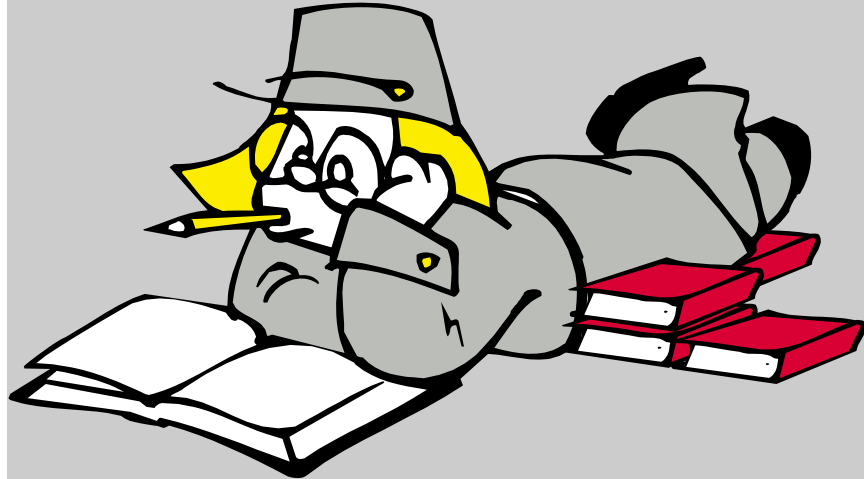


# PRINCIPALS!



Please copy the attached Parent Guide and **DISTRIBUTE** during your Parent Expos.

Call The Family Information Resource Center at (850) 627-9651, ext. 265, if you have questions.

# GADSDEN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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*"Building A Brighter Future"*

## Parent Resource Guide

## From the Desk of Superintendent Reginald C. James

I cannot begin to express the pride I have for administrators, teachers, parents, volunteers and most importantly our students for what they have accomplished this past school term. We have produced our highest FCAT results to date and have raised our school grades to a historic high, producing six high performing schools including four "A" schools. Ninety two percent of our schools achieved a passing grade. In addition, we raised our graduation rate nearly 10% over the previous year. We are changing our community for the better. As we begin a new year, we look forward to the opening of the district's Information Technology Academy at West Gadsden High School.

To build on the incredible academic success we experienced I urge parents and the community to stand behind our schools and support our children like never before. We must take the pride we felt when our school grades were announced and turn that pride into motivation to have even better results this year. We must turn our excitement into energy and volunteer at the schools, mentor our children and encourage the academic success that is truly building a brighter future for us all. The most important thing I can stress is that **this** is just the beginning! If we commit ourselves to continually working together, striving for excellence and believing in NO EXCUSES, the best is yet to come. If all parents continue to urge their children to work hard, if every teacher and administrator commit themselves to giving their very best every day, if every church and business dedicate themselves to supporting our schools I promise that every school will earn an "A".

This was a team effort, and we were victorious. Let us remember how far we've come; let us remember how good it feels to not be at the bottom anymore; let us savor how proud our children are, and let us build on it. If we can maintain the areas are strong and strengthen areas where we are weak, then the Gadsden community is just a step away from an "A" school district.

Our success reminds me of the Biblical story where a woman had nearly run out of food and was in a dire, near death situation. Along came someone who asked for her last bit of food. With faith she gave it away, but to her amazement her food was replenished. Over and over she gave, but she didn't run out. Her situation was turned around. Our situation is very comparable. Our budget is bare bones. Unfortunately, the state legislators have left this district without any wiggle room and barely enough money to meet necessary expenditures. But just as the woman if we have faith, if we just give of ourselves to the children that are hungry for a quality education, our community will be replenished. The fact remains that no matter how bad this economy gets, the greatest tool we can give our children to battle unemployment and poverty is knowledge. Let's all roll up our sleeves and work together to create an academically fruitful and prosperous school year.



**Mission Statement:**  
To "Build A Brighter Future" as we  
prepare students for success in life.



*"Building A Brighter Future"*

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## District Goals

- Improved Student Performance
- Professional and Staff Development
- Implementation of Continuous Improvement Model
- Increased Parental Involvement and Community Engagement
- Expanded Workforce Programs
- Differentiated Instruction

# Gadsden County School Board

The Gadsden County School Board is a body of five elected officials responsible for setting policies for the entire school district. The Board approves policies for the smooth operation of schools and departments throughout the District.

All School Board meetings and workshops are open to the public and are held at the Max D. Walker Building, located at 35 MLK Blvd., Quincy, Florida 32351. Board meetings are the fourth Tuesday in each month at 6:00 P.M.

To view information on School Board policies and related information, visit the District's web site at [www.gcps.k12.fl.us](http://www.gcps.k12.fl.us) or call the School Board office at (850) 627-9651.

## Board Members



Eric Hinson, District 1



Judge B. Helms, Jr., District 2



Isaac Simmons, Chairman  
District 3



Charlie D. Frost, District 4



Roger P. Milton - Vice Chairman  
District 5

# The Policy: Gadsden County School Board

## Parent Policy for Gadsden County School District

### Family and School Partnership for Student Achievement 2.261\*

1. The school district and each school principal are encouraged to strengthen family involvement and family empowerment in the school. This district will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies with school improvement, Title I, Title II, Title IV, Title VI, Community Involvement Programs, Business Partnerships, and other community involvement activities.
2. The district will provide the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist schools in planning and implementing effective and comprehensive parent involvement programs, based on the National Standards for Parent/Family Involvement Programs, which include:
  - a. Communication between home and school is regular, two-way and meaningful.
  - b. Responsible parenting is promoted and supported.
  - c. Parents play an integral role in assisting student learning.
  - d. Parents are welcome in the schools and their support and assistance are sought.
  - e. Parents are full partners in the decisions that affect children and families.
  - f. Community resources are utilized to strengthen school programs, family practices and student learning.
3. The district will communicate parental choices and responsibilities to parents.
4. The district will provide professional development opportunities for staff members to enhance understanding of effective parent involvement strategies through the district professional development plan.
5. The district will conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this policy:
  - a. To determine the effectiveness in increasing parent participation.
  - b. To identify barriers to greater parent participation.
  - c. To report the findings to the State Board of Education.
6. The district will use the findings of the evaluations in designing strategies for school improvement and revising, if necessary, the parent involvement policies.



