

PHENIX CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Schools of Inquiry, Innovation, and Impact

20 Reasons We Phenix City Schools

Dr. Tommy Bice Visits PCS

On Tuesday, December 15, 2015, Phenix City Schools welcomed Alabama State School Superintendent Dr. Tommy Bice and representatives of the Alabama State Department of Education as they celebrated innovation in Phenix City schools and classrooms. Phenix City Schools was chosen as one of the stops on Dr. Bice's "Celebrate Innovation!" tour across the state which has focused on innovative programs, schools, classrooms, and teachers who are creating innovative opportunities. At the conclusion of his visit to the STEM Center and STEM Academy at PCIS, Lakewood Elementary School, and CHS's Career Technical Education program, Dr. Bice said, "I've not witnessed anything – anything – in the state of Alabama that compares to this. Absolutely incredible... My message to the rest of the state is if you want to see what [doing school differently] looks like in reality, you come to Phenix City. Wow."

*If you want to grow a community,
if you want to improve the quality
of life, if you want to improve the
economy, start with education.*

– Superintendent Randy Wilkes, Sunday
Interview with the Ledger-Enquirer



Student Safety

Student safety is of utmost importance in PCS. Every school in the system is outfitted with security cameras throughout their campus, and, with the exception of PCIS, each school has security doors that visitors cannot enter without doors being electronically opened. Additionally, Central High School and Meadowlane Elementary School have recently been rekeyed. With this increased focus on student safety and security, PCS has seen a steady improvement in discipline (i.e. office referrals at CHS have decreased by 1,000 since the 2010-2011 school year).

PCS At A Glance

- 13 Schools
- 10 Pre-K Classes
- 6 Elementary Afterschool Programs
- 7109 total enrollment
- 16:1 average student-teacher ratio
- Home to Alabama's **ONLY** System-wide STEM Initiative
 - Dyer Family STEM Center
 - Elementary SMARTLabs
 - 1:1 Technology (grades 6-12)
 - STEM Academy
 - XQ: Rethinking High School
 - Partnerships with Higher Education

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Thank You, Board of Education Members!



President—Brad Baker



Vice President—Kelvin Redd



Rick Carpenter



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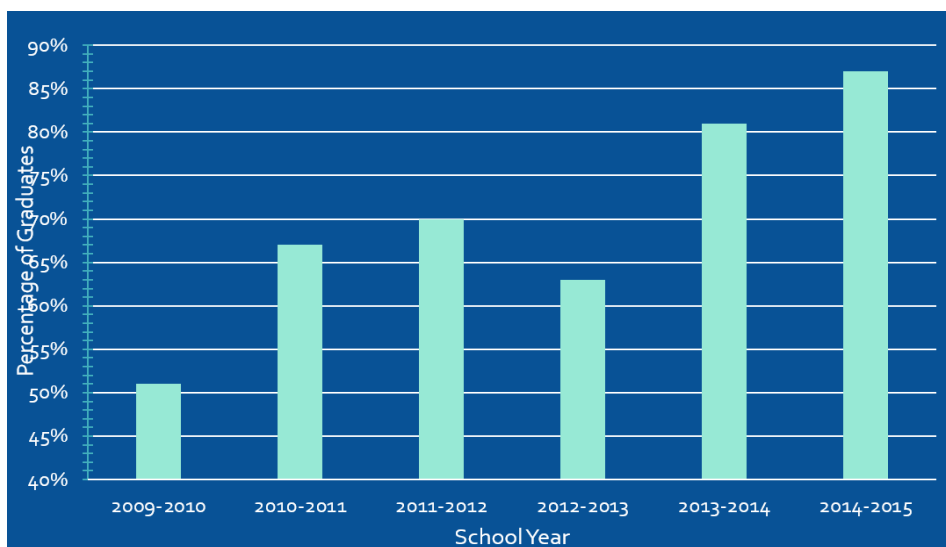


Paul Stamp

During the past two years, the Phenix City Board of Education has accomplished much and the foundation for future success has been laid. Without the support and guidance from our Board members, none of this would have been possible. They are forward thinkers whose every decision is made firmly rooted in the best interest for every child in Phenix City Schools. For their continued desire for a greater tomorrow, we say THANK YOU to our Board of Education members!

Graduation Rate

Phenix City Schools' graduation rate has seen a steady increase, reaching 86% for the 2014-2015 school year. PCS's goal is to continue the upward trend toward 100% graduation.



