NEWTON COUNTY SCHOOLS
SPIRIT | PRIDE | EXCELLENCE
Achieves

ACADEMIC UPDATE

October 22, 2024

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Chief of Learning and Leadership



NCS 2024-2025 Priorities

ACADEMICS

- Develop a clear and comprehensive literacy strategy, prepared for launch in 2025 – coupled by the identification of essential, research-based supportive resources
- Strengthen the district's instructional core by clarifying common expectations for curriculum usage, instructional planning and delivery, academic intervention, and assessment
- Implement clear and consistent systems of support, coaching and development, and supervision for teaching and learning personnel; invest in the development of key instructional support personnel

OPERATIONS

- Strengthen staff recruitment and retention efforts
- Develop programming aimed at removing barriers to student learning , with a focus on mental health, behavioral support and intervention, and student attendance
- Develop infrastructure to support increased parent engagement and connection; streamline access to essential services and resources
- Enhance district communication efforts (both internal and external) to achieve 1)organizational transparency 2) elevated branding and marketing

CULTURE & ENGAGEMENT

- Increase opportunities for formal employee recognition across multiple divisions and at every level within the organization
- Deepen and initiate expansive professional development opportunities for NCS personnel
- Develop a more robust reporting structure for BOE meetings to ensure greater community transparency regarding organizational objectives, status, and plans.

NEWTON COUNTY SCHOOLS

ACADEMICS

Quantifiable & Executable Goals

- Increase the percentage of students in grades 3-12 reading on grade level as measured by the Lexile score on the Georgia Milestones Assessment (GMAS).
- Increase overall percentage of Proficient and Above Learners in ELA in grades 3, 5, and 8 on GMAS.
- Increase overall percentage of Proficient and Above Learners in Math for 4th, 7th, and Algebra Concepts and Connections on GMAS.
- Design and implement a comprehensive, districtwide literacy strategy aligned to the Science of Reading.
- Design and implement 1) a universally applied instructional framework
  2) a universally applied balanced assessment system.

ACADEMICS

Math Data - 2024 GMAS

Elementary	Middle	High
4th MATH: ↑ 4pp	6th MATH: ↑ 6pp	ALG C&C: ↑ 11pp
5th MATH: ↑ 6pp	8th MATH: ↑ 12pp	

Breakthrough Results - Double-Digit Gains

GMAS Growth Highlights ACADEMICS

*Breakthrough Results**

3rd Grade

Math

Livingston ES +12

4th Grade

Math

STEAM Academy +22
Mansfield ES +13
Oak Hill ES +10

Reading

STEAM Academy +21
Oak Hill ES +13

5th Grade

Math

Heard-Mixon ES +28
East Newton ES +27
Porterdale ES +20
Mansfield ES +17

Reading

Porterdale ES +31
East Newton ES +13
Middle Ridge ES +10

Science

Porterdale ES +21
East Newton ES +10

MIDDLE

6th Math

Veterans Memorial +10

8th Math

Clements +15
Indian Creek +18
Liberty +15

ALGEBRA C&C

Clements +39
Indian Creek +21
Liberty +36

HIGH

ALGEBRA C&C

Alcovy HS +12
Eastside HS +13

*** Double-Digit Gains**


ACADEMICS | Literacy

ACADEMICS

Universal Screener

Georgia Early Literacy Act (HB 538) Components	
Key Components	*Key Highlights*
Instructional Materials	• Aligned to the science of reading; instruct students in foundational literacy skills and State Board of Education (SBOE)-approved English Language Arts (ELA) standards; approved by SBOE for grades K-3.
Screeners	• Administered three times per year to K-3 students; measure foundational literacy skills; identify characteristics of dyslexia; used for progress monitoring.
Interventions	• Tiered reading intervention plans for K-3 students who exhibit significant reading deficiency; use of evidence-based strategies.
Professional Learning	• Training for all K-3 teachers on the science of reading, structured literacy, and foundational literacy skills.
Teacher Preparation	• Georgia Assessments for the Certification of Educators (GACE) aligned with developmentally appropriate evidence-based literacy instruction; creation of standards to ensure students completing teacher certification programs graduate with the knowledge and skills to teach reading.

