



Jefferson County School District

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State rating improved for Jefferson County School District

Based on the 2017 accountability data released by the Mississippi Department of Education, the Jefferson County School District has received a grade of C. This rating is more than 200 points over last year's rating of grade F—a major improvement for the District.

School Board President Roosevelt Anderson stated that he was pleased with the results. He indicated that the school board will continue to support all efforts to improve student achievement.

“We are extremely proud of the dedication and hard work from our administrators, teachers, students, and parents,” Interim Superintendent Bertha Watts said. “It is not just about performing well on state assessments, but increasing student achievement and ensuring that our boys and girls are provided a high quality education,” Watts added.

All schools in the District passed. The high school received a grade of B, and all other schools received a grade of D.

“We put systems in place to address the deficits from last year,” said Director of Student Assessment Adrian D. Hammitte. “Our students have always performed well, but the error in the graduation count caused the high school and the District to lose substantial points last year.”

Last year, the graduation rate for the high school was recorded as 2.5 percent, clearly a clerical error. This year, the graduation rate was correctly reported as 85.5 percent. This percentage is higher than the state average as well as the national average.

Watts credits the leadership of Superintendent Vincent Turner, support from the Board of Education, and bolstering from constituents in the school district for this achievement. “We could not have been this successful had it not been for all stakeholders. Because of each individual and each group, our students performed and made Jefferson County proud,” Watts stated.

Watts also extended special praise to parents for their roles in the success of the school district. “This success could not be achieved without the help of parents, who trust their greatest blessing with us. Often overlooked, our parents are our largest group of stakeholders,” she stated.

School leaders agree that the goal of the District is to sustain the success; however, they must push to improve those deficits that accompanied these ratings, so that all schools will receive a higher grade. “We will not be satisfied until all schools in the District receive an A,” Hammitte said.