

Duplin County Schools

2024

Report to the Community



From the Board Chair

Mr. Brent Davis, Chairman



“As we journey through this school year, our Board stands committed to supporting every member of our school family.”

The 2024-25 school year has begun, and we are excited to welcome everyone back with the theme “One Family.” Our Board of Education members are filled with enthusiasm as we embark on another year of powerful teaching and learning across our district. We are proud to welcome new teachers and staff to our community and grateful to those who have returned. The Board knows that high-quality educators have the number one impact on student achievement. We also know that when we come together as one family—educators, students, parents, and community members—we create an environment where every student can thrive.

In Duplin, we are more than just a collection of schools; we are united in our commitment to the safety, success, and well-being of every student and staff member. The safety of our students and staff remains a top priority, and our Board is unwavering in its dedication to providing the resources, facilities, and support necessary to ensure that each member of our family feels valued, supported, and secure.

This issue of the Duplin County Schools' *Report to the Community* highlights our shared accomplishments and goals as one family. Inside, you'll find information on District Perspectives, DCS Strategic Planning, Student Academic Success, Distinguished Leaders, Teachers, and Personnel, District Highlights, State Accountability Results/Strategies for Success, Athletics, and more.

As we journey through this school year, our Board stands committed to supporting every member of our school family. Thank you for taking the time to review the latest edition of the *Report to the Community*. We extend our deepest gratitude to our students, parents, faculty, administration, and community stakeholders for their ongoing dedication. Together, as one family, we are poised to make this the best school year yet. I am thrilled to see the incredible achievements that lie ahead.

Board of Education

Duplin County Schools 2024-2025



Brent Davis
Chairman



**“A unified approach
to academic excellence”**



Reginald Kenan
Vice-Chairman,
Member of the State
Board of Education



Pam Edwards



Claudius Morrissey



David Jones

Our Vision

The vision of Duplin County Schools is to become an exemplary school system where all students and staff excel in a globally competitive society.

Our Mission

The mission of Duplin County Schools is to work collaboratively with the community to prepare all students for career, college, and life success.

It is the policy of Duplin County Schools that no otherwise qualified student shall be excluded from, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in any educational program or activity solely on the basis of age, sex, race, religion, color, national origin, handicapping condition, creed, political affiliation or any other issues based on Title VI, Title IX, Section 504, Title II ADA, and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

Perspectives

Our Schools

B.F. Grady Elementary School (BFG) • K-8

Beulaville Elementary School (BES) • K-8

Chinquapin Elementary School (CES) • K-8

Duplin Early College High School (DECHS) • 9-12

East Duplin High School (EDHS) • 9-12

James Kenan High School (JKHS) • 9-12

Kenansville Elementary School (KES) • K-8

North Duplin Elementary School (NDE) • K-6

North Duplin Jr./Sr. High School (NDJS) • 7-12

Rose Hill-Magnolia Elementary School (RHM) • K-8

Wallace Elementary School (WALE) • K-8

Wallace-Rose Hill High School (WRH) • 9-12

Warsaw Elementary School (WARE) • K-8

DCS Center of Opportunity (CoO)

Superintendent's Perspective



We are thrilled to present the 2024 edition of the Duplin County Schools' *Report to the Community*. This report showcases the district's data, accomplishments, and key strategies designed to further enhance student achievement across all schools.

As one family, united in purpose, we celebrate the strength and growth of

Duplin County Schools, made possible through the abundance of support and collaboration from all stakeholders—our students, staff, parents, and the broader community. Working collectively on our 5-Year Strategic Plan annual review provides a platform for reflection, where we recognize the achievements of the past year and engage in valuable feedback from all corners of our district. This collective effort is at the heart of our success.

Our Board of Education and I are immensely proud of the continued growth throughout the district. Thanks to the unwavering dedication of our teachers, administrators, and staff, who have developed solid improvement plans, we are confident in our ability to build on our successes. We are committed to deepening our efforts and carrying out our strategies with fidelity in the upcoming year.

With God's abundant blessings and our strong community partnerships, we will continue to propel Duplin County Schools forward, ensuring every child has the opportunity to thrive and achieve success. Together, as one family, we will continue to grow, support, and uplift one another for the benefit of all students.

