



BARROW COUNTY SCHOOLS

"World class education, hometown values"

PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For More Information Contact:
Matt Thompson, Testing Specialist
770-867-4527

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Graduation Test Scores Present both Improvement and Challenges

Graduation High school Graduation Test (GHS GT) scores in Barrow County increased from 2009-2010 in each comparable area. Overall 89% of Barrow County Junior students met or exceeded standards in English Language Arts, compared to 86% in 2010. Science scores increased over the same time frame, moving from 90% in 2010 to 91% during the current year. The largest gain came on the Social Studies section, where the pass rate increased 4%, from 74% last year to 78% currently. Mathematics was, for the first time, evaluated on the Georgia Performance Standards curriculum making comparisons to previous years impossible. Overall, 83% of Barrow Juniors passed in mathematics.

During the 2010-2011 school year over 600 Junior students took the GHS GT for the first time and 71% passed all four sections on their first try, a slight increase from the previous year where 69% passed all four. Statewide 74% of high school Juniors passed all four subjects on the first try. Additional challenges evident in the results were that Barrow's pass rate lagged the State average in all four areas assessed. This combination of both growth and achievement gaps will continue to be a focus for Barrow teachers and leaders going forward. Barrow County administrators will take the results of the GHS GT and use it to both target students that need remediation prior to their next attempt as well as find weak areas in need of improvement for future test takers.

All students who failed one or more sections of the graduation test will be offered 4 more retest opportunities prior to the end of their senior year.

Winder-Barrow Principal Dr. Al Darby noted that "we are proud of the gains our students made in almost every area. We are always seeking to improve and help our students achieve success." Apalachee Principal David McGee further added that "we are very pleased with the improvement in our scores as well as the percentage of students scoring in the advanced and honors level categories. Our students and teachers worked very hard all year to prepare for all areas of the GHS GT and our results reflect their efforts."

Percentage Meets/Exceeds of First Time Junior Test Takers on the GHS GT

Subject	Georgia	Barrow	AHS	WBHS
ELA	93%	89%	91%	87%
Science	93%	91%	90%	93%
Social Studies	80%	78%	79%	77%
Math	84%	83%	86%	80%

Wanda Creel, Ed. D.
Superintendent

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