

Newton County Announces Preliminary CRCT Results for 2010-11

In Reading, Improvements in 4 of 6 Grades Compared to 09-10

In English/Language Arts, Improvements in 5 of 6 Grades Compared to 09-10

In Math, Improvements in 4 of 6 Grades Compared to 09-10

In Science, Improvements in 5 of 6 Grades Compared to 09-10

In Social Studies, Improvements in 4 of 6 Grades Compared to 09-10

Newton County School System (NCSS) has received its preliminary results for the Criterion Referenced Competency Tests for grades 3 through 8 for the 2010-11 school year as released today by the Georgia Department of Education.

In English Language Arts, an AYP subject, 90% of Newton County students in grades three through 8 met or exceeded standards on the CRCTs in 2010-11. (Preliminary results for 2009-10 showed 89.4% meeting or exceeding standards.)

In Math, an AYP subject, 80% of Newton County students in grades three through 8 met or exceeded standards on the CRCTs in 2010-11. (Preliminary results for 2009-10 showed 76.6% meeting or exceeding standards.)

In Reading, NCSS demonstrated improvement in 4 of 6 grades as shown below:

3rd Grade: 91.7 (+2.3)

4th Grade: 86 (-0.3)

5th Grade: 86.7 (No Change)

6th Grade: 91.9 (+2.8)

7th Grade: 88.8 (+3)

8th Grade: 95.8 (+1.3)

In English/Language Arts, NCSS demonstrated improvement in 5 of 6 grades shown below:

3rd Grade: 88.7 (+2.7)

4th Grade: 86.7 (+2.8)

5th Grade: 91.1 (+0.2)

6th Grade: 88.1 (-2.1)

7th Grade: 90.7 (+2)

8th Grade: 92.7 (+0.6)

In Math, NCSS demonstrated improvement in 4 of 6 grades as shown below:

3rd Grade: 77.4 (-0.1)

4th Grade: 80.2 (+9.6)

5th Grade: 82.3 (+4.1)

6th Grade: 70 (-0.6)

7th Grade: 86 (+2.8)

8th Grade: 74.8 (+5.3)

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In Science, NCSS demonstrated improvement in 5 of 6 grades as shown below:

3rd Grade: 78.5 (+0.6)
4th Grade: 77.0 (+1.9)
5th Grade: 71.0 (-0.8)
6th Grade: 65.8 (+3.4)
7th Grade: 79.3 (+2.9)
8th Grade: 66.9 (+4.1)

In Social Studies, NCSS demonstrated improvement in 4 of 6 grades as shown below:

3rd Grade: 77.6 (-0.4)
4th Grade: 74.1 (+5.4)
5th Grade: 59.7 (-3.9)
6th Grade: 59.3 (+9.6)
7th Grade: 66.1 (+5.8)
8th Grade: 64.5 (+4.6)

According to Superintendent Gary Mathews, “We’re pleased to see the upward trends for grades 3 through 8, while recognizing that there is still plenty of room for improvement. Nonetheless, given the upward trends that we saw on this year’s Georgia High School Graduation Tests and on the Writing test for grades 5 and 8 coupled with this year’s CRCTs, it’s a good thing to be on the upswing. Once federal AYP results are known, I do believe that NCSS will considerably best the dire prediction for our schools for this past 10-11 school year when 19 schools were predicted to not make AYP. We’re going to do better than this when these federal results are released.”

Nationally, U.S. Secretary Arne Duncan has predicted that approximately 83% of public schools will not make AYP.

According to Dr. Mathews: “As for as federal AYP and No-Child-Left-Behind are concerned, accountability has been a good thing when it comes to making sure that all groups of learners are monitored for success. However, one hundred percent of students passing state assessments by 2014 is hardly realistic. Additionally, I worry as an educator that these multiple choice assessments have been too limiting when it comes to focusing on a truly educated human being—one who can communicate effectively through oral and written communication inclusive of appropriate research abilities, exhibit deep thinking through project completion, work as a team member, and utilize technology effectively for the production and consumption of knowledge in the 21st century. Moreover, we need to produce students who not only read at a basic level, but who also think and care about what they read.”

For more information on Newton County School System’s CRCT results, contact Dr. Carl Skinner, Director of Testing, Research & Evaluation at 770-787-1330, Extension 1216.