

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tupelo Public School District

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TPSD Receives Fourth-Straight MDE A-Rating

TUPELO, Miss. — For the fourth-consecutive year, the Tupelo Public School District has earned an A-rating by the Mississippi Department of Education's accountability model.

In total, four schools received A's, while six earned B's to go along with two C's.

"Our teachers, support staff, administrators and students, along with our parents, have worked hard for our district to sustain a high level of excellence," TPSD superintendent Dr. Rob Picou said. "MDE's accountability rating represents a collective effort, including our amazing and supportive community that supports and trusts us with the sacred responsibility of educating and caring for their children. "But as I have stated many times, the accountability rating is just one measurable indicator among many that define an excellent school district. I think we all agree that TPSD is bigger than any letter grade, even when that letter grade is an A."

TPSD schools earning A's were Lawhon, Lawndale, Parkway and Pierce Street. Earning B's were ECEC, Carver, Joyner, Rankin, Tupelo High School and Tupelo Middle School, while Milam and Thomas Street were C's.

"On behalf of the board of trustees, I am extremely proud of the relentless work our administration, faculty, support staff and students have done to garner another A-rating for the district," board president Amy Tate said. "This is a great indicator of the progress that's been achieved to make the district successful every single day. Our students are provided with diverse opportunities to excel at the highest level, ones we hope carry with them beyond the boundaries of our district.

Of the 148 districts in Mississippi, 52 received an A.

"An A-rating is an exciting achievement in many areas of our lives," Lawhon principal Wesley McCullough said. "At Lawhon, we are so excited for the A ratings achieved by our school and our district. Our rating is the result of the relentless effort and dedication from our entire staff and our students who show up and strive to succeed every single day."

The Mississippi Statewide Accountability System assigns a performance rating of A, B, C, D, and F for each school and district based on established criteria regarding student achievement, individual student growth, graduation rate and participation rate.

"This A belongs to every student who worked hard, every teacher who never gave up, and every family who believed in us," Parkway principal Carmen Gary said.

Statewide assessments are used to measure proficiency and growth in proficiency for students in grades 3-8 and high school students taking end-of-course subject area assessments in Algebra I, English II, Biology, and U.S. History. Schools and districts are expected to have an assessment participation rate of 95% or greater.

The system also factors in performance on the ACT, among other college and career indicators, and how well schools are helping English learners and the lowest-achieving students make progress toward proficiency.

Additional Quotes

"We are thankful and proud to be recognized as an A school based on last year's accountability data. This achievement reflects the hard work and dedication of our staff, the commitment of our students, and the support of our families and community. It truly took all of us working together to make this possible." — *Dr. Anthony Golding, Pierce Street Elementary Principal.*