**STATUTORY AUTHORITY:**

**1001.41, 1001.42, F.S.**

**LAWS IMPLEMENTED:**

**1002.23, 1001.42, 1001.51, 1001.54**

**1002.20, 1003.33, 1006.07, 1008.25**

**1012.72, 1012.98 F.S.**

**HISTORY:**

**ADOPTED.**

**REVISION DATE(S)**

**FORMERLY: NEW 7/15/03**

# FLORIDA STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM 2010-2011 SCHEDULE

## FLORIDA COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT TEST (FCAT) FCAT SUNSHINE STATE STANDARDS (SSS)/FCAT 2.0 NEXT GENERATION SSS

<p>OCTOBER 11-15, 2010 OR OCTOBER 18-22, 2010</p>	<p>GRADES 11 – ADULT* (NEW STUDENTS/RETAKES)</p>	<p>FCAT READING &amp; MATHEMATICS RETAKЕ TESTS</p>
<p>MARCH 1-3, 2011</p>	<p>GRADES 4, 8, AND 10</p>	<p>FCAT WRITING+</p>
<p>MARCH 30-APRIL 6, 2011 OR APRIL 11-15, 2011</p>	<p>GRADES 11-ADULT* (NEW STUDENTS/RETAKES)</p>	<p>FCAT READING &amp; MATHEMATICS RETAKЕ TESTS</p>
<p>APRIL 11-APRIL 22, 2011</p>	<p>GRADES 3 – 10</p>	<p>FCAT 2.0 READING</p>
	<p>GRADES 3-8</p>	<p>FCAT 2.0 MATHEMATICS</p>
	<p>GRADE 10</p>	<p>FCAT MATHEMATICS</p>
	<p>GRADES 5, 8, AND 11</p>	<p>FCAT SCIENCE</p>

\*POLICIES PERTAINING TO PARTICIPATION OF RETAINED GRADE 10 STUDENTS MAY BE FOUND IN THE TEST ADMINISTRATION MANUAL FOR EACH ADMINISTRATION.

\*\*IF NECESSARY, DISTRICTS MAY USE MONDAY, APRIL 25, THROUGH THURSDAY, APRIL 28, AS ADDITIONAL MAKE-UP DAYS TO ACCOMMODATE STUDENTS WHOSE OBSERVANCE OF RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS CONFLICTS WITH TESTING.

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## OTHER STATEWIDE ASSESSMENTS

<p>JANUARY 24 – FEBRUARY 24, 2011</p>	<p>NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS (NAEP) (SELECTED SCHOOLS ONLY)</p> <p>GRADE 8 AND 12      WRITING (COMPUTER-BASED) GRADE 4 AND 8      READING &amp; MATHEMATICS GRADE 8              SCIENCE GRADE 12             ECONOMICS</p>
<p>APRIL 4-MAY 27, 2011</p>	<p>TRENDS IN INTERNATIONAL MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE STUDY (TIMSS) (SELECTED SCHOOLS ONLY)</p> <p>GRADES 4 AND 8              MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE</p> <p>PROGRESS IN INTERNATIONAL READING LITERACY (PIRLS) (SELECTED SCHOOLS ONLY) GRADE 4                      READING</p>
<p>AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2010 FIRST 30 INSTRUCTIONAL DAYS BASED ON SCHOOL START DATE</p>	<p>FLORIDA KINDERGARTEN READINESS SCREENING (FLKRS)</p>
<p>AUGUST 2010-MAY 2011 INSTRUCTIONAL DAYS 6-40; 66-100; 136-170 BASED ON SCHOOL START DATE</p>	<p>FLORIDA ASSESSMENT FOR INSTRUCTION IN READING (FAIR) GRADEES K-12</p>
<p>SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER 2010</p>	<p>PLAN (OPTIONAL FOR STUDENTS) DISTRICT SELECTION</p>
<p>OCTOBER 13 AND 16, 2010</p>	<p>PRELIMINARY SAT (PSAT) (OPTIONAL FOR STUDENTS) DISTRICT SELECTION</p>
<p>JANUARY 11-MARCH 1, 2011</p>	<p>FLORIDA ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENT FOR STUDENTS WITH SIGNIFICANT COGNITIVE DISABILITIES</p>
<p>MAY 2-13, 2011</p>	<p>ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) EXAMS</p>
<p>MARCH 7-APRIL 8, 2010</p>	<p>COMPREHENSIVE ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING ASSESSMENT (CELLA)</p>

# FCAT

## Why Are Students Tested? What Do The Results Mean?

Throughout your child's school years, he will take dozens of standardized tests, including the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (grades 3-10).

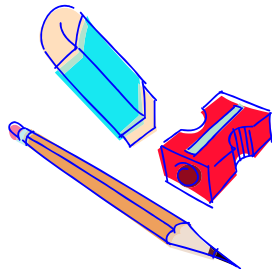
Standardized tests show how your child is doing compared to others and tracks his/her progress over time. Your child's teacher has all the testing records for your child and uses them to see if there's a problem that requires additional help or a different way of teaching. Tests also help teachers identify students' strengths in order to provide more challenging academic opportunities. Schools use testing results to develop school wide plans for improving academic performance.

