

2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

*"There is no elevator
to success.
You have to
take the stairs."*

—ZIG ZIGLAR



Escambia County
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Table of Contents

ECPS LEADERSHIP	3
SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS, BY DISTRICT	3
MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT	4
CORE COMMITMENTS	5
ACHIEVEMENT: STUDENTS	8
ACHIEVEMENT: TEACHING & LEARNING	26
ACHIEVEMENT: TEACHERS, STAFF & MENTORS	30
ACHIEVEMENT: SCHOOLS	38
BY THE NUMBERS	48
COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS	54
STRATEGIC PLAN	57
AREAS OF STRATEGIC FOCUS	58
DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS	60

School Board Members

Kevin Adams
DISTRICT 1

Paul H. Fetsko
DISTRICT 2

David Williams
DISTRICT 3

Carissa Bergosh
DISTRICT 4

Tom Harrell
DISTRICT 5

ECPS Leadership

Keith Leonard
SUPERINTENDENT

Shenna Payne
DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT

Denny Wilson
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT –
CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

Terry St. Cyr
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT –
FINANCE AND BUSINESS SERVICES

Kelly Krostag
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT –
HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES

Shawn Dennis
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT –
OPERATIONS

School Board Member recognized for earning honorable distinction

◀ **Dr. David Williams** — Escambia County School Board Member, is a Certified Board Member (CBM). The Certified Board Member (CBM) Distinction is one of several professional development programs offered by the Florida School Boards Association to ensure board members obtain a well-rounded and thorough understanding of his or her policy-making job responsibilities.

◀ **The Florida School Boards Association (FSBA)** is the statewide professional association representing Florida’s 67 elected school boards. Since 1930, FSBA has supported effective school board governance through leadership development, advocacy, and professional learning. FSBA’s mission is to increase student achievement through the development of effective school board leadership and advocacy for public education.

Message from the Superintendent

It is hard to believe that another school year has concluded. The 2025–26 academic year was a remarkable period of growth, achievement and reimagination. We remain committed to working together to ensure the continued success of every student in Escambia County.

Our goals for the year centered on student attendance, positive behavior, community involvement, and stability, creating an environment conducive to learning and development. Our school administrators, teachers, and support staff diligently worked each day to prioritize student learning and well-being. We plan to continue focusing on student attendance, because we know that if the students are in class they are learning.

While our students are immersed in their daily learning, it’s equally important to honor the people across our district who work tirelessly to create safe, welcoming environments where that learning can thrive. It truly takes a community. Escambia County Public Schools is deeply grateful for the dedication of our support staff, employees, volunteers, and mentors—often working behind the scenes—who move our mission forward and make highquality public education possible.

As we look ahead, we’re energized by the opportunities before us. With the continued partnership of parents, guardians, families, community members, and local businesses, we are ready to celebrate new successes, meet challenges with confidence, and raise the bar together. The year ahead holds tremendous promise, and we are committed to pursuing it with optimism, collaboration, and a shared belief in what our students can achieve.



Keith Leonard

Mr. Keith Leonard
SUPERINTENDENT

Core Commitments—For our students, this is what we strive to achieve in every way, every day.

Purpose

To inspire, empower, and graduate students ready to contribute to society as productive, responsible citizens.

Vision

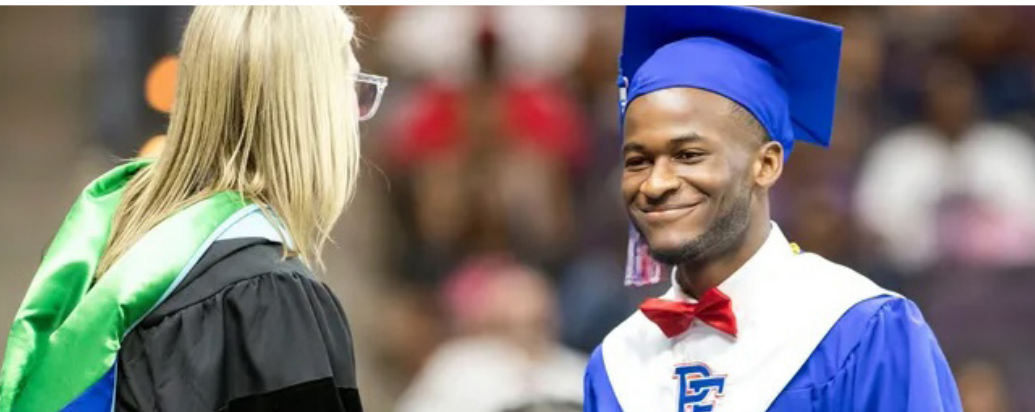
United for Every Student to Succeed

Mission

ECPS provides equal access to quality public education that embraces the uniqueness and potential of each student.

