	43%
Joe T. Robinson High	17%	14%	42%	43%	40%	41%	1%	2%	59%	57%	41%	43%
Sylvan Hills High	20%	14%	44%	43%	34%	41%	1%	2%	64%	57%	35%	43%

Spring 2001

Scores	PCSSD Below Basic	State Below Basic	PCSSD Basic	State Basic	PCSSD Proficient	State Proficient	PCSSD Advanced	State Advanced	PCSSD Not Proficient	State Not Proficient	PCSSD Proficient/ Advanced	State Proficient/ Advanced
District / State	30%	25%	50%	51%	19%	23%	1%	1%	80%	76%	20%	24%
Jacksonville High	33%	25%	49%	51%	17%	23%	0%	1%	82%	76%	17%	24%
Mills U. Studies High	27%	25%	47%	51%	24%	23%	3%	1%	74%	76%	27%	24%
North Pulaski High	39%	25%	49%	51%	12%	23%	0%	1%	88%	76%	12%	24%
Oak Grove High	33%	25%	45%	51%	21%	23%	1%	1%	78%	76%	22%	24%
Joe T. Robinson High	32%	25%	51%	51%	16%	23%	0%	1%	83%	76%	16%	24%
Sylvan Hills High	20%	25%	56%	51%	24%	23%	1%	1%	76%	76%	25%	24%

Spring 2002 Gains over Spring 2001 Test Results

Scores	PCSSD Below Basic	State Below Basic	PCSSD Basic	State Basic	PCSSD Proficient	State Proficient	PCSSD Advanced	State Advanced	PCSSD Not Proficient	State Not Proficient	PCSSD Proficient/ Advanced	State Proficient/ Advanced
District / State	-12%	-11%	-5%	-8%	+18%	+18%	0%	+1%	-17%	-19%	+18%	+19%
Jacksonville High	-15%	-11%	+4%	-8%	+12%	+18%	0%	+1%	-11%	-19%	+12%	+19%
Mills U. Studies High	-15%	-11%	-12%	-8%	+27%	+18%	-1%	+1%	-27%	-19%	+26%	+19%
North Pulaski High	-19%	-11%	-2%	-8%	+20%	+18%	+1%	+1%	-21%	-19%	+21%	+19%
Oak Grove High	-20%	-11%	-2%	-8%	+21%	+18%	+2%	+1%	-22%	-19%	+23%	+19%
Joe T. Robinson High	-15%	-11%	-9%	-8%	+24%	+18%	+1%	+1%	-24%	-19%	+25%	+19%
Sylvan Hills High	0%	-11%	-12%	-8%	+10%	+18%	0%	+1%	-12%	-19%	+10%	+19%