All testing results are available to parents.

Standardized tests can be graded in a number of different ways.

Norm-referenced tests compare your child to others across the nation. Results are commonly reported as a percentile. If a student scores at the 75th percentile on a norm-referenced test, it means that he did better than 75 percent of the students in the same grade level taking the same test. It does not mean that he answered 75 percent of the questions correctly. The lowest acceptable passing score on a norm-referenced test is usually the 26th percentile or higher.

For several portions of the FCAT, students' scores are assigned a level. Level 5 is the highest that can be achieved and indicates that the student can handle the most challenging material. Level 4 shows performance above grade level. Level 3 indicates a student is learning as he should. Level 2 is a yellow flag that a student needs to work harder and receive extra help at home and at school. Level 1 is a red flag that the child is performing far below where he should be and may not be promoted to the next grade.



## Writing

The FCAT also includes a writing test in grades 4, 8 and 10, which is given in February of each year. This test requires students to write about an assigned topic within a 45-minute time limit. Their writing is scored on a predetermined set of expectations, including staying on the topic and linking ideas together.

To view the Student Testing Calendar, visit [www.gcps.k12.fl.us](http://www.gcps.k12.fl.us) or look on page 8.



You may have heard about the Sunshine State Standards in media stories about education or from teachers and officials at your child's school. The standards are developed by the state, cover every academic subject, and are followed by every public school in Florida. They state what your child is expected to know at different grade levels.

For instance, by the end of 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, a student should be able to predict what a passage or piece of writing is about based on its title and illustrations. By the end of 12<sup>th</sup> grade, a student should be able to examine a literary work from several critical perspectives.

Classroom instruction in every subject from Art to Zoology is based on these standards and grades show how well students are performing according to the standards.

## Sunshine State



Each spring two standardized tests are given in Gadsden County Public Schools to measure how well students have learned these standards. These tests, which currently measure reading, writing, science, and math abilities, are often referred to as the FCAT or Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test. Ask for a copy of the standards at your child's school or go to [www.fldoe.org](http://www.fldoe.org). Your child's performance on these tests can affect whether or not he moves on to the next grade. All students who want to earn a standard high school diploma must be able to pass the FCAT.

Though public schools are sometimes criticized for "teaching" the FCAT, in reality, teachers are teaching the standards that are measured by these tests. These are skills your child will use throughout life.



## How Can I Get FCAT Help For My Child?

The Legislature says FCAT is here to stay and will become even more important and more extensive in the years ahead. To learn more about the FCAT and to get help for your child, please visit [www.gcps.k12.fl.us](http://www.gcps.k12.fl.us) for student resources that include FCAT Explorer and other math, science and social studies activities. Look under the student resources section.

FCAT Explorer is an interactive tool that helps students strengthen skills they need in the classroom and in life. An Internet program provided by the Florida Department of Education, FCAT Explorer is based on the Sunshine State Standards. The program can be used to help students learn test-taking skills; to reinforce skills and

concepts; to familiarize students with sample test questions; and to provide valuable student performance data to teachers.

### Your Child's PASSWORD

Your child's teacher will provide the password so you and your child can use FCAT Explorer at home.

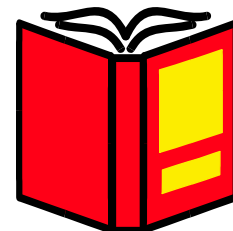
### 21st GREAT CENTERS

You can also enroll your child in a GREAT Center (Gadsden Recreation Education Arts & Technology) which focuses on enrichment and remedial tutoring (reading, math, writing) while linking art, drug, alcohol and violence prevention and abstinence education, female and male developmental services, as well as offering resources for parents such as family management skills education,

Parenting skills, and family support. The centers also create links to bring together community organizations and resources.

The five GREAT Centers are located at Shanks Middle School, East Gadsden High School, Havana Middle School, West Gadsden High School, and Chattahoochee Elementary School. The program operates after school on Monday through Thursday and some Saturdays.

Call your child's school for more information.





# Parent Self-Assessment Checklist



The Gadsden County Parent Self-Assessment is designed to help parents determine how involved they are in promoting a positive education for their child. Please place a check by each response that you consider an area of need. This Self-Assessment is for your use and is not to be returned to your child's school.

## Focus on Attitude

- Parent stresses the importance of education and doing one's best in school.
- Parent expresses belief in the child's ability to be successful.
- Parent helps the child to set short and long term educational goals.  
Parent celebrates child's academic accomplishments.

## Focus on Academics

- Parent supports reading with age appropriate home activities.
- Parent assures that home has a consistent time and place to do homework.
- Parent ensures that child has access to materials needed to complete assignments.
- Parent regularly discusses and asks to see work that the child is doing in school.
- Parent attends workshops on helping their children at home.

## Focus on Behavior

- Parent monitors television viewing of child.
- Parent teaches and reinforces positive behaviors such as respect for self and others, hard work and responsibility.
- Parent is aware of and enforces school behavioral expectations.

## Focus on Building Responsibility

- Parent ensures that child has a regular routine.
- Parent encourages child to accept responsibility for his/her actions.
- Parent ensures that child is in attendance and on time to school each day.
- Parent monitors and promotes child's participation in extracurricular and after-school activities.

## Focus on School/Home Connections

- Parent communicates regularly with teacher in person, on the phone, by email or through writing.
- Parent prepares for and attends teacher conferences, Individualized Educational Plans, Academic Improvement Plans, or other individualized student meetings.
- Parent attends open house, science fairs, plays, musical events, class trips, sporting events, curriculum nights, or other school activities.
- Parent volunteers in the school setting when possible.