Your humble servant,
Austin Obasohan, Ed.D.

Perspectives



Cori Raynor, Parent
Advisory Committee

Parent Perspective

Being part of the Duplin County Schools' family has been a truly enriching experience for my children.. Over the years, DCS has cultivated a unique and welcoming environment where every student is valued, supported, and encouraged to grow. At Beulaville Elementary and East Duplin, my children have always felt comfortable and embraced, thanks to the positive influence of their teachers, counselors, administrators, and coaches. This sense of belonging is a testament to the strong community spirit that DCS fosters.

My daughter, in particular, has thrived within this nurturing environment. From working hands-on with K-2 students, an invaluable experience that aligns with her future career goals, to participating in a variety of clubs and activities, DCS has provided her with countless opportunities to explore her passions. The personalized attention and encouragement she's received have allowed her to flourish on the path she loves.

As a parent, it's been a joy to witness my children grow within the DCS system. I'm excited about the future, knowing that Duplin County Schools will continue to offer wonderful opportunities for my son and daughter and all its students, helping them succeed in whatever path they choose.

Student Perspective

For me, being a part of the Duplin County Schools family means I get to be part of a school system that cares about me and will do what it takes to help me be successful.



Austin Montoya,
Student
Wallace
Elementary
School

Perspectives

Teacher Perspective



North Duplin Elementary School

Jenny Sasser, DCS 24-25 Teacher of the Year

Being part of the DCS Family means working together to ensure every student feels successful and supported. We lean on each other for guidance, tackling challenges as a team and celebrating victories together. In our DCS family, collaboration is key - we make even the toughest tasks manageable by sharing ideas and offering encouragement. We create an environment where work is not just productive but also meaningful and fun, knowing we're all working toward the same goal: the success and well-being of our students. Together, we truly are one family.

Education Foundation Perspective

Erin King-Brown, Duplin County Education Foundation

Being a part of the Duplin County Schools (DCS) family means having a deep connection to the community and education. It signifies working with dedicated individuals who are committed to uplifting both staff and students. Through the Duplin County Education Foundation, which has grown significantly over the past 40 years, there is a strong sense of pride in providing financial support to high school seniors, with an estimated \$75,000 awarded annually. The foundation also helps celebrate student achievements, supports schools' improvement efforts, and honors educators and staff through special events like the Teacher of the Year banquet. This support is made possible by the generosity of individuals and businesses in the community. Being part of this family is about fostering growth, celebrating success, and working towards a brighter future for the schools and the county.



Perspectives

Faith-Based Perspective



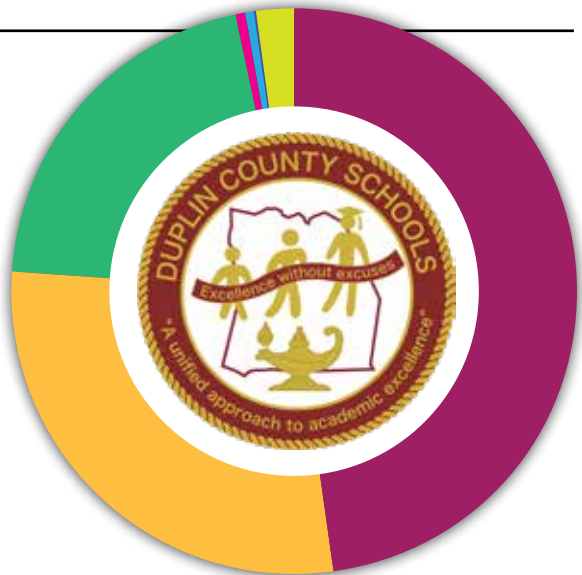
Reverend Paul Dean, Faith-Based Advisory Committee

Being a part of the Duplin County Schools' family means being connected to a community of faith and support that is committed to the well-being of our students, staff, and administration. The Faith-Based Community in Duplin County plays a crucial role by organizing county-wide and district-level prayer events that foster unity and encouragement for the schools. The positive reception of these efforts by both the schools and the faith-based entities strengthens the partnership and inspires others across the state. Our partnership is a blessing, which not only nurtures relationships between faith communities and schools, but also contributes to a safer, more effective, and nurturing environment for students. Being part of this family is about working together, through faith and service, to positively impact education for many years to come.

