



Bibb County School District

Department of Communications / Community & School Affairs

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DISTRICT SCHOOLS HEADED IN RIGHT DIRECTION

Community Invited to Annual State of the District to Celebrate Achievements

January 17, 2025

(MACON, GA) – As the Bibb County School District prepares to hold its annual State of the District event, its schools are experiencing the benefits of their efforts to improve student outcomes. These accomplishments have come at every grade level in recent weeks.

The District has continued to implement the “Leader In Me” initiative in its schools, and more schools have reached Lighthouse status, bringing the total number to 14 schools. This is one of the highest levels of recognition for “Leader In Me” programming, and Lighthouse Schools serve as exemplars to their community and other schools. The most recent District schools to attain this designation were Heard Elementary School, Academic Magnet, as well as Northeast High School.

“Working toward and achieving the Lighthouse status has galvanized the students and staff in a positive and productive manner. Our culture and climate has greatly improved,” said Carole Cote, principal of Heard Elementary School. “We strive to maintain a welcoming and caring environment for everyone, and we are excited and very appreciative for this honor.”

Northeast becomes the first high school in the state of Georgia to reach Lighthouse status. Among other areas of celebration, Northeast was highlighted by the FranklinCovey Foundation for its focus on leadership from administration down to students.

“Together, we have cultivated an environment where leadership, ownership of learning and community impact thrive,” said Principal Donna Walker Thompson. “This achievement is not just a milestone — it is a celebration of

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the transformative work happening daily at Northeast. We are excited and remain steadfast in our commitment to empowering every student to own their learning experiences and to lead with purpose and positivity.”

Additionally, Alexander II Magnet School and Springdale Elementary School were recognized as Title I Distinguished Schools. This honor is bestowed on schools that represent the top 5 percent in the state of Georgia in key performance measures.

Seven more schools – Bernd Elementary School, Bruce Elementary School, Hartley Elementary School, Southfield Elementary School, Union Elementary School, L.H. Williams Elementary School and Ballard-Hudson Middle School – were honored as Comprehensive Support and Improvement Progress Schools by the Georgia Department of Education. This designation required schools to demonstrate at least a 5 percent increase in Content Mastery as well as hit score targets in at least one other area of the College & Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI).

“It brings me great joy to return for 2025 with such an awesome list of accomplishments and recognitions. We are truly headed in the right direction, and these highlights of achievement represent the hard work happening in our schools and with our students,” said Superintendent Dr. Dan A. Sims. “We still have much work to do, but we are focused, driven, and eager to excel in every way possible. These accomplishments are clear examples of that.”

Bibb County School District leaders, community leaders and other partners will gather to celebrate these accomplishments and more at the annual State of the District, which will have a theme of “Say Yes to BCSD!” This will take place on Thursday, January 30, at 9:45 a.m. in the Westside High School Auditorium, located at 2851 Heath Road. Guests may register to attend the event at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bibb-county-school-district-2025-state-of-the-district-tickets-1115832397739>.

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