



Annual Report 2025-26



Empowering Students for Lifelong Success

A Message from our Superintendent

As I reflect on the 2025-26 school year, I am filled with pride and gratitude for the students, families, employees, board members, and community partners who make Calhoun County Schools such a special place. Across our district, we continue to see what is possible when people work hard, work smart, and work together in pursuit of excellence.

This year has been marked by growth, achievement, and momentum. Our students excelled in the classroom, on the stage, in career technical programs, and through athletics. From academic competitions, robotics, Scholars' Bowl, dual enrollment, and career credentials to award-winning arts programs and state championship teams, our students continue to represent Calhoun County with talent, determination, and character.

We are especially proud of the opportunities available to students across all 18 schools. Through strong academic programs, a growing Career Academy, expanded dual enrollment, virtual learning options, student leadership opportunities, and partnerships with Jacksonville State University, Gadsden State Community College, local industries, and community organizations, we are helping students prepare for success beyond graduation. Whether a student plans to enroll, enlist, or enter the workforce, our goal remains the same: to empower every student for lifelong success.

During the 2025-26 school year, Calhoun County Schools was recognized at the regional, state, and national levels for excellence in athletics, the arts, career technical education, special education, robotics, Greenpower, public relations, teaching, leadership, and student achievement. In every corner of our district, our students and employees are doing outstanding work and representing Calhoun County with pride. There is no doubt — it is a special time to be part of Calhoun County Schools. At the heart of our work are our core values: Integrity, Excellence, and Attitude. These values remind us who we are and how we serve. We believe in doing what is right, pursuing excellence in all areas, and maintaining a positive attitude as we face both opportunities and challenges. We are blessed with dedicated educators, support staff, administrators, and board members who live out these values every day.



With pride and appreciation,

Tony Willis

Superintendent, Calhoun County Schools

We are incredibly proud to share that Tony Willis received the Rising Star Superintendent award at the AL-MTSS conference. This award recognizes leaders who are closing gaps, aligning their communities, and doing it all with true servant hearts. Mr. Willis was also named the District 6 Superintendent of the Year!

Districtwide Improvement

Calhoun County Schools continues to set itself apart as a leader in student achievement and growth. During the 2025-26 school year, our district was one of only seven systems in Alabama - and one of just three county districts - to increase enrollment while simultaneously improving ELA (English Language Arts) proficiency, math proficiency, EL (English Learner) proficiency, attendance rate, graduation rate, and CCR (College and Career Readiness) rate. Among those seven districts, Calhoun County Schools was by far the largest to achieve growth in all seven measures. This accomplishment reflects the dedication of our students, educators, staff, families, and community partners who work together each day to ensure every student has the opportunity to succeed.



Calhoun County Schools reached a major milestone this year by earning Cognia's designation of "Accredited with Merit", an honor reserved for school systems that exceed accreditation expectations. Our district earned an Index of Education Quality (IEQ) score of 347, significantly higher than the Cognia network average of 297 and an impressive increase from our previous score of 303 during the 2018-2019 accreditation review. Cognia's review process examines far more than test scores, evaluating areas such as school culture, student engagement, leadership, learning environments, and continuous improvement efforts. Earning "Accredited with Merit" reflects the high-quality educational experiences taking place across our schools and demonstrates our commitment to providing students with the resources and opportunities they need to succeed. This recognition affirms that Calhoun County Schools is not only meeting standards but also setting a high bar for excellence and growth.