Demographics

	American Indian/Alaskan Native	0.7%
	Asian	0.3%
	Hispanic	47.6%
	Black/African American	20.3%
	Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.1%
	White	28.2%
	Two or more	2.8%
Total Students		9,827

As of 6/30/2024



Academic Success

2022-2027 DCS 5-Year Strategic Plan & Goals



Duplin County Schools' staff and community participate in the Strategic Plan Annual Review. Incorporating stakeholder feedback helps to ensure that Duplin County Schools' are continuously improving and fulfilling our district's vision, mission, and goals. The 2022-2027 DCS 5-Year Strategic Plan was approved by our Board of Education.

> 1

Goal 1: Student academic success for every Pre-K-13 student is a priority for Duplin County Schools.

> 2

Goal 2: Through a commitment to equity, all students will receive a personalized education through access to STEAMA, career, college, and digital learning.

> 3

Goal 3: Every student will be instructed and supported by excellent and innovative leaders, teachers, and personnel.

> 4

Goal 4: Develop and maintain strategic partnerships supported by 21st-century financial, business, and technology systems.

> 5

Goal 5: Provide safe and nurturing environments and facilities for all Pre-K – 13 students and staff.

Student Academic Success

- The STEAMA Career and College Readiness Plan was facilitated by school counselors across the district
- Duplin Early College HS students earned 30 Associate Degrees and 26 certificates or diplomas
- Over 800 HS students enrolled in 3,039 college courses this year
- Students from our comprehensive high schools earned 23 Associate Degrees and 49 certificates or diplomas through the Career & College Promise Program
- We circulated over 250,000 books district-wide
- Students earned 4,206 industry-recognized credentials through Career and Technical Education (CTE)
- High schools increased Advanced Placement (AP) course offerings
- Over 300 students participated in the Future Teachers Club throughout the district
- Fifteen students enrolled in the Duplin Early College TEACH Academy
- DCS seniors were offered over 11 million dollars in scholarship funds for the 23-24 school year
- High School and Middle School science teachers developed new pacing guides to align with the new standards
- Implementation of NC Check-Ins and data analysis has moved data-informed instruction forward
- Battle of the Books took place at all 3 levels and we hosted the regional middle school Battle of the Books competition
- DCS students excelled in competitions at the State and National BETA conventions
- All high schools participated in FAFSA night, College Decision Days, and the DCS Career and College Fair

- CTE provided STEAMA opportunities for students such as the first-ever paid summer internship program that allowed 8 students to work with the bus garage, technology, and maintenance departments in the summer
- PreK at Kenansville Elementary School received a grant through the Duplin Cooperative Extension's Color Me Healthy Program. They planted vegetables outside their class and learned all about healthy eating.

GOALS

1. The Cohort Graduation Rate for DCS will increase to 87%.
2. Every school in DCS will Exceed School Accountability Growth.
3. Every school in DCS will improve its School Achievement Score by 10%

STEAMA

Pathways with Purpose



Classes of 2024

Clockwise from top right: Duplin Early College High School, East Duplin High School, James Kenan High School, North Duplin Jr/Sr High School, Wallace-Rose Hill High School



Celebrating our staff

2024 DCS Staff of the Year

"We are proud to celebrate our exceptional staff, whose dedication and passion uplift our students every day. Our heartfelt thanks go out to all our teachers, leaders, and personnel for their unwavering commitment to excellence. The entire DCS community is a family, working together to inspire and support one another as we shape the future for our students." **Dr. Obasohan**

School-level teachers of the year:

Vanna KayIn Mobley, Beulaville Elementary School

Ann Jones, B.F. Grady Elementary School

Amelia Bellomy, Chinquapin Elementary School

Dwight Holland, Duplin Early College High School

Kaitlyn Kennedy, East Duplin High School

Samantha Best, James Kenan High School

Lindsey Marshall, Kenansville Elementary School

Jenny Sasser, North Duplin Elementary School

Dominique Grady, North Duplin Jr/Sr High School

Sharon Brown, Rose Hill-Magnolia Elementary School

Thomasina Hill, Wallace Elementary School

Kyndall Marshburn, Wallace-Rose Hill High School

Jazmine Robinson, Warsaw Elementary School

George Brown, Duplin County Schools Center of Opportunity

Program-level support staff of the year:

Laurie Sholar, Digital Learning & Media Coordinator, Beulaville Elementary School

Jill Garner, School Social Worker, B.F. Grady Elementary School

Kelly Brock, School Nurse, North Duplin Elementary School

Willoughby Newcomb, School Counselor, Duplin Early College High School



Principal of the Year (LEFT): Susan Sellers (Rose Hill-Magnolia Elementary School); **Assistant Principal of the Year (RIGHT):** Mayshelle Newkirk-Tate (Beulaville Elementary School)



Support Staff of the Year: Willoughby Newcomb, School Counselor (Duplin Early College High School)



Beginning Teacher of the Year: (RIGHT): Master Sergeant Graves (James Kenan High School); Superintendent (LEFT) Dr. Austin Obasohan



Teacher of the Year: Jenny Sasser (North Duplin Elementary School)



DCS School-Level Teachers of the Year.

Distinguished in STEAMA



Corey Keffer Being Interviewed by WCTI.

Duplin County Schools' Robotics programs embody the One Family spirit through collaboration, innovation, and hands-on learning. Rooted in the district's STEAMA framework (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math, and Agriculture) and Career and Technical Education, students engage in challenges that promote critical thinking, creativity, and teamwork. Started in 2012 at East Duplin High School by Corey Keffer, the program expanded in 2020 when Wallace-Rose Hill JROTC launched a robotics team. Now, both JROTC and Technology Education teams at East Duplin, Wallace-Rose Hill, and James Kenan compete locally and regionally, developing skills in coding, mechanical design, and engineering, while aligning with DCS's vision of innovation.



East Duplin Robotics Team being highlighted by WCTI.



Wallace-Rose Hill Robotics Team competing with a VEX V5 Claw Bot.



Wallace-Rose Hill Robotics team racing spheros.



East Duplin Robotics Team writing code and building.

Accomplishments



DCS Family Highlights by School

Beulaville Elementary School:

Robert Ross, Principal

With the new attendance policy in place, Beulaville Elementary School attendance rate improved by **nearly 10%**.

BF Grady Elementary School:

Amy Wallace, Principal

The addition of a **book vending machine** at BF Grady generated much excitement throughout the building. Students in all grade levels were able to earn book vending machine tokens for a variety of reasons from meeting reading goals to following PBIS expectations. Students who earned tokens were recognized in the morning announcements and their pictures were placed on Class Dojo. The addition of the book vending machine allowed us to positively promote all the wonderful accomplishments of the students.

Center of Opportunity: Ivey Dowe, Site Administrator and Drop-out Prevention Coordinator

The Center of Opportunity used **agriculture as a tool** to encourage students to channel their emotions into productive and positive activities that foster personal growth and progress. They were able to secure two grants to introduce agriculture to their students through various hands-on projects and activities.

Chinquapin Elementary School:

Brittany Knowles, Principal

Student leaders created a **Com Squad** group to promote communication across campus. This group facilitated morning announcements, created videos to showcase fundraising highlights, distributed publicity posters, and assisted in spearheading our spirit weeks! During Read Across America Week, they even made read-alouds for teachers to use in their classrooms. These students helped make the presentations displayed throughout the building on all of our TVs and viewed by all stakeholders.

Duplin Early College High School:

Tanya Smith, Principal

Through the partnership with the National Education Equity Lab, Duplin Early College High School students **scored the highest in the nation for the 2nd consecutive year**. All 13 students enrolled in the Introduction to Cloud Computing course at Arizona State University earned an "A" in the course. One student earned the Amazon Web Services Certified Cloud Practitioner credential and was hired by Amazon.

East Duplin High School:

Scott Ballard, Principal

East Duplin High School **greatly increased** the number of enrollments in AP courses.

DCS Family Highlights by School

James Kenan High School:

Michael Holton, Principal

By maintaining a school-wide focus on the importance of being on time and implementing new tardy policies and procedures, James Kenan **reduced tardiness by 25%** for the 2023-2024 school year.