- Universal screeners have been completed
- HB 538 Requirements

ACADEMICS

Literacy

- Elementary Science of Reading Curriculum
- High-Quality Instructional Materials
- Ongoing Training

ACADEMICS

ELA Standards

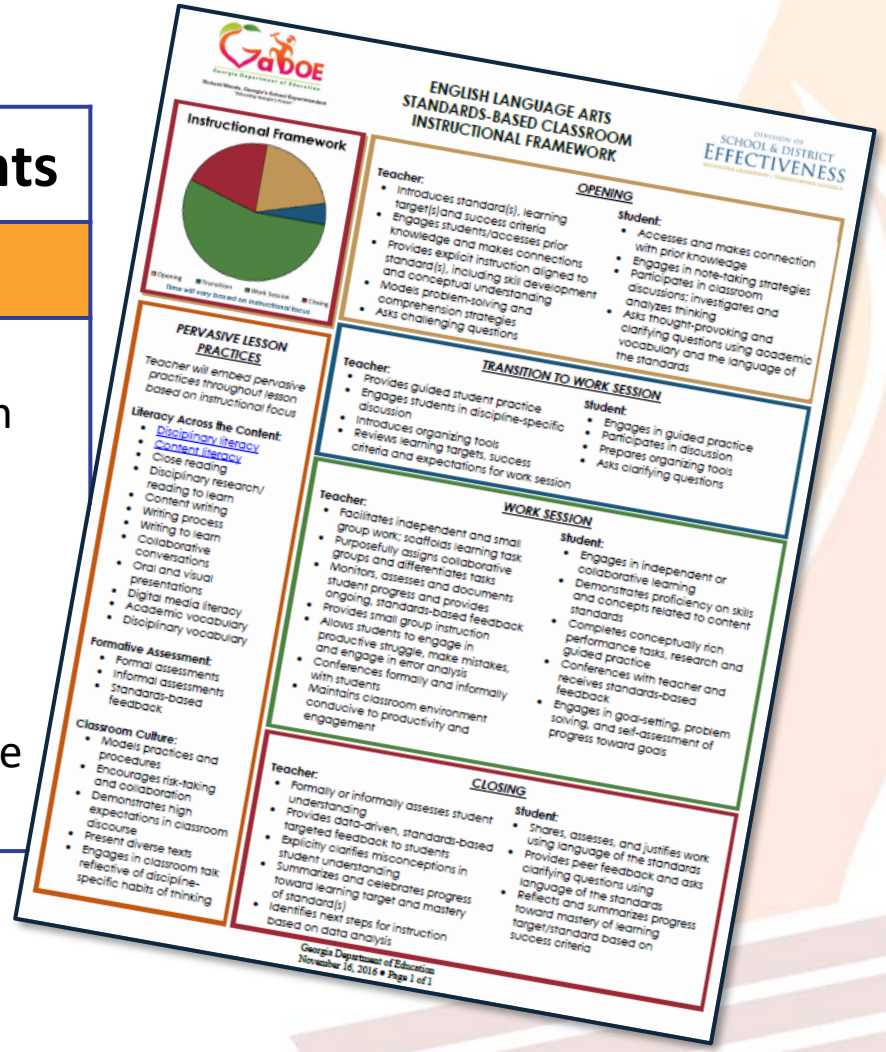
Georgia's K-12 English Language Arts Standards: Implementation Timeline		
2023-2024	*2024-2025*	*2025-2026*
• Resource development, instructional supports, professional learning, and assessment updates.	• Resource development, instructional supports, professional learning, and assessment updates.	• **Full Implementation** – Georgia students tested on updated ELA assessments.

GaDOE Georgia Department of Education | GeorgiaStandards.org

ACADEMICS

Instructional Framework

Instr. Frameworks: Content-Specific Components		
ELA, SS, Humanities	**Math**	**Science**
● Opening ● Transition to Work Period ● Work Period ● Closing	● Engage ● Explore ● Apply ● Reflect	• Engage with Phenomenon • Obtain Information • Evaluate Information • Communicate Information

