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## NCSS Posts Gains and Outperforms State in 3 of 4 Testing Categories on Georgia High School Graduation Test

Newton County Schools ALL - 11<sup>th</sup> Grade 1<sup>st</sup> Time Takers – Percent Passed (Preliminary Data)

	Alcovy		Eastside		Newton		NCSS		State	
	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011
ELA	91	<b>91</b>	94	<b>92</b>	87	<b>94</b>	90	<b>92</b>	90	<b>91</b>
Math	*NC	<b>77</b>	*NC	<b>86</b>	*NC	<b>76</b>	*NC	<b>78</b>	*NC	<b>84</b>
Science	91	<b>92</b>	96	<b>96</b>	89	<b>95</b>	91	<b>94</b>	90	<b>93</b>
Social Studies	79	<b>82</b>	89	<b>88</b>	75	<b>86</b>	79	<b>85</b>	78	<b>80</b>

*\*NC = 2011 Math results cannot be compared to 2010 results due to new curriculum & test.*

Newton County School System (NCSS) students increased pass percentage rates and outperformed their statewide peers in the process on all categories but math on the 2011 Georgia High School Graduation Test (GHSGT). This year's math test was based on the state's new math curriculum. Because the tests and curriculum are not the same, 2011 scores cannot be compared to scores from previous years.

According to preliminary data released from the Georgia Department of Education, 92 percent of NCSS students passed the English Language Arts test compared to 91 percent statewide. This marked a two point increase over the district's 2010 pass rate of 90 percent. In 2011, NCSS students also bested the Georgia average on the Science test by one percentage point, with 94 percent of NCSS students passing the test compared to 93 percent statewide. The system's overall pass rate on the science test also improved by three points over last year's results. Overall, NCSS saw its greatest gains on the Social Studies test in 2011, with 85 percent passing the test compared to only 79 percent in 2010. In addition, the NCSS pass rate also surpassed the state's 80 percent pass rate by five percentage points. The pass rate for the new math test was 78 percent compared to 84 percent statewide.

Individual school reports show that Eastside and Newton outperformed the state's pass rate in English Language Arts and Social Studies. Alcovy matched the state's English Language Arts results and bested the state on the Social Studies test. Eastside and Newton also surpassed the state's 93 percent pass rate in Science with Alcovy just one point below the state average. With an 86 percent pass rate, Eastside also topped the state's 84 percent pass rate on the new math test.

Alcovy High School (AHS) saw an increase in two testing categories in 2011—Science (+1) and Social Studies (+3). The school also maintained its 91 percent pass rate on the English Language Arts test and 77 percent of first-time test takers passed the new math test in 2011.

Eastside High School (EHS) surpassed the state averages in all testing categories in 2011, including the new math test. The school maintained its 96 percent pass rate in science in 2011 but did see slight decreases on the English Language Arts (-2) and Social Studies (-1). In 2011, 86 percent of EHS students passed the new math test.

Newton High School (NHS) posted significant gains in each category testing category this year. The school increased its pass rate in English Language Arts by seven points and its Math pass rate by six points in 2011. NHS posted its largest gains on the Social Studies test, going from a 75 percent pass rate in 2010 to an 86 percent pass rate in 2011, a difference of 11 points. NHS surpassed the state in each of those categories as well. The school showed a 76 percent pass rate on the new math test in 2011.

“These results show the path we want to be on—upward with improvements over last year and ahead of the state,” said NCS Superintendent Gary Mathews. “It’s particularly gratifying to see our students’ progress actually outpace that of the state in English and Social Studies. Science, strong at 94 percent, is ahead of Georgia by a point. Math continues to be the greatest challenge at the local and state levels, but I am confident in the work being done by our teachers and principals. We will improve in this area too. Overall, congrats are certainly in order for each of our three high schools.”

Although Challenge Charter Academy (CCA) is an independent charter school governed by a separate board of directors, the Georgia Department of Education does include the school’s scores in the school system’s averages. In 2011, CCA did not post any increases on GHSGT pass rates. Overall pass rates for the Academy were 64 percent in English Language Arts, 67 percent in Science, and 58 percent in Social Studies.

For more information, contact the Newton County School System Public Relations Department at 770-784-2908.

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