



St. Johns County School District once again tops state in many FSA scores

By Travis Gibson
July 4, 2019

Following the release of the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) scores last week, the St. Johns County School District finds itself in a familiar position: on top.

St. Johns County students who took the FSA during the 2018-19 school year ranked first in the state for 18 out of 21 categories including math, reading and science.

“I am pleased with the work that has been done and the success that has been seen as a result of it,” superintendent Tim Forson said Tuesday. “Our teachers and our school leaders have been very focused, and I think that focus has been paying off with higher performance.”

According to results released last week by the Florida Department of Education, the district ranked first in the state in reading results for third through 10th grade students, the same ranking it held last school year. Last year, the district ranked first in 16 of 21 categories.

In math, the district ranked first in scores for sixth, seventh and eighth graders, tied for second in the state for fourth and fifth grade, and third graders ranked third in the state.

The district also saw gains in all of the major categories including math (+1%), science (+3%), civics and history (+1% and +2%) and language arts (+1%).

FSA tests are graded on a scale of 1-5 with 5 being “Master,” 4 being “Proficient,” 3 being “Satisfactory,” 2 being “Below Satisfactory” and 1 being “Inadequate.”

There were 75% of district students in grades 3-10 who scored Level 3 or above on the language arts tests, 90% of students in grades 4-12 who scored Level 3 or above in civics, 88% of students in grades 6-12 who scored Level 3 or above in biology and 81% of students in grades 3-8 who scored Level 3 or above in math.

Student performance on the FSA assessments provides important information to parents/guardians, teachers and policy makers about how well students are learning the Florida Standards, but Forson said the scores only tell part of the story.

“It’s a high level view,” Forson said. “It’s looking at it test by test, not school by school or student by student. The state grade will tell us more details. At first blush, from a long way away says. We did pretty well.”

District grades are expected to be released in the coming months. Forson said once those are released, the district will know whether struggling learners have been making progress. Until then, Forson hopes teachers can celebrate their success.

“I hope our teachers are proud of their work as they see it. They should be,” Forson said.