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 Dr. Will Hoffman

Press Release

September 12, 2019

North Carolina released state test scores. Madison County Schools rank high in the state and in the region.

The 2018-19 School Year brought about changes in the state standards and new tests for students in grades 3-8 and some high school courses. New tests always mean the achievement bar for grade level proficiency is raised. North Carolina released state test scores this month and Madison County Schools ranks 14th out of the 115 school systems in North Carolina with 65.8% of students demonstrating proficiency on end of year exams. Which is well above the state's passing rate of 57.2%. Dr. Will Hoffman, Superintendent of Madison County Schools, states that "Madison County Schools continue to maintain a high standard in our academic accountability results, and we continue to rank among the best school systems in North Carolina. The achievement of our students and staff is remarkable, and it underscores our vision that when we all pull together, as a learning community, we are Making It Happen."

Madison County Schools continue to shine as a top system in the Western Region, ranking 3rd, just behind Polk and Henderson County Schools. Madison County Schools' Fifth Grade students ranked #1 in proficiency in the state in all three tested areas: Reading (76.2%), Math (81%), and Science (91%).

District Name	Percent of students scoring at or above Achievement Level 3
Polk County Schools	73.8
Henderson County Schools	66.5
Madison County Schools	65.8
Haywood County Schools	64.5
Asheville City Schools	64.0
Transylvania County Schools	63.6
Rutherford County Schools	62.5
Macon County Schools	62.3
Cherokee County Schools	61.4
Buncombe County Schools	61.3
Clay County Schools	58.8
Swain County Schools	58.1
Graham County Schools	56.1
Jackson County Schools	55.5

North Carolina also released School Performance Grades for 2018-19 which are based on the percentage of students passing exams and student growth. Madison Early College High School boasts an “A” and “Met” the state’s growth expectation for students. Brush Creek Elementary, Hot Springs Elementary, and Mars Hill Elementary earned “B” and all three elementary schools “Exceeded” the state’s growth expectation for students. The school grades provide another accolade for our school system with only 37% of schools in North Carolina earning a performance grade of A or B this past school year. Monica Ponder, Instructional Improvement Director for Madison County Schools and former Principal of Brush Creek, commented, “I am exceptionally proud of the success of our students, teachers, and schools. As public schools, we embrace every child, meet them where they are, and grow them beyond the state’s expectations. The teaching and learning that occurs in our county is some of the very best in the state.”

Madison County Schools	Grade Span	School Performance Grade	School Growth Status
Brush Creek Elementary	K – 5	B	Exceed
Hot Springs Elementary	K – 5	B	Exceed
Mars Hill Elementary	K – 5	B	Exceed
Madison Middle School	6 – 8	C	Not Met
Madison High School	9 – 12	C	Not Met
Madison Early College High	9 - 13	A	Met

“We have some of the best instructional leaders in the state. We continue to have high expectations for our students and our staff. We often feel the pressure to push harder each year and I am so very proud of the effort of our staff and students within our school district,” Ms. Lisa Gahagan, Assistant Superintendent of Madison County Schools, added. If you would like to see more results regarding accountability you can go to <http://www.dpi.state.nc.us/accountability/reporting/> for more details from the state testing and accountability database.