## For quick answers, call:

Pre-K Programs	627-3861
Adult Education	627-6775
ESOL/Bilingual	627-6687
Transportation	627-6858
Family Information & Resources	627-9651
ESE Services	627-9651
Attendance	Your Child's School
Reading Resources	627-6233
Homeless Services	627-9651
District Social Worker	627-9651



# Tool Kit for Parents

## Information Parents Should Have

The following items will help you keep up to date on school activities and ready to respond to the big and little issues your child may have during the school year:

### **A Current School Calendar**

A current school calendar will show holidays, standardized testing days, early release dismissal days and teacher work days all can be viewed on-line at [www.gcps.k12.fl.us](http://www.gcps.k12.fl.us).



### **Phone numbers for your child's school**

The phone numbers of the school's principal, your child's teachers, counselors, parent liaison and other administrative staff should be kept for your easy reference.

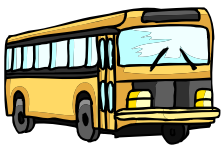
### **The Code of Student Conduct**

The Code of Student Conduct is disseminated at the start of the school year and describes what behavior is unacceptable in school and how students are disciplined if they commit a violation. Depending on the grade level, students or their parents should sign that they have received a copy.

### **A copy of the School Handbook**

A copy of the school's handbook, student manual, or curriculum guide will include information critical to your child's success.

### **The bus number, schedule and pickup address, if your child rides a bus to school**



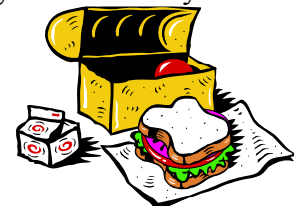
Bus information was provided in local newspapers before school started and copies of the bus schedules were available at each school's orientation. Students who enter after the school year begins should contact Transportation at 627-6858.

### **A copy of your Title I Parent Agreement**

Title I Schools will ask parents to sign a Title I parent agreement so that they are made aware of the program. (Parent-Student-Teacher Compact)

### **Free and Reduced Lunch Program**

The Free and Reduced Lunch Program provides free and lower priced lunches and breakfast meals for children from low income families. In order to apply for the program, Free and Reduced Meal Application forms were provided to parents at the beginning of the school year. Contact your child's school for more information.



# Attendance and Absences

## It's The Law

### Compulsory School Attendance

By law, children up to age 16 must come to school. Your child can't succeed in school if he doesn't attend regularly. Too many absences could affect your child's academic performance and prevent your child from moving on to the next grade. The threshold of absences which generates a letter of notification is five (5) in total, excused or otherwise. Under law, parents may be prosecuted if children don't attend school.

Each school will document attempts to notify parents of each student's absence either through an automated system or other methods. However, failure to successfully notify parents or guardians shall not negate the attendance policy.

#### **Absences**

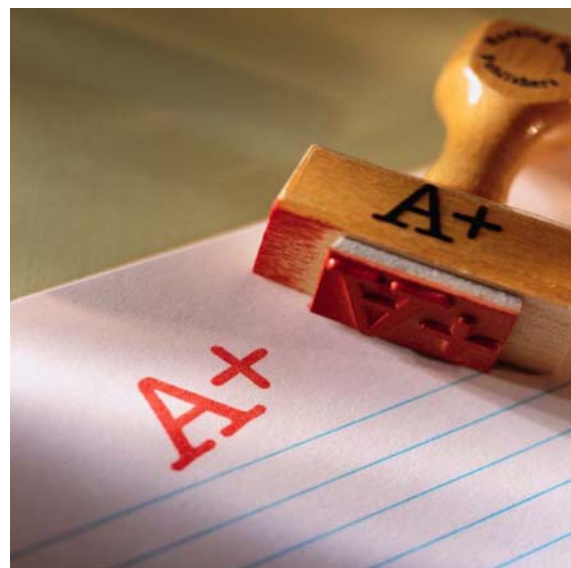
Students are to sign in and out when missing a class for excusable appointments or emergencies and are to comply with the individual school procedures established with the school attendance office. Failure to sign out may result in an unexcused absence and the consequences thereof.

**In the event 4 or more absences occur in a course during a 9-week grading period, an attendance conference may be held to determine which, if any absences are excusable.**

**For each course in which the student has four (4) unexcused absences, that are not for one of the legitimate purposes described above, a grade of "F" will be assigned for that grading period.**

Excused absences/tardies may only be used for the following legitimate, documented reasons:

1. Illness and/or medical care
2. Death in the Family
3. Legal reasons
4. Religious Holidays, administratively pre-approved observance
5. Pre-arranged absences approved by an administrator, school sponsored field trips, or school approved activities
6. Other special circumstances or insurmountable conditions



# Words Parents Need To Know

## Academic Improvement Plan: (AIP)

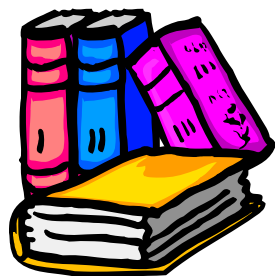
This is a plan in which parents and teachers work together to develop when a child is having trouble keeping up with the skills required at his/her grade level. This plan, which is written out and placed in a child's folder, is used to chart and measure progress.

## Sunshine State Standards: (SSS)

In Florida, these standards are what your child is expected to know at each grade level. Teachers are expected to cover this material. All report card grades are based on these standards. They are developed by the state and measured by a test called the FCAT given to every public school student in grades 3 through 10.

## Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test: (FCAT)

Also known as the FCAT, this is a series of tests given during a week in March to every public school student in Florida who is in grades 3 through 10. During four days of testing, students actually take two different types of tests, each with a math and a reading section. Beginning in 2003, there is a science section of the FCAT, also.