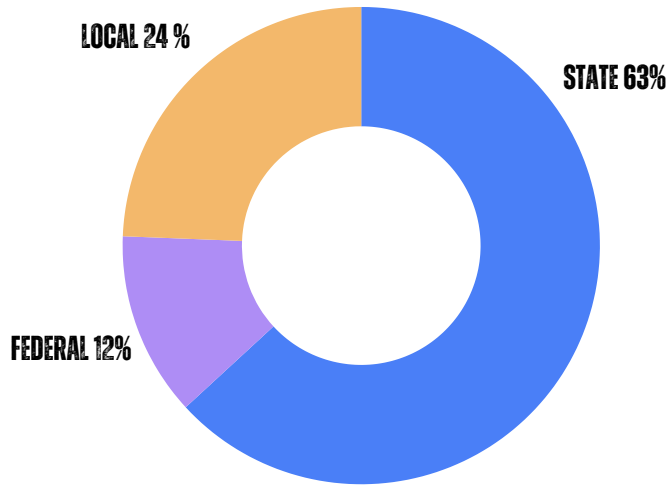


The 2025-26 Board of Education members include: Michael Webb (President), Allen George (Vice President), Mike Almaroad, Tobi Burt, Bobby Tittle, Joe Lathers, and Alan Mange. These men go beyond the boardroom to serve our schools. Whether driving school buses, reading to students, cheering on athletes, or working in concession stands, they lead by example and demonstrate their commitment to all our students and staff.

Michael Webb (left) received a leadership and advocacy award from the Alabama Association of School Boards.

School System Revenue

How were we funded?



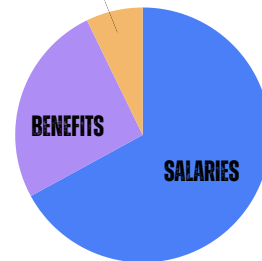
State	\$79,666,617
Federal	\$15,733,756
Local	\$30,749,088
Local 10-Mill Match	-\$4,581,560
Available Local Revenue	\$26,167,528

School System Spending

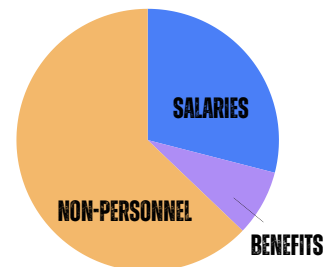
How did we spend state and local dollars?

	State Spending	Local Spending
Salaries	\$45,143,612	\$5,184,873
Benefits	\$17,338,239	\$1,452,252
Non-Personnel Operations	\$4,851,021	\$11,236,220
Total	\$67,332,872	\$17,873,346

STATE
NON-PERSONNEL



LOCAL



*Only 7% of state funding is available for non-personnel expenditures. This does not include debt service or capital outlay.

Our District



18
SCHOOLS



7,872
STUDENTS



1,209
EMPLOYEES



99.6
AVERAGE CAFETERIA
HEALTH RATING



\$90 MIL
OPERATING BUDGET



1,767
DUAL ENROLLMENT
CREDITS



52
NATIONALLY STEM
CERTIFIED TEACHERS

\$10,000,000+
IN SCHOLARSHIPS
EARNED BY
CLASS OF 2026



18
NATIONAL BOARD
CERTIFIED TEACHERS

By The Numbers



123
SENIORS WITH
4.0 GPA



97.79%
CCR RATE



964,517
LUNCHES
SERVED



114
BUS ROUTES



667
FAMILIES BENEFITED
FROM FOOD
DISTRIBUTION



8
SCHOOL RESOURCE
OFFICERS



97%
GRADUATION RATE



74
DEFIBULATORS



22
NURSES

Excellence in Academics

Academic excellence remains at the heart of our mission, and this year our students continued to demonstrate remarkable achievement in the classroom and beyond. Through the dedication of our students, educators, families, and community partners, our schools are preparing learners for success in college, career, and life.



Our students also earned recognition through outstanding academic competitions. For the second consecutive year, White Plains High School claimed first place in the Grow Our Own Competition sponsored by the Future Teachers of Alabama (FTA).



Alexandria High School earned second place in the state Scholars Bowl while competing against some of the state's top students.



Worldwide Recognition

Alexandria High School's Robotics Team continues to impress us all. They competed at the world competition and received the sportmanship award.



National Recognition

Weaver Elementary's Greenpower USA Team built their own electric car and finished their season as the #14 team in the nation.



State Champion

Jeremy White from Alexandria High School placed first in a neuroscience competition at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.



National Champion

Cade Miller, a Calhoun County Career Academy student from White Plains High School, won a SkillsUSA National Championship in CNC 2 -Axis Turning Programming.



Statewide Recognition

Ohatchee Elementary Principal Emily Smith was named Outstanding Administrator in Literacy by the Alabama Literacy Association.