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STEM Center

What began as a vision to focus on STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) education has developed into a 9,500 square foot interactive learning center featuring 4 lab classrooms and 4 external labs that can be utilized by every child in Phenix City Schools. The only one of its kind in the state of Alabama, middle school students who attend classes in the STEM Center will learn to write programs and software through coding; will design structures, rockets, and prosthetics in engineering; will create digital art and produce television broadcasts in digital media; and will learn every chamber, vein, and artery by virtually dissecting a human heart. Students, some who may have never been far from Phenix City, will also be introduced to the flora and fauna of the oceans and the gulf, as well as those species of plants and animals native to the Chattahoochee River.



1:1 Initiative

Beginning with grades 6-8, PCS implemented the 1:1 technology initiative by giving each student a take-home iPad Air preloaded with set of electronic textbooks. In the fall of 2016, each student in grades 9-12 will receive a Chromebook, also preloaded with textbooks. This initiative was designed to improve instructional technology and to more actively engage students in the learning process.

SmartLabs

The SmartLab is an engaging environment in which students explore STEM and media arts through applied technology and project-based learning. It is a fully integrated learning environment that supports hands-on, minds-on learning. A SmartLab will be installed in each of PCS's 7 elementary schools for all students grades K-5 to utilize.

Technological Enhancements

Beyond the implementation of 1:1 electronic devices in grades 6-12 and the creation of the STEM Center and SmartLabs, PCS has improved its technological infrastructure and its innovative classroom resources. Specifically, more than 1,000 wireless access points have been placed in classrooms so that each and every classroom has its own unit. Every PCS classroom has a Smart Board and projector. It is the intent of PCS to extend its 1:1 efforts to grades 3-5, though the devices will remain at school.

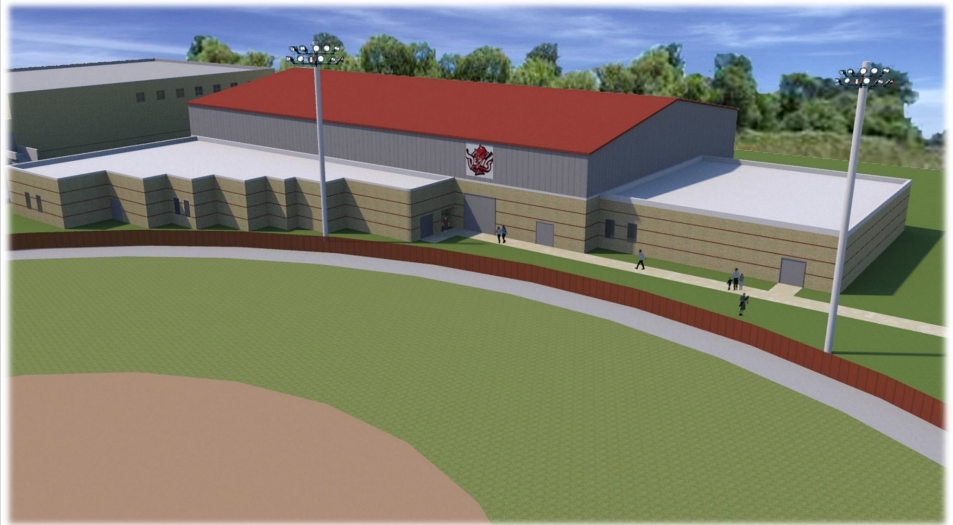


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Expansion Facility

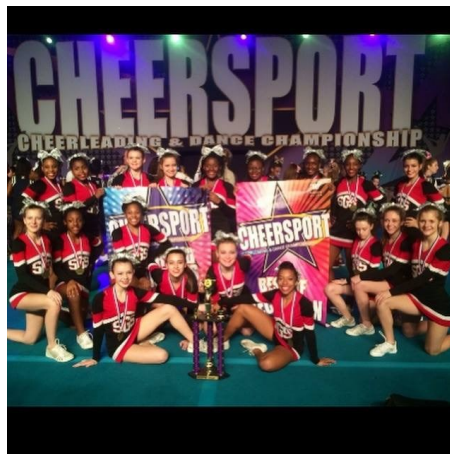
Phenix City Schools is constructing a multipurpose facility that will suit academic, athletic, and extracurricular activity needs on the existing Central Freshman Academy and Central High School campuses. The proposed expansion includes classrooms for health, physical education, and driver's education, as well as designated spaces for special populations testing and afterschool tutoring programs; extra classrooms for after school learning combined with a facility large enough to house additional students for extracurricular activities will

ensure that education does not end when the bell rings. Also included in the expansion is a multipurpose facility that will include access to strength and conditioning facilities, a batting facility, additional meeting rooms, locker rooms, and work space, as well as practice facilities for various athletics and activities such as marching band and Navy Junior ROTC.