## Tips For Parents

- Parents who know what's happening at their child's school can be a powerful force for improving the schools
- Join the Parents' Teacher Association (PTA or PTO)
- Ask about joining your school's

## Exceptional Student Education Program: (ESE)

Through this program, which is also known as ESE, students with disabilities receive an education designed through an Individual Educational Plan (IEP) to meet their specific needs. ESE students seeking regular diplomas take the same tests and are graded on the same scale as other students.

## Individual Education Plan: (IEP)

Known as an IEP, this is a plan developed for students with disabilities by a team of parents, educators, and a representative of the school district.

The plan lists accommodations the student may need as well as their academic goals and teaching methods.

## Pupil Progression Plan: (PPP)

A long technical document detailing federal, state and local rules concerning attendance, course of study, report cards, promotion and retention, testing, grading, academic standards, transfers, credits, honors, diplomas, scholarships, accelerated learning, and related topics. It is reviewed annually by the School Board. The full text is available in hard copy at every school or at [www.gcps.k12.fl.us](http://www.gcps.k12.fl.us).

## Retention:

This refers to students who do not move on to the next grade level at the end of the year due to poor academic performance. For example, a 4th grade student who is unable at the end of the year to do 4th grade work is retained, or kept in 4th grade for another year.

## Extracurricular activities:

These are school-sanctioned activities like clubs or athletic teams that happen either before or after school.



## Gadsden Technical Institute (GTI)

Gadsden Technical Institute was established in 1973 as part of the public school system to provide vocational training opportunities to GTI for training in business education, small engine repair, auto mechanics, welding, and barbering/cosmetology. Adult students may also enroll in these classes. Practical Nursing and Patient Care Technician are offered to adults only.

Day and evening GED preparation classes are available to students over 18 years of age. As a testing site for Gadsden County, the GED test is offered once a month. FCAT tutoring is offered on Saturday mornings.

GTI is opened this school term with new paint, to new carpet to new office spaces. GTI is starting to take on a new look that has the faculty, staff and students thinking more in terms of careers and the future. More changes are planned for the school as the new direction and vision for GTI continues to be realized. Things can only get better. Call 875-8324 for more information.

# Opportunities For Advanced Students

Students who are ready for advanced academic challenges will find a number of opportunities in Gadsden Schools, both inside and outside of the district's gifted program.

**GIFTED STUDIES:** The State of Florida decides who is gifted based on IQ test scores. The state sets the cut-off score. Gifted studies are available from kindergarten through 12th grade and each school's offerings are decided after consultation with parent groups. Some elementary schools share a "gifted center" to which students are transported from their home schools. Others offer services within the school. Secondary gifted studies typically involve a daily class at the school.

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT:** All of Gadsden high schools offer courses which are comparable to introductory college classes. If students achieve a score of 3 or better on the exit exams following these Advanced Placement (AP) courses, they earn college credits which are transferable to almost any public or private college in the United States. Course standards, teacher qualification, and examinations are controlled by The College Board, a national academic organization.

**TCC DUAL ENROLLMENT:** Juniors, seniors, and, in some cases, sophomores, can receive community college credit for college courses taught either on the high school campus by college teachers or at Tallahassee Community College. Community college dual enrollment credits are accepted at Florida public universities but may or may not be transferable to private schools or outside of Florida. Consult your guidance counselor or colleges you're considering.

**HONORS COURSES:** In secondary schools, this means the classes are more challenging than standard courses. No college credits are earned.

**ACCELERATED PROMOTIONS:** In rare instances, students are ready to "skip a grade" ahead of their classmates, having already mastered all the subjects being taught at that level. The principal makes these decisions after reviewing academic records and consulting with parents and teachers, then makes the recommendation to the Superintendent.



## HONORS GRADUATES

Students may graduate from high school with honors based on their grade point averages after seven semesters. A Summa Cum Laude graduate will have a 4.5 or better GPA on a 5.0 scale. Magna Cum Laude is earned with a GPA of 4.2 to 4.49. Cum Laude graduates are designated based on a 4.0 to 4.19 GPA. Honors are figured by averaging grades from 19 specific credits: 3.5 English, 3.5 math, 3.5 science, 3.5 social studies, 1.5 foreign language (same language) and 3.5 electives.



## What is Title I?

Title I is program funded by the federal government to improve students' academic achievement. Money is given to school districts to help children meet the Florida's Next Generation Sunshine State Standards. The amount of money given to each school depends on the number of low-income families enrolled in the school.

Title I programs are implemented either schoolwide or as targeted programs. Both programs use effective methods and instructional strategies based on scientifically based research to assist students in reaching proficiency on Florida's Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT). In a schoolwide program all students receive supplemental support from the Title I program. A targeted assistance program provides assistance for the students who have the greatest academic need.

More information on schools in Florida that receive Title I funds may be found at: <http://www.fldoe.org/bsa/title1/pdf/0809SchoolsList.pdf>. Title I money must be used to expand and supplement the services children already receive in the regular classroom. Students receive instruction in reading, language arts, mathematics or science. Administrators, teachers, and parents decide how the federal money should be spent. Title I schools use their funds for a variety of items, including the following:

- Instructional personnel;
- Professional development;
- Family/parental involvement activities;
- Extension of school day/year;
- Extended learning opportunities;
- Classroom interventions;
- Reduction of class size; and/or
- Supplemental tutoring.



# Gadsden County Homeless Program

*Gadsden County Bridging the Gap for a Brighter Future*



## **Who are homeless children and youth?**

The McKinney-Vento Act defines homeless children and youth as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence [Section 725(2)]. This includes:

1. Children and youth who are:

- sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason (sometimes referred to as “doubled-up”);
- living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
- living in emergency or transitional shelters;
- abandoned in hospitals; or
- awaiting foster care placement.