Kenansville Elementary School:

Marketa Hargrove, Principal

The implementation of clubs and new student groups at Kenansville Elementary School was very meaningful this year. These organizations gave the students a voice and a pathway to express different talents. One group that went above and beyond was the newly founded **Elementary BETA club that won at State and National levels.**

North Duplin Jr/Sr High School:

Anthony Jones, Principal

For the first time, North Duplin Jr/Sr had students compete at both the **Middle School and High School Beta Conventions.**

North Duplin Elementary School

Brent Stafford, Principal

North Duplin Elementary **partnered with the Rotary Club of Mt. Olive** to give out t-shirts at each nine-week accelerated reader incentive party for all students who met their goals.

Rose Hill-Magnolia Elementary School:

Susan Sellers, Principal

Rose-Hill Magnolia saw **substantial gains** on the NC Teacher Working Conditions Survey.

Wallace-Rose Hill High School

Thomas Nichols, Principal

Wallace-Rose Hill High School is proud of the **distinct shift in positive school culture and climate** this year. This transformation resulted from a series of initiatives aimed at celebrating the positive aspects of the school and actively listening to the voices of students and staff. As a result, more students served as tutors and student ambassadors, participation in club activities and extracurriculars increased, and many students were recognized for outstanding attendance, grades, and conduct. The positive culture shift carried over into academics, athletics, and extracurriculars.

Wallace Elementary School

Angelo Cavallaro, Principal

Wallace Elementary **increased family engagement opportunities** and positive public relations.

Warsaw Elementary School

Pam Murray, Principal

Warsaw Elementary hosted the **Artist Innovation Mentorship (AIM) program** with Duplin County Schools graduate Telvin Wallace. AIM is an after-school outreach program organized by the North Carolina Museum of Art that aims to bring more art opportunities to rural school districts. By pairing artists with students, the hope is to cultivate creative growth and thinking beyond the school day.

District-wide Accomplishments

- CTE testing proficiency increased from 62.49% in 22-23 to 69.78% in 23-24.
- Duplin County Schools earned accreditation renewal by Cognia.
- Duplin County Schools (DCS) celebrates our K-5 teachers who have completed the two-year LETRS Professional Development series.
- The Digital Teaching & Learning Team collaborated with the STEAMA BT Coordinators to provide customized professional development sessions throughout the year, specifically designed to support our beginning teachers across the district.
- DCS celebrates the full online implementation of all available state and federal assessments.
- Duplin County Seniors were offered \$12,968,606 in scholarships. This is an increase of \$1,776,724 from the 2022-23 school year.
- Our 2023-24 fiscal audit was clean with no findings.
- Eight Teacher Assistants took college classes during 2023-2024 toward becoming teachers.
- DCS continued to upgrade HVAC systems throughout the district. This accomplishment enhances indoor air quality and ventilation in all of our school facilities.
- Social workers, nurses, counselors, and other support staff participated in a year-long professional development series focused on Trauma-Informed Care, titled "Peace by Piece." This training has significantly enhanced our knowledge and understanding of the impact of trauma, which will positively influence our relationships with students, families, and colleagues -- ultimately leading to improved success for our students.
- Transportation had a great safety inspection this year with a score of 8.36, which rated us number 2 in the eastern region. This comes from teamwork and a desire to make safety number one.

Accountability results



Duplin County Schools is dedicated to ensuring every student’s academic success. Together with our community, we work as “One Family” to equip students for college, careers, and lifelong success.

State Accountability Results

The District’s 4-Year Cohort Graduation rate increased to 86.1% in 2023-2024 from 81.9% in 2022-2023 including an increase in all student subgroups.

Based on the 15-point scale used for School Performance Grade assignments, the District received one B (70-84), six C’s (55-69), three D’s (40-54), and three F’s.

At the high school level, there were notable proficiency percentage point increases in NC Math 1 (+6.5), Biology (+3), and English II (+3.7).

Overall grade-level proficiency results reflect a slight decrease from 37.7% to 36.3%; however, career and college readiness proficiency remained the same.

The majority of student subgroups improved in career and college readiness proficiency (Achievement Levels 4 & 5).

