

Important Notice from Superintendent Day

Concerning Test Scores

Last week the State Department of Education released the 2018 College and Career Readiness Performance Index (CCRPI). We were aware a new method of scoring was to be utilized and worked very hard to prepare for it!

There are four different areas the State analyzes and combines for an overall score for each school and the District. The four areas and the percentage each counts are:

Content Mastery 30%
Progress 35%
Closing the Gap 15%
Readiness 20%

While there are many changes with the new formula that are positive, the new scoring has negatively affected overall scores for higher performing schools. Below is a chart showing our scores at each school, and the district for the 2017-2018 school year. We have definitely experienced a drop in our scores, especially in the category of Closing the Gap. The State has set a required 3% increase each year in each area tested in order to receive points toward the CCRPI. If you do not achieve the 3% increase, you get 0 points.

2018 CCRPI (Based on 2017 Scores)

	Content Mastery	Progress	Closing the Gap	Readiness	Overall Score
CCS	74.1	84.1	3.6	86.5	69.5
GLMS	75.4	75.9	67.9	89.2	77.2
GLHS	83.9	96	64.3	91.3	89
CCS District					78

It is a given that the higher the scores, the more difficult it is to make improvement. Example: If a student scores a 40, it is much easier to achieve a 43 than it is for a student scoring 89 to achieve a 92. However, with the new scoring method, the student scoring a 43 would have made a 3 point increase and the school would get a green flag even though the student has a failing grade. A student scoring 89 and only achieving a 2 point increase to 91, would not have made the 3% increase and the school would get a red flag and no points.

It is difficult to close the gap when scores are high - - typically it is a great achievement to actually maintain high scores each year while working to improve them. Any positive movement, even from a 91 to a 92, is very good, but not recognized by the State as meeting the criteria, and therefore no points would be assigned and zero given for that student's progress.

I would like to provide another chart showing our CCRPI scores for the past two years. Chickamauga Elementary School was definitely the most negatively affected school in our system based on the new scoring method. Typically, their scores are in the top 10% of all elementary schools in the State. This year they had a drop in the area of Closing the Gap. Their progress score went from 83 to 3.6. This was primarily caused by the fact that the students' scores were already high, and they did not increase a full 3 points. Therefore, the State would have awarded a zero for them, even though they were achieving a very high score.

College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI)	2015-2016	2016-2017	Current 2017-2018
System	82	85	78
CES	83.9	85.2	69.5
GLMS	79.1	80.7	77.2
GLHS	82.6	87.9	89

You can easily see the CCRPI scores from previous years were much higher before this scoring change.

You might wonder, as we do, why would the method of scoring be changed? In a conference call about this issue on October 31, we were basically told the changes occurred so that lower performing schools who could not meet the State target each year would be able to show progress. Many schools with actual scores much lower than ours, have scored much higher on the "Closing the Gap" section of the CCRPI due to their ability to make the 3% increase. While they are thrilled, and we are happy for them, there are definitely problems with the new scoring method that need to be addressed.

Since this was the first year of the new scoring method, we are hopeful it will be reviewed and tweaked to give an accurate representation of how schools are truly performing.

As you can imagine, this is very disheartening to teachers and administrators. We are all working harder than ever before differentiating instruction, incorporating technology into the lessons, and striving to move student mastery to the highest levels possible.

For a more accurate and reliable indicator of how our students are performing we ask that you look at the content mastery section of the CCRPI- -these are the students' actual scores as to what they have achieved and if they are achieving at the level necessary to be prepared for the next grade level, college, or career. At one time this section counted 60% of the CCRPI score, but it has now been reduced to only 30%. It seems the State is more focused on closing gaps than actual achievement. If you compare Chickamauga City School District's Content Mastery scores with other schools, you will see they are extremely competitive, and our students are well prepared.

We believe in accountability - - you can access our website at www.chickamaugacityschools.org and view our Balanced Scorecard which is a summary of our performance for the past 3 years. We have collected and evaluated data since 2000 and made tremendous

improvements. Students are being taught at higher levels, teachers are better prepared, and activities are aimed at student involvement in the learning to “show what they know.”

It is difficult to receive the news that your scores have dropped because of a change in the method of scoring. However, we must also remember there are many contributing factors to test scores:

- The ability level of the group
- A student’s mindset on the day of the test (tired, upset, hungry)

All in all, test scores are an attempt to be accountable and give a snapshot of performance each year. We all want to score well and be successful, but ultimately, the students are our best testament, and we are very proud of our students and their accomplishments.

The State School Superintendent, Richard Woods, sent an email to school administrators on the very same topic of accountability and how stringent and antiquated the State of Georgia’s ratings of schools are. For your convenience, I am attaching a link to his message, and I also encourage you to contact the administrators at your children’s school(s) if you have questions or would like more information.

Thank you,

Melody Day

Melody Day,
Superintendent

Chickamauga City School District