2. Children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

3. Children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings.

4. Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.

Also included are:

1. Homeless preschoolers.

2. Homeless unaccompanied youth, which includes youth who are not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian [Section 725(6)]. This would include youth living in runaway shelters, abandoned buildings, cars, on the streets, or in other inadequate housing; youth denied housing by their families (sometimes referred to as “throwaway” youth); and school-age unwed mothers, living in homes for unwed mothers, who have no other housing available.

If a youth’s living situation does not clearly fall into the situations described above, the LEA should refer to the McKinney-Vento definition of “fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence” and consider the relative permanence of the living arrangements.

**For more information, please contact Sherrie Taylor, Homeless Liaison at (850) 264-1518.**



# Florida's Public School Choice Options

## Career Academies

Career academies are small, personalized learning communities within a high school that select a subset of students and teachers for a two-, three-, or four-year span. These schools take a school-to-work approach to education combining academic and occupational courses based on a career theme such as business, health, or electronics. Students must apply and be accepted with parental knowledge and support. Career academies are designed to help young people become more engaged in school and prepare them for postsecondary education and/or additional training and employment.

## Magnet Schools

Magnet schools offer a particular theme or academic focus, such as mathematics, science, technology, business, or performing arts. The main purpose of magnet schools is to provide families with the option of choosing a school that matches their child's interests. Magnet schools offer students specialized programs to promote academic achievement and create innovative learning approaches in a diverse environment.

## ABC School Program

The A-Business Community School (ABC) program encourages businesses to partner with school districts to house a public school at the business location. ABC Schools help reduce school and classroom overcrowding throughout the state, offset the high cost of constructing educational facilities, and use due diligence and sound business practice in using available educational space. Instruction is offered from kindergarten through third (K-3) grade for the children of the employees at the site. Florida school districts provide the teachers, curriculum, textbooks, and other materials.

## Advanced Placement/ International Baccalaureate Programs

The College Board's Advanced Placement (AP) program is a nationwide program consisting of more than 30 college-level courses. Students who earn a qualifying grade of 3 or above on an AP exam can earn college credit or advance placement, depending on the college and university. The International Baccalaureate (IB) is a program of rigorous pre-university course of study. Students who graduate from the program receive an International Baccalaureate diploma that is recognized by colleges and universities throughout the world. Other students may choose not to take the full IB curriculum but pursue certificates in individual areas. Elementary and middle schools may also offer components of the IB program.

**Charter Schools** Charter schools are independent public schools of choice and among the fastest growing school choice options in Florida. They are largely free to innovate, and often provide specialized programs and choice to diverse groups of students. Florida's charter schools are currently educating over 100,000 students, with each school offering its own unique educational approach.

**Dual Enrollment** Eligible high school students can enroll in postsecondary courses to earn credit toward high school graduation and at the same time earn credit toward a college degree or a career certificate. All of Florida's public community colleges and some of the state's universities participate in dual enrollment. Students are permitted to take dual enrollment courses on a part-time basis during school hours, after school, or during summer term.

## Controlled Open Enrollment

Each district school board may offer controlled open enrollment within the public schools in addition to the existing choice programs such as magnet schools, alternative schools, special programs, advanced placement, and dual enrollment. Controlled open enrollment emphasizes the rights for families to choose among existing public schools. Parents may apply for their children to attend a public school outside their assigned school zone. It is important for parents to confirm with their local school district the guidelines and timelines. District policies regarding controlled open enrollment vary throughout the state.

**Virtual Schools** Virtual schools are internet-based. Students in grades six through twelve (6-12) can attend a supplemental program through Florida Virtual School (FLVS). This public virtual middle and high school offers over 90 online courses to students in grades 6-12. Courses are free to Florida middle and high school students, which include public, charter, private, and home-educated students. Beginning with the 2009-2010 school year, school districts will provide eligible students within its boundaries the option of participating in a K-8 full-time and 9-12 full-time or part-time district-operated virtual instruction programs.

For more information, please visit:  
[www.floridaschoolchoice.org](http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org)





# What is SES?



Supplemental educational services (SES) are additional academic instruction, or free tutoring, designed to increase the academic achievement of students in schools that have not met state targets for increasing student achievement (adequate yearly progress) for two or more years. The Florida Department of Education maintains a list of approved providers from which parents may select. The list is organized by the school districts served by the providers.

Children eligible to receive free- or reduced-priced meals who attend Title I schools that have failed to meet state standards for at least two years are eligible to receive supplemental educational services in Florida.

School districts are required to provide annual notice to parents of eligible children about the availability of services and information on the approved providers. When your school district notifies you that your child is eligible for SES, you will also receive a list of the state-approved providers that offer services in your area.

A state-approved provider of SES is an agency that has a demonstrated record of effectiveness in increasing student achievement, is capable of providing SES consistent with the instructional program of the school district and the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards, and is financially sound. The following types of entities are eligible to apply to become SES providers:



- For-profit and non-profit organizations;
- Community agencies and organizations;
- Public, charter, and private schools;
- Child care centers;
- Libraries;
- Colleges and universities;
- Family literacy programs;
- Regional educational alliances; and
- Faith-based organizations.

The list of providers approved to provide SES in Florida may be found at: <http://data.fldoe.org/ses/search/>. Parents select the provider that best meets the needs of their child. The school or district are available if a parent needs help in selecting a provider. Parents are encouraged to attend local provider fairs to learn more about each provider. The following questions may help you choose an SES Provider for your child:

- Where, when, and how often is tutoring?
- How many total sessions are offered?
- Who will be tutoring my child and what are their qualifications?
- What type of instruction is provided?
- What subject areas are offered?
- How do I know the services are effective?