Statewide Recognition

Dr. Shannon Romano was named Novice Special Education Coordinator of the Year by the Alabama Council of Administrators of Special Education.



Statewide Recognition

Calhoun County Career Academy instructor Jonathon Williams was named the Alabama SkillsUSA Advisor of the Year.



Statewide Recognition

Weaver High School Teacher Jim Roebuck received the Dual Enrollment Adjunct Faculty Excellence in Teaching award from Jacksonville State University.



Teacher of the Year

Alexandria Middle School teacher Gina Whiting was named Elementary Teacher of the Year for Calhoun County Schools.



Teacher of the Year

Wellborn High School teacher Lori Lloyd was named Secondary Teacher of the Year for Calhoun County Schools.



Statewide Recognition

White Plains Middle School Principal Amber Ray was named District 6 Middle School Principal of the Year.



Statewide Recognition

Saks High School Principal CJ Boyd was named District 6 High School Principal of the Year.



The Calhoun County Career Academy offers high-quality career and technical education courses for students in 10th-12th grades across all of the high schools in our district. This program provides valuable hands-on experience through coursework, industry partnerships, and state-of-the-art training environments that mirror today's workforce. During the 2025-26 school year, CCCA experienced record enrollment while earning numerous awards and accolades that reflect the dedication of our students and instructors. By equipping students with real-world skills and industry-recognized credentials, we continue to prepare graduates for success in college and/or the workforce. We look forward to seeing this exceptional program continue to grow and create even more opportunities for our students in the years ahead.

**Highest ever
enrollment -
582 students!**

**14
programs**

**\$160k
in grant
awards**

**Health Science
had 100%
passing rate on
NST credential
exam**

**75 seniors
job-shadowed
with industry
partners**

**312 dual
enrollment
students**

**100% hiring
rate for
precision
machining
students**

**929
credentials
earned
through CTE
programs**

**70 seniors
were enrolled,
enlisted, or
employed!**



Alabama SkillsUSA TeamWorks State Champions - This team was challenged to frame, wire, plumb, and complete a section of brickwork on a structure within 10 hours. They finished in under 6 hours to earn the state championship! Team members: Logan Campbell, WHS; Colton Hancock, PVHS; Cole Campbell, Excel; Landon Walukiewicz, AHS



While many of our students are able to participate in professional organizations, all of our high schools also offer FBLA, FCCLA, and FFA. These organizations offer our students the opportunity to develop leadership skills, showcase their talents, and compete at the highest levels. This year, our students achieved remarkable success earning state championships, state officer positions, and countless awards and recognitions. These achievements highlight the ambition of our students and the outstanding support provided by our educators and career technical programs.

State Officers



Excellence in Athletics

Calhoun County Schools is truly a District of Champions. Our student-athletes continue to demonstrate excellence both in competition and in the classroom, representing their schools and communities with pride, determination, and sportsmanship.

This year, our athletes achieved remarkable success across a variety of sports at all levels of play. Their accomplishments are a testament not only to their talent and hard work, but also to the dedication of our coaches, families, teachers, and fans who support them every step of the way.

The number of championships won during the 2025-26 school year tell an impressive story of achievement.

*County
Champion
Teams*



*Area
Champion
Teams*



*Individual +
Team State
Champions*



*Individual +
Team State
Runners Up*



*Individual +
Team State 3rd
place finishers*



*State
Coaches of
the Year*



*Athletic
Scholarships
Awarded*





Pleasant Valley High School claimed its third state volleyball title and Coach Jennifer Mann was once again named the 2A Coach of the Year. Madison Schwabe and Ella Parris were named Player of the Year by the the AHSVCA. Other team accolades include:

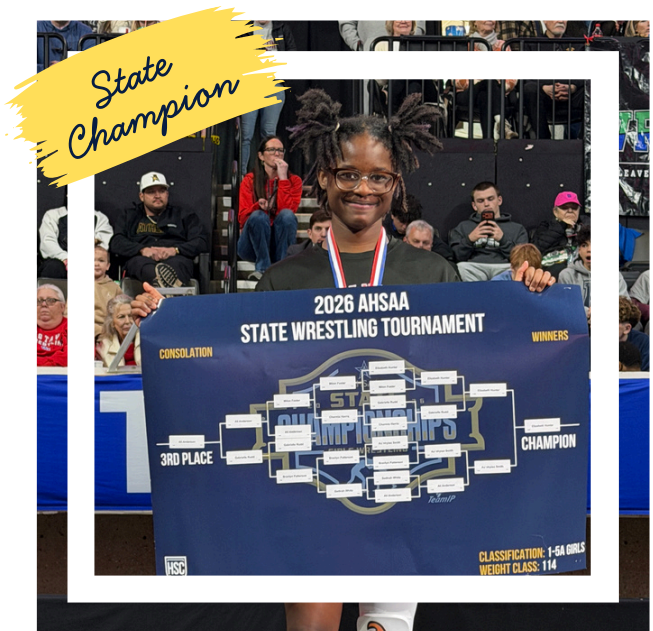
- AL.com 2A MVP, AHSVCA All-State Team - Elise Wheeler
- AL.com 2A Defensive MVP, AHSVCA All-State Team - Madison Schwabe
- AL.com 2A All-State Team, AHSVCA All-State Team - Ellie Patterson and Ella Parris



Weaver High School claimed their second consecutive state championship in Girls 1-5A Wrestling a year after claiming the title in the first year it was sanctioned by AHSAA as a sport for girls. Freshman Heaven Bishop claimed her own individual state title and Coach Wynn Knight was named Coach of the Year by the Alabama Wrestling Coaches Association. Baleigh Brown, Jaylee Carter, Ashlyn Coleman, and Ariel Sargent all were runners-up in their respective weight classes.

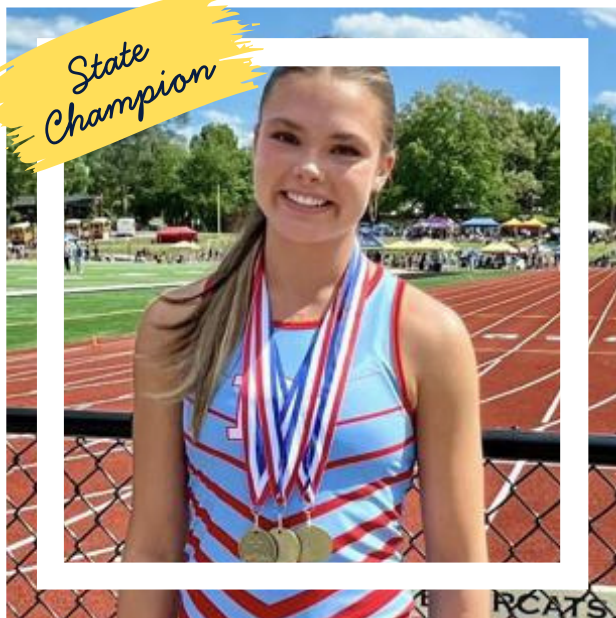


Weaver High School claimed their 13th state title in Boys 1-4A Wrestling and 4th in five years. The Alabama Wrestling Coaches Association named Justin Brown the 1-4A Boys Coach of the Year and Coach Justin Hise and Coach Jeremy Waters were also named Assistant Staff of the Year. Dylan Brown, Dalton Fink, and Haiden Hise claimed individual state titles. Gianluca Torres was a runner-up.



Hudson Ingalsbe was the heavyweight 1-4A Champion with a perfect 41-0 season; Elizabeth Hunter was the 1-5A 114 lb Champion; Ryan Lambert was the 120 lb 1-4A Champion; and Ryker Houston was the 126 lb 1-4A Champion and also named an All-American.

State
Champion



State
Champion



State
Champion



Hall of Fame



Ella Parris won gold in the 300m hurdles, 400m, and 800m and broke a state record that had been standing for 26 years; Ali Anderson won gold in the triple jump; Karson Holley won gold in the 400m; and Wellborn High School Coach Jeff Smith was inducted into the AHSAA Hall of Fame.



Alexandria High School Girls and Boys Wrestling Teams were runners up in the State Wrestling Tournaments and claimed three individual state championships highlighted on the previous pages.



