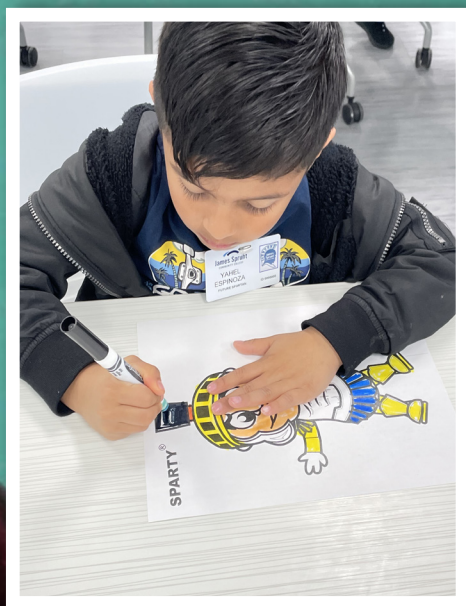




Duplin
County
Schools

2023

REPORT TO THE
COMMUNITY



Message from the Board of Education

The 2023-24 school year is off to a great start. Our Board of Education members are so excited about the powerful teaching and learning taking place in our schools all across the district. We have welcomed a new group of beginning teachers to our district and are so thankful for our teachers who returned back to us. The Board knows that high quality teachers have the number one impact on student achievement. Here in DCS, we have a top notch group of educators, administrators and support staff that will stop at nothing to make sure that our students graduate and are ready for success on their chosen pathway. The safety of our students and staff remains top priority and our Board stands committed to providing our school family with the best resources, facilities, and support needed in order for them to do their jobs.

In this issue of Duplin County Schools Report to the Community, you will find a snapshot of

information related to District Perspectives, DCS Strategic Planning, Student Academic Success, Distinguished Leaders, Teachers, and Personnel, District Highlights, State Accountability Results/Strategies for Success, Athletics, Utilization of CARES funding across the district, and so much more.

Our Board stands committed to do whatever it takes for our school system and most importantly, our students, to succeed. Thank you for taking the time to review the newest publication of Report to the Community. Our Board of Education thanks all of our students, parents, staff, administration and community stakeholders for the amazing school year that lies ahead. This year is guaranteed to be the best year yet, and I am so excited to see all of the amazing things that will be accomplished.

Brent Davis, Chairman

Board of Education

Duplin County Schools 2023-2024

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.

Our Motto

"A unified approach to academic excellence"



Brent Davis

Chairman



Reginald Kenan

Vice-Chairman,
Member of State Board of Education



Pam Edwards



David Jones



Claudius Morrissey

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.

District Perspectives

Superintendent's Perspective



Dr Austin Obasohan

We are excited to bring you the 2023 edition of Duplin County Schools Report to the Community. The information provided in this report will highlight district data, accomplishments, and recommended strategies to improve overall student achievement.

Each year stakeholders have the opportunity to gather for our 5-Year Strategic Plan Review and reflect on our district accomplishments, many of which are shared throughout this report. We know the importance of powerful feedback from all stakeholders, and we value input from our students, employees, parents, and community. We remain committed to soliciting input from these groups.

Our Board of Education and I are so proud of the continued growth in all of our schools. Our teachers, administrators, and staff have solid plans in place and we have confidence in their school improvement plans. We will all continue to dig deeper in our respective roles and implement our strategies with fidelity.

With God's amazing blessings and strong community partnerships, we will continue to move our school system forward in ways that will lead to abundant success for every child!

Your humble servant,
Dr. Austin Obasohan, Ed.D.

Our Schools

PreK-8 B.F. Grady Elementary (BFG)	PreK-6 North Duplin Elementary (NDE)
PreK-8 Beulaville Elementary (BES)	7-12 North Duplin Jr./Sr. High School (NDJS)
PreK-8 Chinquapin Elementary (CES)	PreK-8 Rose Hill-Magnolia Elementary (RHM)
9-12 Duplin Early College High School (DECHS)	PreK-8 Wallace Elementary (WALE)
9-12 East Duplin High School (EDHS)	9-12 Wallace-Rose Hill High School (WRH)
9-12 James Kenan High School (JKHS)	PreK-8 Warsaw Elementary (WARE)
PreK-8 Kenansville Elementary (KES)	

Student Perspective



Brayden Bostic

In a family, you want every voice to be heard. Being on the Student Advisory Committee allows me to make sure that the voices at my school are being heard. When we meet monthly with our superintendent, Dr. Obasohan, we talk about important issues around the school district. We converse and come up with solutions that are best for all students across the district. I am proud to be a voice for my school and the district.

