

Insight on Education

By Superintendent Nick Carter

"I walk slowly, but I never walk backward." –*Abraham Lincoln*

The results from last year's state accountability testing system are in, and I am proud to report that our students continued to move forward at high levels in many areas. Many of our students continued to perform above state averages, and the graduation rate for the class of 2017 was 93.8%.

Our state is in the process of phasing out its old accountability system and replacing it with a new system created under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Because of the transition period, this year's results do not include overall accountability scores, classifications or rankings for schools and districts.

Our school district's elementary students performed above the state averages in regard to proficient and distinguished ratings in all areas (Reading, Mathematics, Social Studies, Writing, and Language Mechanics) tested. In addition, the school district's middle school students earned proficient and distinguished ratings at a higher rate than state averages in the following tested areas: Reading, Mathematics, Social Studies, and Writing. The high school students in the district participated in On-Demand Writing at 11th grade and the first Science Field test along with having ACT Quality Core End of Course exams in the areas of Biology, English II, United States History, and Algebra II, administered for the final time. Graduating students' college and/or career ready continued to be an emphasis at the high school last year with 143 members of the class of 2017 meeting those benchmarks upon graduation.

Moving forward, we will celebrate the tremendous accomplishments of our students and remain focused on the task of maximizing learning. Educating the children of our great community requires a commitment from all stakeholders. As a community, we continually place value in our children by investing in our schools. The continued success of our students is a reflection of the value and commitment to education emphasized in Breckinridge County. Educators in the Breckinridge County School District are already in the process of analyzing our latest student achievement scores in an effort to improve teaching and learning. School improvement plans will be developed soon for the sole purpose of maximizing student achievement and opportunity. In these plans, we will outline activities aimed at improving

student reading levels, minimizing novice scoring on benchmark assessments, promoting personalized student learning, and enhancing every part of the educational experience for our children.