Three out of thirteen schools improved in overall grade level proficiency.

Math Course Rigor improved and remained higher than 95%.

Five schools have been designated as low-performing schools based on school performance and growth outcomes, as compared to nine schools last year.

Grade 11 ACT performance increased overall by 3.8 percentage points.

School growth outcomes reflect three schools exceeding growth, six meeting growth, and four schools receiving a status of not met.

Career and Technical Education (CTE) concentrator’s 4-year cohort graduation rate for 2022-2023 was 97.3% which shows that CTE works for Duplin County Schools’ students.

Moving forward

Strategies for Success & Continuous Improvement

- **Enhanced district support was provided to assist with performance data review and analysis**
- **LETRS (Science of Reading) Training for K-5 and ESL teachers was completed**
- **Continued implementation of the STEAMA Career and College Readiness Plan**
- **Enhanced Character Education Programs within schools**
- **Enhanced support for Beginning Teachers in the areas of face-to-face professional development opportunities, Curriculum & Instruction, and their licensure process**
- **Expanded and strengthened community partnerships (school, district, business, and faith-based partnerships)**
- **Each school implemented Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management (BTAM) teams to enhance school safety measures**
- **The district implements “Grow Your Own Strategies” to help ensure a high-quality pipeline of teachers and administrators (The Duplin County Leadership Academy, The DCS Teacher Ambassador Program, and the DCS Grow Your Own Scholarship Loan Program)**
- **DCS has updated the core curriculum resources to align with the most current standards**
- **\$2,000 00 sign-on bonus for all certified classroom teaching positions and a \$4,000 00 sign-on bonus for all secondary, math, science, and K-12 EC certified classroom teaching positions**

DCS Athletic Highlights



North Duplin Jr/Sr High School Girls' Basketball



Chinquapin Elementary School Volleyball

Fall/Winter 2023

Middle School

Beulaville Elementary School Football:
District Champions

Chinquapin Elementary School
Volleyball: Regular Season and
Tournament Champions

Chinquapin Elementary School Boys'
Basketball: Regular Season Champion

Beulaville Elementary School Boys'
Basketball: Tournament Champions

Chinquapin Elementary School Girls'
Basketball: Regular Season and
Tournament Champions

High School

Wallace-Rose Hill High School Boys'
Soccer: East Central Champions

Wallace-Rose Hill High School Football:
East Central Champions

East Duplin High School Girls' Tennis:
East Central Champions

East Duplin High School Girls' Golf:
East Central Champions

East Duplin High School Girls' Indoor
Track: East Central Champions

North Duplin Jr/Sr High School Football:
Carolina Conference Champions

North Duplin Jr/Sr High School Girls'
Basketball: Carolina Conference
Tournament Champions

North Duplin Jr/Sr High School Boys'
Basketball: Carolina Conference Regular
Season and Tournament Champions

North Duplin Jr/Sr High School Boys'
Indoor Track: Carolina Conference
Champions



Rose Hill-Magnolia Middle School Football



East Duplin High School Basketball

Spring 2024

Middle School

**North Duplin Jr/Sr High School
Baseball:** Conference Champions

**North Duplin Jr/Sr High School
Softball:** Conference Champions

**Rose Hill-Magnolia Elementary
School Boys' Soccer:** Regular
Season Champions

**BF Grady Elementary School Boys'
Soccer:** Tournament Champions

**North Duplin Jr/Sr High School Girls'
Soccer:** Conference Champions

**Chinquapin Elementary School Girls'
Soccer:** Tournament Champions

High School

East Duplin High School Girls' Track:
East Central Conference Champions,
Eastern Regional Runner-Up

**North Duplin Jr/Sr High School
Boys' Track:** Carolina Conference
Champions, Eastern Regional
Champions

**North Duplin Jr/Sr High School
Softball:** Carolina Conference
Champions



North Duplin High School Softball



Wallace-Rose Hill High School Football

Special Recognition

- **North Duplin Jr/Sr High School Coach Hugh Martin:** Football Assistant Coach for the Shrine Bowl
- **North Duplin Jr/Sr High School Coach Ricky Edwards:** Received the NCHSAA Charlie Adams Distinguished Service Award
- **East Duplin High School Coach Greg Jenkins:** Inducted into the NC High School Softball Hall of Fame
- **East Duplin High School Coach Jeremy Joyner:** Received the NCHSAA Leading with the Hear Award
- **East Duplin High School won the Wells Fargo Cup Award** for the top athletic school in the East Central Conference