Brayden Bostic, Student Advisory Committee

Parent Perspective



Dean Butts

I am so grateful to be selected to be a member of the Duplin County Schools Parent Advisory Committee. We each represent the 13 schools of our district and are a voice for both the parents and students in our schools. Our goal is to problem solve and help our students have a wonderful school experience. We can have conversations with Superintendent Obasohan and members of the Board of Education and have them value our input.

Studies are clear that students show better performance when parents are involved. Working as a group only increases our effectiveness. Our children are our future and their future is up to us.

Dean Butts, Parent Advisory Committee

Teacher Perspective



William Houston

As a member of the Teacher Advisory Committee in Duplin County Schools, we genuinely embrace our district's theme of "One Family." I, along with the other members of this committee, consider it a privilege to represent our schools and the dedicated educators committed to enhancing this district's educational landscape. In this role, we serve as a bridge between the teaching staff and the district administration, fostering open lines of communication and collaboration. Our committee plays a pivotal role in shaping policies and programs directly impacting students and teachers. Through regular meetings and discussions, we provide valuable insight

and recommendations, ensuring that the voices of our educators are heard and valued. We are dedicated to advocating for the needs and aspirations of our teachers, creating an environment where they can thrive, create innovative lessons, and continue to provide the best possible education for all of our students.

William Houston, Teacher Advisory Committee

Education Perspective



Erin King-Brown

Duplin County has always been home to me and education holds a special place in my heart. The Duplin County Education Foundation has grown over the last 40 years and it is an honor to serve with a group of people that aim to serve the staff and students of our county. The foundation provides financial support for high school senior graduates (an average of \$77,300 yearly). We also provide funding to support our school's award celebrations, purchase certificates for students who maintain an A average, and as well support for Student of the Month recognitions. The foundation periodically

provides financial support to schools to support the goals of School Improvement Plans. In addition, we also host the banquet honoring Duplin County Schools Teacher of the Year, Support Staff of the Year, Assistant Principal and Principal of the Year. We can provide this type of support through donations from individuals and businesses. We are blessed that the community sees the importance of supporting our staff and students in our schools. I look forward to the future of our foundation and what it will provide for the future of Duplin County Schools.

Erin King-Brown, Duplin County Education Foundation

Family and Cultural Engagement Perspective



Maria Uribe

Duplin County Schools is a richly diverse community where every child has the opportunity to reach their full potential. Our county has the highest percentage of Latinos in the state of North Carolina. Therefore, our school district is committed to facilitating an educational model that addresses the needs of ALL students. Through a variety of programs such as the Migrant Education Program and the English as a Second Language program, our district provides academic support to students who come from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. These programs also help parents

overcome barriers while teaching them to navigate new educational and cultural systems. Additionally, our teachers and other instructional staff consistently participate in professional development that addresses cultural awareness and best practices to meet the needs of English learners. Most importantly, our school leaders understand that by working together, our students can achieve anything.

Maria Uribe, ESL/MEP/Family and Cultural Engagement Coordinator

Faith-Based Perspective



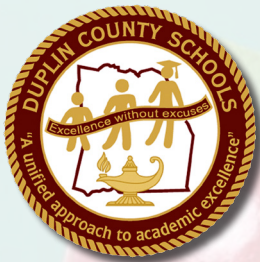
Paul Dean

Our Faith Based Community continues to support Duplin County Schools through our unified efforts and prayer support for the administration, staff, and students of Duplin County. We sponsor county wide prayer events as well as prayer events in our individual districts and schools. Our efforts are well received and appreciated and that encourages both the schools and the faith based community entities. We continue to be blessed by God to be able to lead and show the way in creating relationships between faith based communities and their school districts.

It truly makes a difference and assists in the furthering of a safe, effective, and nurturing education for our students. The Duplin County Faith Based Community and district liaisons look forward to continuing this work together for many years to come. Anyone interested in more information on how they can be a part of this effort, please reach out to your faith based liaison.

Reverend Paul Dean, Faith Based Advisory Committee

Student 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.