Extracurricular – Athletics

Phenix City Schools has excelled in extracurricular activities with many different groups competing on the state and even national level. Athletically, the CHS boys basketball team competed for the state title; a CHS wrestler won the state title, with four others placing; the SGS cheerleading team earned a National Championship; girls track set a state record and earned a state championship, while the boys were runners-up in 4 events; and the 2015 softball team were area champs, going the farthest in school history.



Extracurricular – Academics

In academic competitions, we had five 1st place winners in the state career poster and poetry contest; Future Business Leaders of America placing 4th in the annual Atlanta Hawks Marketing Day Competition; an FBLA student finishing 5th in the nation in Business Law competition; a student winning the state Soil and Water Essay Contest, Senior Division; 3rd overall at the state History Day competition; state and national HOSA competition winners; and 2nd overall in the region American Legion oratorical competition, just to name a few.



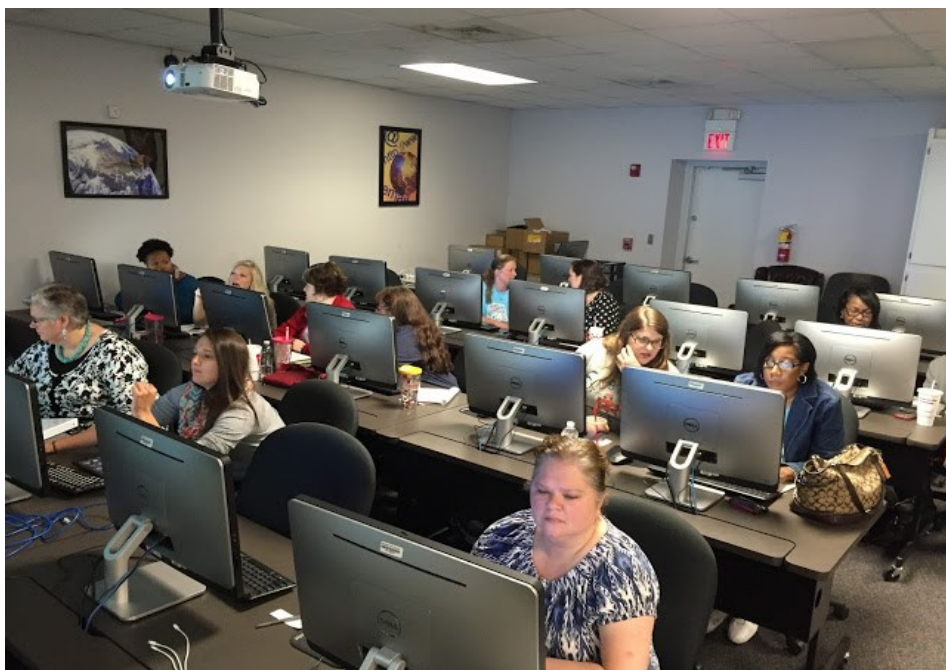
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Teacher Training and Professional Development

Keeping teachers fresh and abreast of the latest educational tools and strategies is of utmost importance to PCS. As part of the system's i^3 Initiative, a number of professional development opportunities have occurred during the i^3 implementation. This effort spans preschool to college. In the fall of 2015, Discovery Education trained administrators and representatives from our higher education partners per the STEM Leadership Corps. In the spring of 2016, Discovery Education will train 24 teachers on the implementation of STEM education, and those teachers will then train others. Additional offerings include *College and Career Readiness Standards*, *Carnegie Learning* math, *Wonders* reading, *MasteryConnect*, and *AMSTI* trainings. Moreover, extra professional development sessions are offered during the "PD Monday" series, as well as during a series of Instructional Technology classes offered on Saturdays.

Superintendent Evaluation

In February of this year, retired superintendent Dr. John Osborn facilitated the superintendent's annual evaluation, which, in his words, yielded the highest results ever witnessed in his 13 years of evaluations. Precisely, Dr. Osborn stated that he had never witnessed a perfect score in the area of innovation.



Discovery Education STEM Innovators

The STEM Leader Corps program provides a system to deliver professional learning in an intentional and continuous manner. Twenty-four PCS teachers have made their dedication to PCS and the education of their students known, and were chosen as the first cohort of STEM Innovators. STEM Innovator members build both their individual human capital as well as their social capital as they work as a team to stretch their own capacity to effectively develop a culture of STEM in their classrooms and schools. STEM Innovators will form a school-based team who model for their peers by opening their doors to their demonstration classrooms for informal learning walks. Members also work as a team to implement a STEM school action plan focused on developing their colleagues and enriching their schools' STEM culture. These teachers will attend five days of STEM Innovators focused professional development in year one and additional five days of training in year two and three.