Beyond the classroom

A Look at Summer Enrichment Programs

Duplin County Schools offers a variety of enriching summer programs to support student growth and engagement. The District C Teamship Camp empowers high school students with real-world problem-solving skills, while the EPIC Lego Robotics Camp challenges 6th-8th graders to explore STEM through hands-on robotics projects. The Read to Achieve Camp helps elementary students not proficient in 2nd and 3rd grade improve their reading skills. Additionally, the Migrant Camp and Field Trip for 6th-12th graders offers unique educational and cultural experiences, ensuring all students have access to meaningful summer learning opportunities.

District C



This was a week-long camp for students in grades 9-12 in which they did an internship with a local business to solve a real-world problem they had in their organization.

Epic Lego

This was a week-long camp for students in grades 6-8 to design and develop Lego robots.



Camps Offered in 2023-2024

Migrant Camp and Field Trip



Students in grades K-8 in the Migrant Program were invited to attend a two-week camp. Students engaged in fun educational activities and projects.



Read to Achieve

Students in grades 2-3 who had not met reading proficiency at the end of the school year were invited to attend a reading camp and received targeted reading interventions that addressed phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.

CloseUp

As part of the summer migrant program, sixteen middle and high school students participated in a trip to Washington DC. For four days students visited national monuments and historical sites and experienced how the government impacts their day-to-day life.



STEAMA

Our district's dedication to STEAMA (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math, and Agriculture) serves as the cornerstone of personalized education for every student. By nurturing individual talents and interests, STEAMA empowers students to explore their passions and unlock opportunities that lead to lifelong success.

STEAMA Accomplishments

- Credential attainment by Duplin County Schools' students has increased by 27.6%.
- Duplin County Schools received the PRC-188 grant, which allowed us to offer summer camps such as District C internship and Epic Lego Robotics camps for middle and high school students.
- Our school district provided STEAMA opportunities for students such as the first-ever paid summer internship program. We had a total of eight interns that worked with the bus garage, technology, and maintenance departments this past summer.
- The school system designated two Agricultural Awareness Days this year.
- The school system continued the implementation of the STEAMA Career and College Readiness Plan.
- Each high school held Pathway Discovery events for 8th-grade students to help them understand elective options available to them.
- Through the DCS Teacher Ambassador Program, all schools have a Future Teachers Club.
- Elementary and middle grades participated in STEAMA opportunities such as Crayons on Campus (K-1), Duplin Grows (2nd), Artist Residency, and Pottery sessions for middle grade students.
- Duplin County Schools revamped professional development support for Beginning Teachers to offer free, face-to-face professional development, personalized to their needs.
- The district received grant funding through the Education Workforce Innovation Commission to continue the jobs for the NC Graduates Program at Wallace-Rose Hill High School, providing social, emotional, vocational, and life skills to students.



STEAMA Symposium & Fair: Empowering Innovation and Exploration

On December 1, 2023, Duplin County Schools held the District STEAMA Fair at Warsaw Elementary School, where students showcased their innovative projects across the disciplines of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math, and Agriculture. The fair celebrated student creativity and problem-solving, with three outstanding students advancing to the State Science and Engineering Fair. Later, on April 12,

2024, the district hosted its annual STEAMA Symposium at James Sprunt Community College, bringing together students, educators, and community leaders to explore cutting-edge ideas and real-world applications of STEAMA. Both events highlighted the district's commitment to fostering excellence and providing pathways for student success in STEAMA fields.



Duplin County Schools' BETA Clubs Shine in 2023-2024, Achieving State and National Success

National Awards

East Duplin High School

Eden Haste, Myron Judge,
Mazilyn Kennedy, Hannah Dutton,
Payton Steffens,
Daphne Steffens, Gabriel Faulkner,
Juliet Faulkner, Kyle Kern,
Zoe Thigpen, Samirya Carter,
Jaden Williams, Haley Grady,
Jenna Batchelor,
Emerson Houston, Maddox Sandlin,
Anamarie Rodriguez Skylar Sandlin,
Leah North, Daniel Jones,
and Macaelyn Williams

...