DUPLIN COUNTY SCHOOLS

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



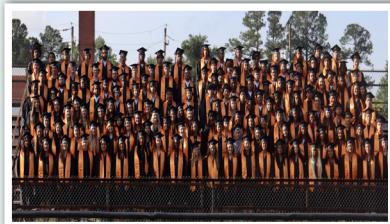
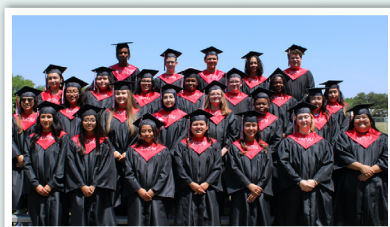
Demographics

Duplin County Students are:

American Indian /Alaskan Native	0.7%
Asian	0.3%
Hispanic	46.7%
Black/African American	20.8%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.1%
White	28.6%
Two or more	2.8%

Total Students 9,867
As of 9/27/23

- Duplin Early College HS students earned 35 Associate Degrees and 21 certificates or diplomas.
- Students from our comprehensive high schools earned 28 certificates or diplomas through the Career & College Promise.
- Students participating in Arizona State University coursework through the National Education Equity Lab scored among the highest in the nation.
- Students earned 3,651 industry-recognized credentials through Career and Technical Education (CTE).
- The district increased the number of Advanced Placement (AP) high school courses.
- DCS seniors were offered over 11 million dollars in scholarship funds.
- The Graduating Senior Support Program was implemented for a 3rd year, allowing district staff to serve as mentors to ensure seniors would graduate on time.
- Programs implemented through the 21st Century Community Learning Grant served 269 students in 4th and 5th grade.
- 203 middle grades students participated in the Making Math Matters grant program.
- MyFutureNC announced that Duplin County was one of only 16 counties across the state to increase their educational attainment rate by more than 5% in 3 years.

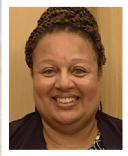


Distinguished Leaders,



- DCS implemented the 1st ever Teacher Ambassador Program.
- Through the NCDPI NC Rethink Education program, 24 teachers became Rethink Blended Learning Facilitators.
- The district reestablished the Autism Support Team.
- Seven teachers received Ag in the Classroom grants to integrate agriculture into their classrooms.

District Staff of the Year

Teacher of the Year WALE	Assistant Principal of the Year JKHS	Principal of the Year NDJS	Support Staff of the Year -School Counselor WALE	Beginning Teacher of the Year RHM
				
Jessica Villarruel	Sharnelle Dixon	Anthony Jones	Michael James	Jessica Servin

Teachers and Personnel

DCS Leadership Academy for Prospective Leaders

Six teachers are currently serving in the 3rd cohort of the academy. Twelve academy completers currently serve in various administrative capacities across the district.



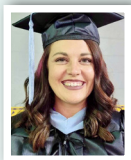
DCS Grow Your Own (GYO) Scholarship-Loan Program

Seven GYO recipients currently serve in teaching roles across the district. Five student recipients are in university programs working to complete degrees.



TA's to Teacher Program

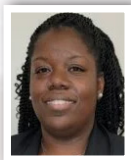
Three teacher assistants have completed the program and are serving in teaching positions.



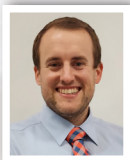
Emily Sandlin



Maria Uribe



Shanika Murphy



Andrew Wilson

Pirate Leadership Academy (PLA) at ECU

- Emily Sandlin, Assistant Principal at Kenansville Elementary School, is Duplin County Schools 1st graduate of the PLA.
- Maria Uribe, ESL/MEP/Family and Cultural Engagement Coordinator, is completing her second year with the academy.
- Shanika Murphy, 6-8 grade Teacher Support Coach at Rose Hill-Magnolia Elementary, and Andrew Wilson, Administrative Intern at BF Grady Elementary are both serving in Year 1 of the academy's cohort.

District Accomplishments

- Beulaville Elementary School hosted Fellowship of Christian Athletes with a weekly average of 125 students.
- DCS Digital Learning and Media staff facilitated the first ever High School Battle of the Books competition.
- A student from the DCS Center of Opportunity was granted a trip through the Make-a-Wish Foundation after an extended illness and was able to graduate on time.
- Duplin Early College High School was the first high school in North Carolina to partner with the National Equity lab.
- BF Grady Elementary School implemented an increased focus on standards alignment, small group instruction, and targeted intervention.
- James Kenan High School seniors received the highest amount of scholarship money in the school's history.
- The Finance Department received a clean fiscal audit.
- Wallace-Rose Hill High School students were named National Beta Club Champions for the Meeting of the Minds competition.
- The Career and Technical Education staff secured grant funding to build and furnish a Family and Consumer Science lab at WRH.
- The Transportation Department received an excellent bus inspection score.
- The Curriculum Innovation Department increased support and professional development opportunities for PreK-13 staff.
- Chinquapin Elementary School hosted Duke Energy Family Science Night to engage parents and the community in STEAMA.
- The Educational Innovation & Accountability Department reported a successful year of testing with eight newly placed school test coordinators.
- Wallace Elementary School implemented various agriculture education activities which have benefited students and staff.
- Warsaw Elementary School established Alpha Scholars of Distinction, which recognizes K-3 students who consistently exceed expectations.
- North Duplin Jr/Sr High School hosted the first Latin American Festival to increase community connections.
- The Exceptional Children Department hosted a very successful Special Olympics.