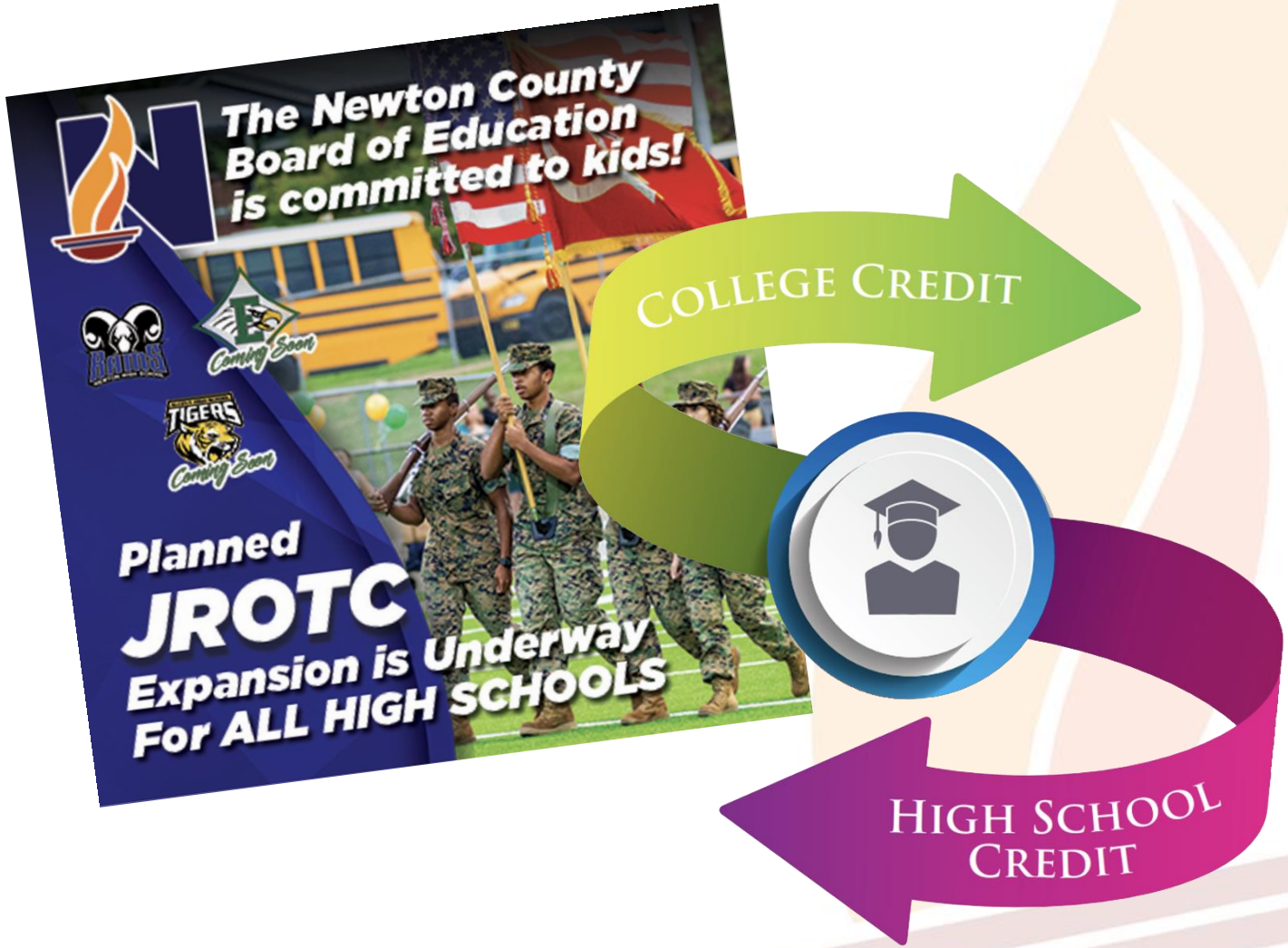


ASPIRATIONAL GOALS

• Increasing under-represented Subgroup (Black and Hispanic) participation in AP Courses.
• Increasing Black and/or Hispanic Male participation in Dual Enrollment and AP/Honors courses.
• Increasing the number of Gifted Identified students.
• Increasing the number of Advanced Placement course offerings districtwide.
• Increasing overall Dual Enrollment participation percentage.
• Increasing the overall number of CTAE Pathway completers.

ASPIRATIONAL GOALS

Increased Access And Opportunities



ASPIRATIONAL GOALS

Community Metric – *Graduation Rate*

SCHOOL/GROUP	2020 GRADUATION RATE	2021 GRADUATION RATE	2022 GRADUATION RATE	2023 GRADUATION RATE	2024 GRADUATION RATE
Alcovy High	89%	85%	89%	89%	87.7%
Eastside High	89%	91%	91%	93%	94.0%
Newton High	91%	91%	92%	92%	92.1%
NCSS	90%	89%	90%	92%	91%
State	84%	84%	84%	84%	85.4%

We are on a relentless pursuit to become the

FASTEST IMPROVING

school district in the state of Georgia – organized and led by a

HIGHLY SKILLED TEACHER & LEADER WORKFORCE

working tirelessly

on behalf of children for the benefit of our community

and **PRODUCING BREAKTHROUGH RESULTS**

NEWTON COUNTY SCHOOLS