You may find more information about SES at:

[http://www.flboe.org/flbpso/nclbchoice/ses/ses\\_parentschoolinfo.asp](http://www.flboe.org/flbpso/nclbchoice/ses/ses_parentschoolinfo.asp).

# Gadsden County Schools - 2010-11 School Year

## Reginald C. James, Superintendent

### **Carter-Paramore Academy**

Grades 4-12  
Hope Academy 6-12  
Alternative Education  
Rosalyn Smith, Principal  
631 South Stewart Street  
Quincy, FL 32351  
627-6030/6035 - FAX 875-8697

### **Chattahoochee Elementary**

Grades PK - 6  
Elijah Key, Principal  
335 Maple Street  
Chattahoochee, FL 32324  
663-4373 - FAX 663-2236

### **East Gadsden High**

Grades 9-12  
Joan Belle-McGlockton, Principal  
Debra Lewis-Safford, Parent Liaison  
27001 Blue Star Highway  
Havana, FL 32333  
539-2126 - FAX 539-2863

### **Gadsden Central Academy**

William Blich, Principal  
Vonderkae Youmans, Parent Liaison  
655 South Stewart Street  
Quincy, FL 32351  
875-7249 - FAX 627-1806

### **Gadsden Elementary Magnet**

Grades PK-5  
Erica Starling, Principal  
500 West King Street  
Quincy, FL 32351  
627-7557 - FAX 627-6695

### **Gadsden Technical Institute**

Grades 9-12  
Debra Rackley, Principal  
201 Martin L King Jr Blvd.  
Quincy, FL 32351  
875-8324 - FAX 875-7297

### **Greensboro Elementary**

Grades PK-6  
Stephen Pitts, Principal  
Tamika Battles, Parent Liaison  
62 Lonnie Clark Road  
Greensboro, FL 32330  
442-6327 - FAX 442-9524

### **George Munroe Elementary**

Grades PK-5  
Hilda Jackson, Principal  
1830 W. King Street  
Quincy, FL 32351  
875-8800 - FAX 875-8805

### **Gretna Elementary**

Grades PK-5  
Delshuana Jackson, Principal  
706 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Gretna, FL 32332  
856-5249 - FAX 856-9415

### **Havana Elementary**

Grades PK-5  
Annette Harris, Principal  
705 US 27 South  
Havana, FL 32333  
539-2009  
FAX - 539-2878

### **Havana Middle**

Grades 6-8  
Major Jackson, Principal  
1210 Kemp Road  
Havana, FL 32333  
539-2043  
FAX 539-2866

### **James A. Shanks Middle**

Grades 6-8  
Juanita Ellis, Principal  
1400 W. King Street  
Quincy, FL 32351  
875-8737 - FAX 875-8775

### **St. John Elementary**

Grades PK-5  
Allysun Davis, Principal  
Delores Fields, Parent Liaison  
4463 Bainbridge Highway  
Quincy, FL 32351  
627-3442 - FAX 875-7270

### **Stewart Street Elementary**

Grades PK-5  
Lisa Robinson, Principal  
749 South Stewart Street  
Quincy, FL 32351  
627-3145 - FAX 875-8750

### **West Gadsden High**

Grades 7-12  
Juliette Jackson, Principal  
559 Greensboro Highway  
Greensboro, FL 32330  
442-9500 - FAX 442-6126

### **Crossroad Academy**

Charter School - Grades K-8  
Kevin Forehand  
Executive Director & Principal  
1500-1 Strong Road  
Quincy, FL 32351  
875-9626 - FAX 875-1403

### **Florida State Hospital**

Marie Alday, Administrator  
Post Office Box 1000  
Chattahoochee, FL 32324  
663-7246 - FAX 663-7900

### **District Parent Resource Center**

**Audrey Lewis, Coordinator**  
**35 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.**  
**Quincy, Florida 32351**  
**627-9651**  
**Fax - 627-7594**

Gadsden County Public Schools  
**STUDENT CALENDAR 2010-2011**

**2010 1st Semester**

**August**

23 First day of school

**September**

6 Holiday/Labor Day

**October**

11-22 FCAT Retakes

18 End 1st Grading Period (43 days)

22 Student Holiday

25 Begin 2nd Grading Period

**November**

11 Holiday/Veterans Day

19 Student Holiday

24 Student Holiday

25-26 Thanksgiving Holidays

**December**

15-17 High School Semester Exams  
Early Dismissal

20-31 Winter Break

**Extended School Year for ESE 2011**

June 14 Begin Extended School Year

July 8 End Extended School Year

**2011 2nd Semester**

**January**

3 Holidays Winter Break (continued)

4 Students Return

5 End 2nd grading period (37 days)

End 1st semester (80 days)

6 Begin 3rd grading period

Begin 2nd semester

17 Holiday/Martin L. King Day

**February**

21 Student Holiday

**March**

1-4 FCAT Writing (Grades 4, 8, and 10)

17 End 3rd Grading Period (49 days)

18 Student Holiday

21-25 Spring Break

28 Begin 4th grading period

30-31 FCAT SSS Reading & Math Retakes  
(Grades 11-Adult)

**April**

1-6 FCAT SSS Reading & Math Retakes  
(Grades 11-Adult)

11-22 FCAT SSS Reading & Math (Grade 3-10)  
FCAT SSS Science (Grades 5, 8, and 11)

**May**

30 Holiday/Memorial Day

**June**

3-7 High School Final Exams  
Early Dismissal

7 End 4th grading period (51 days)

End 2nd Semester (100 days)

Last Day of School (97 days)