- North Duplin Elementary School increased parent/community engagement through EPIC parent nights, musical performances, and a Fall Festival.
- The Technology Department completed over 2,700 work orders during the 2022-23 school year.
- Kenansville Elementary School partnered with the local Chamber of Commerce to bring students, families, and the community together for the 1st Annual Christmas Parade and KES Hollidaze Festival.
- The Child Nutrition Department noted a 23% increase in the number of students participating in the school breakfast program.
- East Duplin High School won its first ever NCHSAA State Championship in Football.
- The Human Resources Department onboarded 77 certified and 58 classified employees between July 2022 and May 2023.
- Student Support Services implemented school-based mental health programs across the district.
- The Maintenance Department staff completed various projects across the district such as upgrades to HVAC systems, school and support office renovations, and installation of modular units.
- Rose Hill-Magnolia Elementary School continued to sustain a problem-solving, collaborative, data informed, standards-aligned instructional focus.
- DCS Federal Programs announced the completion of the Head Start Community Service Center.



State Accountability Results/ Strategies for Success

Duplin County Schools remains committed to academic success for all students as we work together with our community as “One Family” to prepare students for careers, college, and life.

State Accountability Results

- District increases occurred in both English Learner (EL) Progress and ACT WorkKeys performance.
- Decreases occurred in grades 5 & 8 Science proficiency, ACT outcomes, and the 4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate.
- Math Course Rigor remained higher than 95%.
- School growth outcomes reflect one school exceeding growth, eight meeting growth, and four schools receiving a status of not met.
- Based on the 15-point scale used for School Performance Grade assignments, the district received one B (70-84), three C's (55-69), seven D's (40-54), two F's.
- Nine schools have been designated as low-performing schools based on their school performance grades and growth outcomes. Since more than 50% of schools received this designation, Duplin County Schools is designated as a low-performing district.



The district improved its overall grade level proficiency

81.7%

4-Year Cohort Graduation rate

7 out of 13 schools

Improved their school achievement score

Increased
pay for
substitute
teachers

Implemented
STEAMA
Career and
College
Readiness
Plan

Enhanced
support for
Beginning
Teachers

Strategies for Success (Improvements) through the school and district improvement plan

- The district's attendance policy was updated to address chronic absenteeism.
- LETRS (Science of Reading) Training was conducted for K-5 and ESL teachers.
- The district is working to enhance Character Education Programs within schools.
- District Support provided assistance with performance data review and analysis.
- The district continued to strengthen school, district, faith-based, and business partnerships in order to foster success for all students.
- A two-tiered school support plan included flexible funding for schools designated as low performing and a Resilient Recovery Incentive for schools and employees.
- The district continued to rely on updated recommendations for improving safety measures by the Duplin County Sheriff's Office and law enforcement agencies.

Duplin County Schools Athletic Highlights

Fall 2022

Middle School

- Warsaw Elementary School Football - District Champions
- Chinquapin Elementary School Volleyball - Regular Season and Tournament Champions



High School

- James Kenan HS (Boys) Soccer - Conference Champions
- East Duplin HS (Girls) Tennis - Conference Champions
- North Duplin Jr/Sr (Boys)Cross Country - Conference Champions
- East Duplin HS Football - Conference Champions and NCHSAA State Champions
- Wallace-Rose Hill HS Football - Eastern Regional Runner Up

Spring 2023

Middle School

- Beulaville Elementary & North Duplin Jr/Sr Baseball - Co-Conference Champions





- Rose Hill-Magnolia Elementary Soccer - Conference Champions
- Chinquapin Elementary (Girls) Basketball, Soccer, Softball and Volleyball-Conference Champions

