Steve Barnette
Superintendent

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 20, 2025

16 PCSD Schools Named Math/Literacy Leaders for High Achievement & Growth

Sixteen Paulding County schools have been named either Literacy Leader or Math Leader schools by the Georgia Department of Education.

According to the Georgia DOE, "The Literacy Leader and Math Leader honors celebrate schools that demonstrate extraordinary student progress and proficiency. Schools are recognized for achievement, growth, or both on annual end-of-grade or end-of-course assessments. The criteria recognize the crucial importance of grade-level reading in third and sixth grades and numeracy skills in fifth and eighth grades, and require higher growth from schools with lower achievement levels."

"I am extremely proud of these schools for earning this recognition for extraordinary math and literacy performance," said Superintendent Steve Barnette. "The state DOE created the Leader Schools honors as a way of recognizing schools that excel in these specific academic areas. Last year three PCSD schools were named Leader Schools, and this year we have 16. That is a powerful testament to the outstanding work our math and literacy teachers are doing at schools across the district."

According to the state DOE, a total of 406 schools met the qualifications for recognition as 2024-2025 Literacy Leaders. Awards were given based on the outlined criteria at the elementary and middle-school levels, and at the high-school level based on the American Literature EOC, which is the state test for ELA in high school. Literacy Leader qualifications use the Georgia Milestones Reading Status indicator, which is based on the Lexile score associated with students' performance on a subset of questions on the ELA assessment.

2024-2025
LITERACY LEADERS

Connie Dugan Elementary School
3rd Grade Gateway Growth; 5th Grade Growth
Hiram High School
High School Growth

2024-2025
MATH LEADERS

Allgood Elementary School
5th Grade Gateway Growth
C. A. Roberts Elementary School
5th Grade Gateway Growth
Carl Scoggins Sr. Middle School
High School Achievement & Growth
Crossroads Middle School
High School Outstanding Achievement
East Paulding Middle School
8th Grade Gateway Growth; High School Achievement & Growth
Hal Hutchens Elementary School
5th Grade Gateway Growth
Herschel Jones Middle School
High School Growth
Irma C. Austin Middle School
High School Achievement & Growth
J. A. Dobbins Middle School
8th Grade Gateway Growth; High School Achievement & Growth
Lena Mae Moses Middle School
High School Growth
McGarity Elementary School
5th Grade Gateway Growth
Sam D. Panter Elementary School
5th Grade Gateway Growth
Sammy McClure, Sr. Middle School
High School Achievement
South Paulding Middle School
High School Growth

A total of 479 schools met the qualifications for recognition as 2024-2025 Math Leaders. Awards were given based on the outlined criteria at the elementary and middle-school levels, and at the high-school level based on the Algebra: Concepts and Connections EOC, which is the state test for mathematics in high school. Math Leader qualifications are based on students achieving the Proficient Learner level or above on the Georgia Milestones mathematics assessments. GaDOE recognized Math Leader schools for the 2023-2024 school year.

"Our district Strategic Plan has had a strong focus on literacy and mathematics for several years now," said Associate Superintendent Dr. Tiffany Frachiseur. "Our schools are committed to our strategic initiatives, and the results are beginning to show, as evidenced by the record 91.6 percent graduation rate posted by the PCSD class of 2025, and now having 16 schools recognized as Math and Literacy Leaders. The success is validation of the dedication and hard work of our incredible leaders, teachers, and students."

In the coming weeks, State Superintendent Richard Woods will visit Paulding County to present the Math and Literacy Leader awards.