# School Uniform Colors

## Chattahoochee Elementary

Top Color: Orange, Navy Blue or White  
Bottom Color: Khaki or Navy Blue  
Leather Shoes: Black, Dark Blue, or Brown  
Tennis Shoes: Black or White (Solid Colors)  
Socks: White, Orange or Navy Blue  
(To Match Top)  
Belt: Black or Brown

## Gadsden Elementary Magnet

Top Color: Black or White  
(Embroidered logo on left side)  
Bottom: Khaki  
Leather Shoes: Black or Brown  
Tennis Shoes: Black or White (Solid Colors)  
Socks: White or Black  
Belt: Black or Brown

## George W. Munroe Elementary

Top Color: Red & White  
Bottom Color: Khaki, Navy Blue, Black or Red  
Leather Shoes: Black, Dark Blue, Dark Brown or  
White  
Tennis Shoes: Black, Dark Blue, Dark Brown or  
White (Solid Colors)  
Socks: Black, Navy Blue, White or Red  
(To Match Bottom)  
Belt: Black or Brown

## Greensboro Elementary

Top Color: Hunter Green or Gray  
Bottom Color: Khaki or Navy Blue  
Leather Shoes: Black or Brown  
Tennis Shoes: Black or White (Solid Colors)  
Socks: Black, Brown or White  
Belt: Black or Brown

## Gretna Elementary

Top Color: Royal Blue, White or Gold  
Bottom Color: Khaki, Navy Blue or Black  
Leather Shoes: Black or Dark Brown  
Tennis Shoes: Black, Dark Blue or White  
(Solid Colors)  
Socks: Black, Navy Blue or White  
(To Match Bottom)  
Belt: Black or Brown

## Havana Elementary

Top Color: Purple, White or Gold  
(Or Deep Yellow)  
Bottom Color: Khaki, Navy Blue or Black  
Leather Shoes: Black or Brown  
Tennis Shoes: Black, Dark Blue or White  
(Solid Colors)  
Socks: Black, White Brown or Navy Blue  
(To match Bottom)  
Belt: Black or Brown

## St. John Elementary

Top Color: Red, Black or White  
Bottom Color: Navy Blue, Black or Khaki  
Leather Shoes: Black, Brown or Navy Blue  
Tennis Shoes: Black or White (Solid Colors)  
Socks: Red, Black or White (To Match Top)  
Belt: Black or Brown

## Stewart Street Elementary

Top Color: Orange or White  
Bottom Color: Khaki or Navy Blue  
Leather Shoes: Black or Brown  
Tennis Shoes: Black or White (Solid Colors)  
Socks: White  
Belt: Black or Brown

## James A. Shanks Middle

Top Color: Orange, Black or White  
Bottom Color: Black or Khaki  
Leather Shoes: Black or Brown  
Tennis Shoes: Black or White (Solid Colors)  
Socks: Black or White  
Belt: Black or Brown  
(School Logos are optional for shirts)

## Havana Middle

Top Color: Royal Blue or White  
Bottom Color: Khaki or Navy Blue  
Leather Shoes: Black or Brown  
Tennis Shoes: Black or White (Solid Colors)  
Socks: Dark Blue or White  
Belt: Black or Brown

## West Gadsden High School

Top Color: Black, Gray or White  
Bottom Color: Black or Khaki

## Carter-Parramore Academy

Top Color: Light Blue  
Bottom Color: Khaki  
Leather Shoes: Black or Brown (No sandals)  
Tennis Shoes: Solid Colors  
Socks: White  
Belt: Black or Brown



*“Building A Brighter Future”*

**Mr. Reginald C. James**  
Superintendent of Gadsden County Schools

*For more information, please contact your school.*

# Parent Communication System

## "PARENT LINK"

*“What better way to communicate with our parents quickly and efficiently than by picking up a telephone and contacting them within five minutes.”*



***Parents, please make sure the school has your correct address and phone number!***

# Parent Expos

Parents, you are invited to visit your child's school.

**Please mark your calendars for the following dates!**

## 1st Quarter

Elementary School Expo      Tuesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 6:00 p.m.

Middle School Expo          Wednesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 6:00 p.m.

High School Expo              Thursday, November 4<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 p.m.

## 2nd Quarter

Elementary School Expo      Tuesday, January 11<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 p.m.

Middle School Expo          Wednesday, January 12<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 p.m.

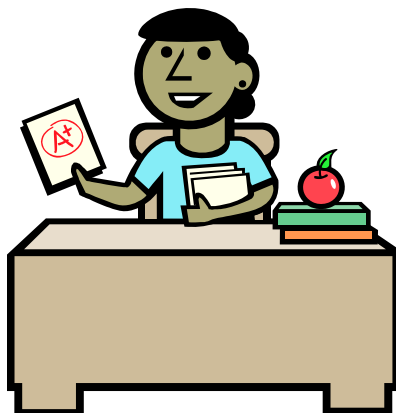
High School Expo              Thursday, January 13<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 p.m.

## 3rd Quarter

Elementary School Expo      Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 p.m.

Middle School Expo          Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 p.m.

High School Expo              Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 p.m.



# Family Information Resource Center

*Parent & Community Services Staff*  
(850) 627-9651

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**Audrey Lewis**

Parent Services Coordinator

**Dana Martin**

Secretary for Parent Services

**Anitria Daniels**

Local School Choice Parent Liaison

**Rolanda Jackson**

Social Services

**Sherrie Taylor**

Homeless Education

**Dorothy Wood**

Homeless Education

**Denise Pouncy-Hannah**

(850) 627-7557

Volunteering/Mentoring





*“Building A Brighter Future”*

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**GADSDEN COUNTY SCHOOLS**

**Reginald C. James, Superintendent**

35 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Quincy, Florida 32351

(850) 627-9651 - Fax: (850) 627-2760

Website: [www.gcps.k12.fl.us](http://www.gcps.k12.fl.us)