High School



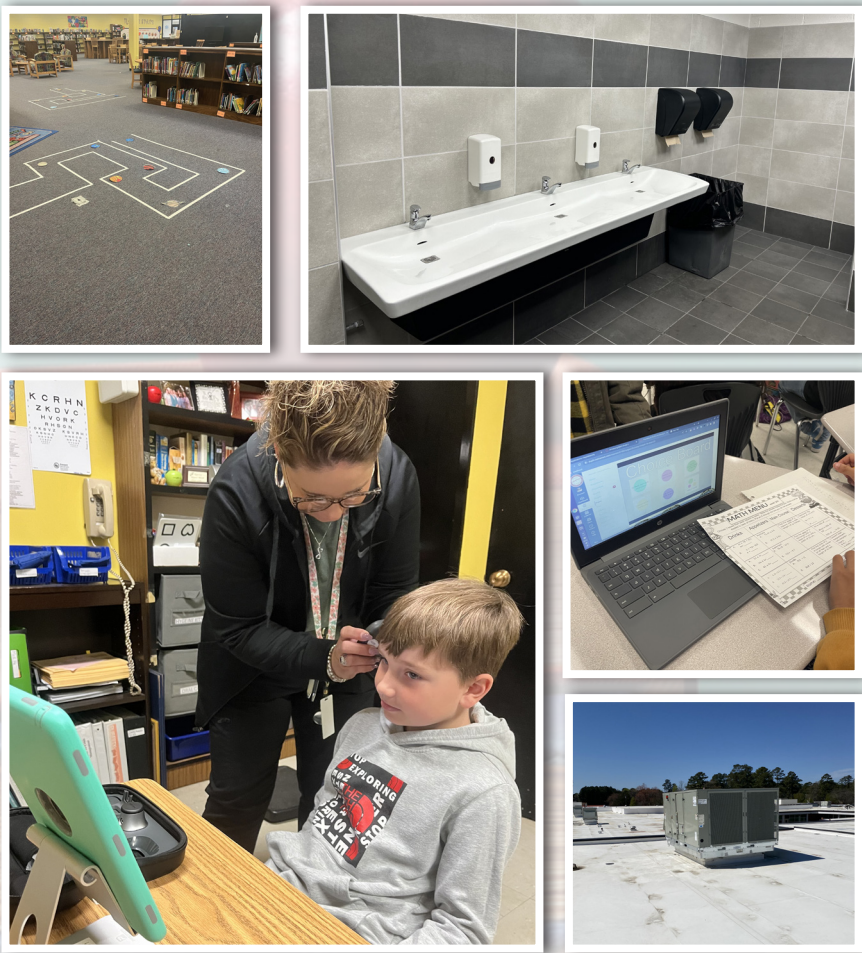
- East Duplin HS Softball, Boys Track, and Girls Track-Conference Champions
- North Duplin Jr/Sr Baseball Conference Champions
- North Duplin Jr/Sr HS Softball-Conference Champions, Eastern Regional Champions and Runner Up in State Championship
- Avery Gaby (EDHS) won the 300m hurdles title in the NCHSAA Track & Field Championship.
- Four Duplin County football players, Avery Gaby and Kade Kennedy, from EDHS, and Xzavier Pearsall and Jacob Schre-Reyes, from WRH, played in the East-West All Star Game.
- Battle Holley (EDHS) was selected as Head Coach for the East-West All-Star Game.
- Hugh Martin (North Duplin Jr/Sr) was selected to coach in the NC vs SC Shrine Bowl.

Health and Safety

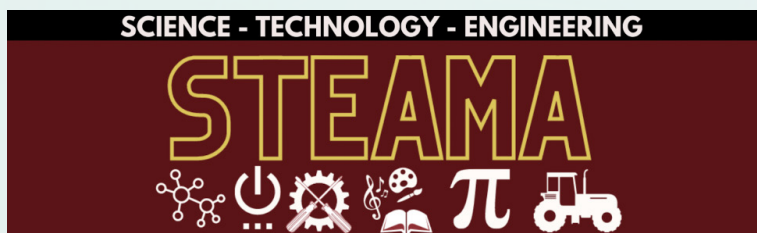
- Through the partnership with Mt. Olive Family Medicine, 583 athletes completed baseline concussion testing.
- All 4 district high schools received the National Safe Sports School Award for 2023.

District Utilized ESSER/CARES Funding

Duplin County Schools is very fortunate to receive the State and Federal ESSER/CARES funding. Our top priority in utilizing this funding was to address student academic recovery, student and staff health and safety, digital learning and technology, and facilities enhancement. In order to maximize the funding, district leaders and staff developed spending plans based on district priorities that directly align with the DCS 5-year Strategic Plan.