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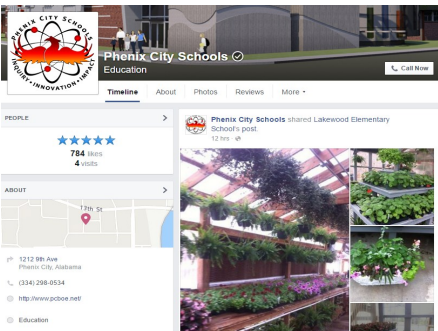
Professional Development Center and Facility Enhancements

In the fall of 2014, PCS's maintenance crew converted the former PCES cafeteria into a state of the art professional development center. To date, the PCS has hosted dozens of professional development and civic activities. In the fall of 2015, SES opened it's annex containing four classrooms and a gymnasium. SES quickly filled the new rooms with an additional 60 students.

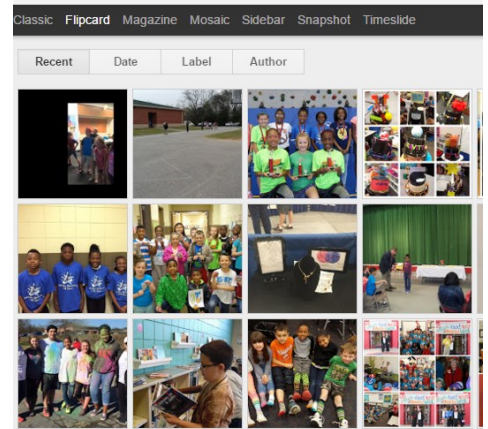


Community Engagement and Public Relations

In an effort to "tell our story," PCS has made a push for stronger community engagement. Since his first day in Phenix City, Mr. Wilkes has published *The Supe Kitchen* blog documenting student and staff achievement in the classroom, on the field, and in the community. The blog has had over 2,050 posts and more than 210,000 views. There has also been an effort to celebrate success via social media through PCS's active Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram pages, and videos of happenings throughout the system can be found on the PCS YouTube site. Information about each school as well as particular departments, activities, and special projects can be found in the system's Phenix Forward magazine and various brochures and handouts. PCS has also partnered with two television stations of late. In the spring of 2015, WRBL conducted more than a dozen specials during their evening news cast, and WTVM was utilized to promote our Junior Journalists through a series of commercials and Business Break segments shown throughout the fall of 2016. A relationship has blossomed with all local television stations and newspapers, and all have been excited to participate in covering a variety of events in PCS.



The Supe's Kitchen What's cookin' in PC Schools?



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Financial Status

February 2016's year-to-date balance was \$10,781,341 and has increased 52% (\$3.6 million) since February of 2014. Since October 31, 2013, the monthly balance has increased 234%.

Board Policy Manual Revision

Phenix City Schools began revision of its Board Policy Manual during the fall of 2015. When revisions are complete, the manual will be compliant with all state and federal guidelines. The updated manual will be published before the 2016-2017 school year.

Phenix City Board of Education			
Ending Balance			
	FY 13-14	FY 14-15	FY 15-16
	Ending Balance	Ending Balance	Ending Balance
October	3,149,569	5,524,173	7,142,291
November	2,931,465	5,082,052	7,008,853
December	4,121,788	6,291,295	7,863,620
January	6,364,819	8,317,302	10,781,341
February	6,908,968	9,229,473	10,521,927
March	6,675,412	8,957,380	
April	6,457,110	8,509,664	
May	6,954,254	8,586,345	
June	6,910,689	8,554,788	
July	6,646,060	7,383,156	
August	6,265,100	6,698,081	
September	6,652,710	8,185,672	



Friends of Phenix City Schools

Since its inception on June 18, 2015, FOPCS has partnered with over 200 community members, organizations, and businesses to raise more than \$790,000 for the children of Phenix City Schools. As education advances, our school system is committed to staying at the cutting edge – for every child in Phenix City. FOPCS has worked closely with the community and alumni to raise funds to ensure that PCS remains ahead of the game.

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Global Convention

On Monday, March 14, 2016, Mr. Wilkes announced that Phenix City Schools and Discovery Education will host the first annual *STEMposium* in June of 2017. The 3-day event will attract more than 300 STEM enthusiasts from throughout the world and will feature many renowned STEM speakers and the Dyer Family STEM Center. Per the press release, there will be a focus on edutourism in the valley area with many families taking to the white water courses, shops, restaurants, shopping areas, and hotels.



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Phenix City Schools

1212 9th Avenue

P.O.Box 460

Phenix City, 36868-0460

334-298-0534

334-298-6690 fax

Mr. Randy Wilkes, Superintendent