Large Group Performing Arts
5th Place

...

Savannah Kennedy
Painting Division 2
5th Place

Wallace-Rose Hill High School

Josue Cadena, Elier Marquez,
Jonathan Medina, Gabriel Smith, Jace
Turner

...

Quiz Bowl
9th Place

...

Ashley Garay Yanez
Visual Arts Div. I -Hand Drawn Anime
3rd Place

...

Ashley Medina
Visual Arts Div. I & Black and White
Photography
6th Place

Duplin County Schools' BETA Clubs experienced significant success during the 2023-2024 school year, with students excelling at both state and national levels. Over 360 students from elementary, junior, and senior levels in every Duplin County school participated in the North Carolina State BETA Convention, where they earned more than 90 awards across academic, art, talent, and group events. The following schools took top honors in various categories at the state convention: Beulaville, Chinquapin, Kenansville, North Duplin, Rose Hill-Magnolia, Wallace, and Warsaw Elementary Schools– East Duplin and Wallace-Rose Hill High Schools. Many students qualified to compete in the National BETA Convention in Savannah, Georgia, where Duplin County students continued to shine, placing in events ranging from academic to large group performing arts competitions.

Wallace-Rose Hill High School's BETA Club made notable contributions to this success, with sponsor Ms. Loreen Sumner and co-sponsor Betty Raynor receiving the prestigious Educators of Excellence Award for their dedication to leadership, service, and student achievement. Their recognition highlights the strong culture of mentorship and service within Duplin County's BETA Clubs.

The BETA Clubs' achievements in academic and STEM-based competitions, talent showcases, and service projects underscore the district's commitment to fostering leadership, social responsibility, and excellence among its students.



Safe and Nurturing Facilities

Providing safe and nurturing facilities for all Pre-K-13 students and staff

- The Door Card Access Reader System project is well underway.
- HVAC units and air quality improvement projects are complete.
- The Facilities Department completed ceiling, floor, and lighting projects, along with roof repairs.
- Several classroom addition projects were completed.
- High schools have restroom renovations completed or in progress.
- All schools provide character education opportunities on a weekly/daily basis, with schools and administrators having the autonomy to choose programs that fit best for their school. We are developing a program now that will emphasize the seven durable skills highlighted in the Portrait of a Graduate.
- The Child Nutrition Department implemented the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable program for students, two days a week.
- The UNC Telemed program was started at Rose Hill-Magnolia Elementary School.
- All school nurses received asthma training and the ECU pediatric asthma program was put in place for students.
- A substance abuse prevention program and nutrition program were offered to all 9th graders.
- Smiles of America Dental Program was made available in some of our K-8 schools.
- The Duplin County Health Department offered the Dental Assistance Program to all students.
- A stroke prevention program was offered to all 3rd graders.
- We provided school-based mental health programs.
- The ECU Healthier Lives Telemedicine Program partnered with the Duplin County Health Department to pilot a "Too Good For Drugs" program last spring with full implementation planned for the 2024-25 school year.
- The Employee Assistance Program is available for all staff.
- Each school participated in Crisis Training provided by the Duplin County Sheriff's Office.
- Duplin County Schools received \$300,000 in funding from the NC School Safety grant to provide services for students in crisis and safety training.
- Duplin County Schools continued to implement a fitness model with a digital component to foster use and data collection and help inform instruction.
- The school system used the Gaggie student online safety management software to close over 500 incidents that were reported and resolved by the school administration.
- The school district increased the number of security cameras at our schools.
- Our schools used Go Guardian to monitor student Chromebooks to maintain a safe environment.
- Digital Learning Media Coordinators provide internet safety training to our students.
- The DCS Nutrition Department hosted its first-ever food show for students to taste and try our school lunch foods.

“As we embark on this school year’s journey,
we remain dedicated to uplifting and supporting
every member of our DCS FAMILY.”

Dr. Austin Obasohan

