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# Press Release

September 9, 2021

Madison County Schools students, teachers, and staff continued to promote academic achievement in the 2020-21 school year as they dealt with the impacts felt from a global pandemic.

Madison County Schools scored a 54.6% level of proficiency ranking for all subjects and all students. This places us 15<sup>th</sup> in the state out of 115 districts. The state level of proficiency average was 45.4%. Schools throughout the district contributed to the above-average performance:

- All Madison County Elementary Schools **exceeded** the state average in math and reading.
- Madison Middle School Students in 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades **exceeded** the state average in math and reading as well as 8<sup>th</sup> graders in Science.
- Madison County High School and Madison Early College High School students **exceeded** the state average by 23.6 % in NC Math 1 (9-12) and maintained a 91.4% 4-Year graduation rate, which is 4.5% higher than the state average.

Madison County Schools rank 3<sup>rd</sup> overall in the Western Region in student proficiency:

<b>Polk County Schools</b>	<b>59.8</b>
<b>Haywood County Schools</b>	56.3
<b>Madison County Schools</b>	<b>54.6</b>
<b>Henderson County Schools</b>	51.7
<b>Clay County Schools</b>	49.8
<b>Macon County Schools</b>	49.5
<b>Transylvania County Schools</b>	49.2
<b>Buncombe County Schools</b>	48.7
<b>Asheville City Schools</b>	46.4
<b>Cherokee County Schools</b>	46.3
<b>Swain County Schools</b>	44.9
<b>Rutherford County Schools</b>	43.6
<b>Jackson County Schools</b>	41.5
<b>Graham County Schools</b>	35.0

“Despite the challenges our schools have faced over the past 19 months, Madison County Schools continues to rise to the top when compared to school systems across North Carolina. We are a community school system, and the focus of our staff is the well-being of our students. Our faculty, staff and students are Making It Happen in every school, in every classroom, every day.” stated Dr. Will Hoffman.

Even as state officials acknowledged the disruption to public education that students and staff faced over the past year and a half, Madison County Schools continued to perform above state averages. Tests designed to be administered at the same time and based on typical face-to-face classroom instruction were taken under widely varying conditions, often after an entire year of atypical, remote instruction. Results for the 2020-2021 school year are not objectively comparable to previous years due to the many factors that came into play throughout the academic year.

The student achievement data for the 2020-21 school year is based on analysis of all end-of-grade (EOG) and end-of-course (EOC) tests, which are aligned to the North Carolina Standard Course of Study in English Language Arts (Reading) and Mathematics and the Essential Standards in Science for all public schools in North Carolina.

Madison County Schools have put into place intervention teams at all schools to help accelerate learning for the 2021-2022 school year.

“I am extremely proud of our students and staff. When facing adversity, true character will emerge. As we navigated daily changes in schedules, instructional delivery, and personal health, our school family rose to challenges they had never faced before. We will continue to give our best every day because that is what our students deserve,” stated Lisa Gahagan, Assistant Superintendent of Madison County Schools.

<b>Academic Indicator</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Madison County</b>	<b>Difference from State</b>
Performance Composite	45.4	54.6	9.2
Grade 3 Math	44.5	49.7	5.2
Grade 4 Math	37.8	52.6	14.8
Grade 5 Math	42.0	57.9	15.9
Grade 6 Math	40.6	52.5	11.9
Grade 7 Math	42.5	48.3	5.8
Grade 8 Math	32.7	31.8	-0.9
Grade 3 Reading	45.1	55.9	10.8
Grade 4 Reading	45.1	54.5	9.4
Grade 5 Reading	42.4	62.1	19.7
Grade 6 Reading	45.3	55.3	10

Grade 7 Reading	46.7	65.1	18.4
Grade 8 Reading	48.2	46.4	-1.8
Grade 5 Science	53.9	75.0	21.1
Grade 8 Science	70.3	77.5	7.2
NC Math 1 (9-12)	25.1	48.7	23.6
NC Math 3 (9-12)	44.6	45.1	.5
Biology	45.6	45.5	-0.1
English II	58.5	63.4	4.9
ACT Composite Score	55.2	55.1	-0.1
4-Year Graduation Rate	86.9	91.4	4.5