

Washington County Schools has been identified as an Exemplary school district by the state of Tennessee for the 2016-17 school year. The final accountability determinations are as follows:

Student Achievement Status: Exemplary

Subgroup Status: Exemplary

Final Determination: Exemplary

The Exemplary rating recognizes school districts across the state that significantly improved student performance and narrowed achievement gaps under Tennessee's accountability system. Washington County Schools raised proficiency levels on the TNReady assessment, made substantial progress in closing gaps between groups of students, and ensured improvement for minority groups, as well as students with disabilities, limited English proficiency and those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

For grades 3-8 ELA, Washington County ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> out of the 95 county school districts and 13<sup>th</sup> out of all 144 school districts in the state of Tennessee. For grades 3-8 Math, Washington County ranked 7<sup>th</sup> out of the 95 county school districts and 19<sup>th</sup> out of all 144 school districts in the state of Tennessee. For grades 3-8 Science, Washington County ranked 12<sup>th</sup> out of the 95 county school districts and 32<sup>nd</sup> out of all 144 school districts in the state of Tennessee. The hard work of our students, teachers and administrators is evident and has been recognized by the State Department of Education.

In addition, the Tennessee Department of Education released state-wide End of Course test results for high schools on August 30, 2017. Every school system offering high school level tests were reflected in the report. The following data shows where Washington County Schools ranked out of the 129 school districts that reported scores in the percentage of students scoring in the "on track" and "mastered" categories. Students scoring in these categories are considered to be proficient in the courses tested.

### **Overall High School English**

- State ranking; 20th overall
- 7th among county school systems across the state
- 1st among NE Tennessee county school systems

### **Overall High School Mathematics**

- State ranking; 16th overall
- 4th among county school systems across the state
- 1st among NE Tennessee county school systems

### **Individual Course rankings:**

Algebra I: 21st in state, #2 among NE Tennessee county school systems

Algebra II: 19th in state, #1 among NE Tennessee county school systems

Geometry: 14th in state, #1 among NE Tennessee county school systems

English 9: 24th in state, #1 among NE Tennessee county school systems

English 10: 32nd in state, #1 among NE Tennessee county school systems

English 11: 28th in state, #1 among NE Tennessee county school systems

United States History: 20th in state, #1 among NE Tennessee county school systems

Chemistry I: 72nd in state, #3 among NE Tennessee county school systems

Biology I: 71st in state, #3 among NE Tennessee county school systems

Make no mistake about it. We are extremely proud of these results. But we are not satisfied. In Washington County Schools, there exists a strong sense of urgency to continue to build upon the foundation we have laid with The Washington Way; a foundation that will provide our students the opportunity for upward mobility in their futures. This Exemplary Status is the result of the hard work of everyone involved as well as the strong professional development that has been provided to our teachers. We have offered Mike Rutherford's Artisan Teacher Training and Skillful Observation and Coaching Laboratory Training to our administrators. This training helps school administrators and instructional coaches identify and strengthen talents in each teacher by helping those teachers build capacity in their natural teaching talents. These talents are specifically aligned with improving outcomes for students. Through the leadership of curriculum coordinators and instructional coaches, our teachers have received a deeper understanding of the revised Tennessee curriculum standards. Additionally, our teachers have received professional development grounded in the Read to be Ready state initiative to strengthen reading skills in our youngest students.

This is just the beginning for the students of Washington County. There is a reason one of the Twitter hashtags used by our school system is #evenbetter. While we appreciate the hard-earned and well-deserved accolades, we will not rest. Instead, we will push forward to new heights as we endeavor to become the best school system in the state of Tennessee. #evenbetter #thewashingtonway #anewsenseofurgency