Our district's commitment to STEAMA (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math, and Agriculture) is the foundation to providing a personalized education for all students. It empowers our students and provides opportunities to maximize their talents and interests in order to find their pathways to life success.

- The Duplin Industrial Trades and Technology Academy was implemented for the first time with 23 students enrolled.
- STEAMA Career and College Days and Agriculture Awareness Days were designated in the school calendar.
- The STEAMA Global Readiness Plan was updated.
- The number of students who participated in All-County Chorus increased.
- 45 students in grades 3-12 competed in the district STEAMA Fair with their science and engineering projects.
- "STEAMA:Pathways with Purpose" was represented at the 2022 Duplin Agribusiness Fair.
- The 21st Century Community Learning Centers programs at all of our K-8 schools were designed around STEAMA.





Creating a pipeline for future educators through the Duplin County Schools Teacher Ambassador Program

- Teacher Ambassadors collaborated to implement strategies that promote the teaching profession and increase the number of students interested in a teaching career.
- Future Teachers Clubs were established in all schools to give students an early understanding of the profession, visit colleges/universities and their schools of education, and explore the profession through realistic education activities.



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“ The Future Teacher Club has taught me that teaching is deeper than the curriculum; teachers can influence the trajectory of a student’s life and the direction of mankind in general. Teachers are the real social influencers. ” ~ Alexandria

“ I really enjoy the Future Teachers Club because it has given me opportunities to learn more about the profession and it has also boosted my passion to become a teacher. ” ~ Kaiah

“ I want to become a teacher because I have been inspired by many of my own teachers-especially my kindergarten teacher Mrs. Sutton and my 5th grade teacher Mrs. Brinkley. ” ~ Emory

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- To further address the need for teacher candidates in Duplin County Schools, the Duplin TEACH (Tomorrow’s Educators Are Created Here) Academy is being piloted at Duplin Early College High School with the 2023-24 ninth grade class.

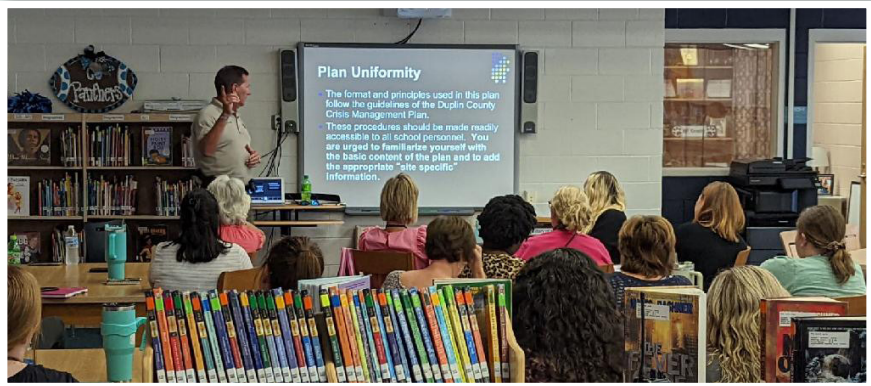
Providing safe and nurturing facilities for all PreK-13 students and staff

- The district continued a collaborative partnership with Duplin County Sheriff Stratton Stokes, his office, and law enforcement agencies.
- District level Crisis and Response teams were developed.
- The district continued utilizing the Say Something Anonymous Reporting System, Gaggle, and the DCS Crisis Management Guide for crisis situations.
- School Risk Management Plans were developed by every school.
- Critical Incident Response Training was conducted for each school, bus drivers, and central office staff.
- District and school level behavioral threat assessment teams were developed.
- SROs provided support for successful high school graduations.
- Metal detectors were utilized at athletic events.
- The district received 1.7 million dollars from NC Center for Safer Schools to help offset the cost of SROs, the Door Card Access System, safety equipment, and to provide services for students in crisis.





- District staff work to complete the Door Card Access System for exterior doors.
- Schools continued utilizing the Panorama Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) Screener.
- HVAC Air Quality Projects were completed in several schools and will continue through 2024.
- The Child Nutrition Department implemented the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program to provide students with a variety of healthier choices, while increasing fruit and vegetable consumption.
- The Farm to School Grant provided fresh and healthy meals to our students using locally grown products which supported local farmers.





"As educators, we have made a professional and moral commitment to serve our children and our community by ensuring college, career and life success for every child in Duplin County. Their job is to dream their dreams. Our job is to make their dreams become reality." ~ Dr. O