The White Plains Boys Team placed second at State Cross Country Meet.

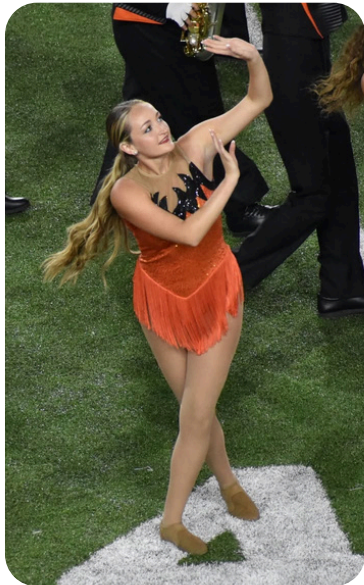
Paisleigh Garcia and Jude Snyder from Weaver Elementary both won state championships in wrestling at the TAYW-USA State Tournament.

Excellence in the Arts

At Calhoun County Schools, we believe that a well-rounded education includes opportunities for students to create, perform, imagine, and express themselves. Through visual arts, music, choir, and band programs, our students develop skills that extend far beyond the stage or the classroom.

From elementary art classes to award-winning high school marching band and choir performances, students across our district are encouraged to explore their creativity and discover their unique talents. These experiences build confidence, foster collaboration, and teach perseverance as students work towards a common goal. The arts also play a vital role in academic achievement. Research consistently shows that participation in arts education improves math and language scores and strengthens critical thinking, problem-solving, communication, and comprehension skills.

We are proud to provide opportunities that allow our students to shine creatively while strengthening the academic foundations that support lifelong success.





Cullen Morrison from Pleasant Valley Elementary School designed the winning logo for the Calhoun County Sheriff's Office; Landry Brothers from Alexandria High School won first place in the school's art contest; and Paisleigh Pointer from Wellborn Elementary won first place in Jacksonville Art Council's Black History Month contest.





With the second largest band in school history, the Weaver High School Marching Band won its 4th consecutive 3A State Championship and swept all categories including Outstanding Color Guard, Outstanding Percussion, Outstanding Musical Performance, Outstanding Visual Performance, and Outstanding General Effect.



All-State Honor Band



Walter Wellborn - Curtis Hamilton
Pleasant Valley - Noah Welch
Alexandria - Thomas McMillian, Cooper Helms, Johnny White, and Sawyer Wills
Weaver - Ashler Schlerf, Keeley Spears, Ryan Jinright, Jonas West, and Lauren Wilson





All-State Choir

Alexandria -Gavyn Williams, Zachery Cooper, Tripp Sampson, Aubrey Sutherlin, and Lilly Copland
Saks - Charity Dates and Emersyn Rivera
White Plains -Jenni Harrison, Baylee Alavarado, Cruz Hadley, Zion Phillips, Zach Pearson, and Evelyn Flores Lopez



Saks High School's choir sang the national anthem at an Atlanta Hawks game!

For more than 60 years, Ohatchee High School's beloved *White Christmas* program has united the community as students of all ages share their talents and celebrate the spirit of the season.

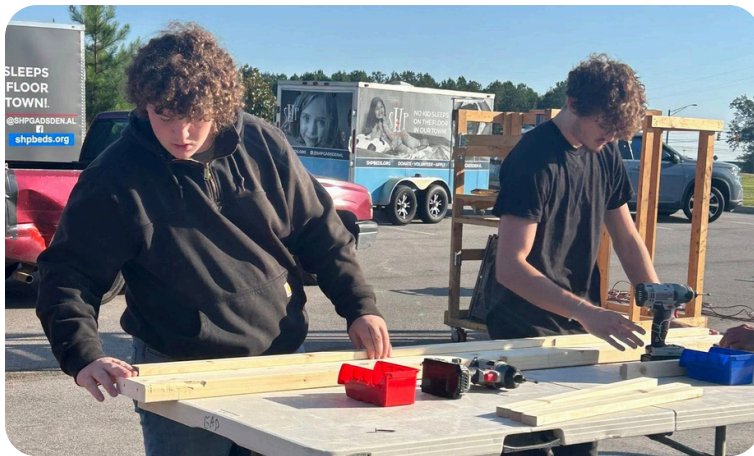


Community Partnerships



"Feeding the 5,000" has become one of our favorite traditions. On the first day of school, more than 30 amazing churches from our community came together to donate their time and resources to bless our 1,250+ employees and their families with a delicious meal! This incredible effort is a huge undertaking, but it's also a heartfelt way to show support and appreciation for the teachers and staff who dedicate themselves every day to our students.





At Calhoun County Schools, we know that student success extends beyond the classroom. Through strong partnerships with community organizations, businesses, and nonprofits, we are able to provide additional opportunities, resources, and support that help fulfill our mission of empowering students for lifelong success.

- Sleep in Heavenly Peace - students across the district participate in a pajama day fundraiser and FFA students build beds for children who do not have one of their own.
- Big Brothers Big Sisters - high school mentors are paired with elementary students, fostering positive relationships, encouragement, and guidance.
- YMCA - provides quality after-school care for many of our students.
- The Community Food Bank of Central Alabama - helps us provide groceries to families on a monthly basis.
- United Way of East Central Alabama - provides several initiatives that strengthen student and family success including Healthy Families, Workforce Connections, Martha' Hope, and Success Academy.
- Evelyn Moon Children's Services - provides vital support and preventative services that empower children and their caregivers to thrive.



We also host an annual Family Engagement Night that brings many of these organizations together under one roof and provides families with valuable information about resources and services while creating opportunities to build stronger connections between schools, families, and the community.



Calhoun County Schools partnered with the Liberty Learning Foundation to bring an exciting and engaging 10-week civics curriculum to every second grade class in our district. After learning about the character and actions of everyday heroes, every classroom nominated a “Super Citizen” who was honored at a special ceremony. The event was impactful and our students now have a better understanding of what it takes to play an active role in their community and beyond.





GROWING LEADERS

POWERED BY MAXWELL LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION



During the 2025-26 school year, all students districtwide participated in the iLead program to build confidence, collaboration, and communication — both in and out of the classroom! This valuable resource was made possible through a partnership with the Alabama Department of Education and the Maxwell Leadership Foundation.

While all of our schools used the iLead curriculum, each one uniquely tailored it to their students. Ohatchee Elementary implemented “Maxwell Mondays,” which caught the attention of the iLead team and ALSDE who visited their campus to learn how they bring this program to life for their students.

Our students will one day shape policies, workplaces, and communities in ways we can only imagine. iLead equips them to do it well—through weekly “Transformation Tables” that turn any classroom or club into a leadership lab. We are thankful for this resource and its impact on our students and school culture.



Field Trips

Learning extends far beyond the classroom. Throughout the year, students participated in a variety of field trips that brought lessons to life, including educational experiences at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center, the Alabama Holocaust Education Center, the Talladega Superspeedway, and Majestic Caverns. Students also experienced special incentive trips that celebrated hardwork and successes while creating lifelong memories.



WELLBORN

10- 20- 30- 40- 50 40- 30- 20- 10-

PANTHERS

JEFF SMITH FIELD

An aerial photograph of a baseball field. The infield is dark brown dirt, and the outfield is green grass. A large red 'S' logo is visible on the pitcher's mound. The field is surrounded by a fence, and there are some structures and equipment visible in the background.



Calhoun County Schools appreciates the support of the Calhoun County Commission!

**Calhoun County Commissioners (L-R): Danny Shears, Fred
Wilson, Lee Patterson, Carolyn Henderson, and Terry Howell**

**Are you an outdoor enthusiast or do you enjoy great food, entertainment, and lodgings?
Calhoun County has adventures for you and your family!**

**Come explore our natural attractions from kayaking, biking, hiking, horse-back riding, golfing,
sports complexes, state parks, historical sites, museums, and MORE! Calhoun County is a haven
complete with award winning restaurants, craft breweries, wineries, performing arts, and
comfortable accommodations. The Calhoun County Commission would like to personally invite
you to plan your next adventure with us.**

EAT, STAY, PLAY, and VISIT Calhoun County, Alabama!