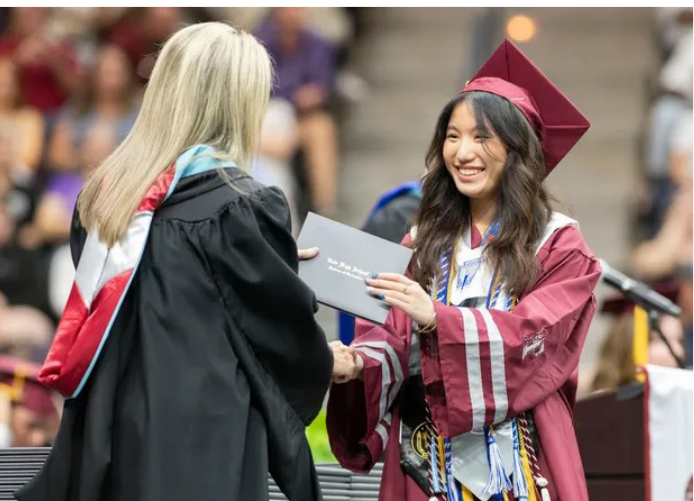
Values

Impact • Can-Do Attitude • Integrity • Community Engagement
Excellence • Respect • Inclusion



2024-2025 GRADUATION RATES

The graduation rate for Escambia County Public Schools improved over the previous year, continuing an upward trend over the past several years. According to The Florida State Department of Education, our graduation rate for the 2024-2025 school year increased to 89.5%, from 84.2%, an increase of 5.3%. Florida's statewide graduation rate increased to 92.2%, an increase of 2.5% over the previous year's graduation rate.



Each of our high schools posted stellar graduation rates:

- < Escambia High School—94.5%
- < Pensacola High School—92.1%
- < Tate High School—97.5%
- < Pine Forest High School—88.9%
- < Booker T. Washington High School—92.8%
- < Northview High School—95.4%
- < West Florida High School—99.7%
- < Escambia Virtual Academy—100%
- < Success Academy—85.9%

In 2025, our seven high schools had a graduation rate from 88.9% to 99.7%.

ACHIEVEMENTS: **STUDENTS**

*Success is measured
in the performance of
every student*

These aren't just words on a wall. It's the mission of every teacher in the classroom, every coach on the ballfield, every bus driver on the road, every principal in the hallways, every staff member at the schools, and every administrator at the district offices. We're here to celebrate every student's accomplishment, big or small, and celebrate these victories with every student and their parents or guardians.



Escambia County
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Tate High School students recognized for achieving **perfect scores** on the 2025 state standardized assessments

- ◀ **Ja'lon Rodgers** — FAA Biology EOC and FAA U.S. History EOC
- ◀ **Kira Kimmons** — Biology EOC
- ◀ **Kendra McDonald** — FAST ELA Reading Assessment
- ◀ **Henry Merritt** — Biology EOC
- ◀ **Joerel Moore** — Biology EOC
- ◀ **Marcus Cooper** — U.S. History EOC
- ◀ **Tristan Crumm** — U.S. History EOC
- ◀ **Zion Hardaway** — U.S. History EOC
- ◀ **Charlie McMillian** — Biology EOC
- ◀ **Oliver Orteza** — U.S. History EOC
- ◀ **Callum Posey** — U.S. History EOC
- ◀ **Ethan Rezaie** — U.S. History EOC
- ◀ **Elijah Scott** — U.S. History EOC
- ◀ **Beatrice Tosi** — U.S. History EOC

Academic Excellence

James Corvin, Levi Cox, Sydney Cox, Cutter Rhodes, and Ryan Rodgers — Ransom Middle School science, history, geography students who earned medals in their grade level divisions, and qualified for International Academic Competitions Middle Nationals.

James Treick — Tate High School senior was named National Merit Scholarship Finalist, one of the most prestigious academic honors awarded to high school students in the United States.

Savannah Hudson — Northview High School senior was awarded the four-year Herman D. Johnson Scholarship from the Escambia River Electric Cooperative. Savannah plans to pursue a law degree.

Tyler Carach — Northview High School senior was awarded the EREC Trade/Votech Scholarship from the Escambia River Electric Cooperative. Tyler will be heading to the Southeast Lineman Training Center.

Escambia and Santa Rosa County High School Students of the Week

- ◀ **Isabella Kirk** — West Florida High School senior in the Critical Care and Emergency Medicine Career Academy with a 3.63 unweighted and a 4.40 weighted GPA.
- ◀ **Chloee Roberson** — Escambia High School senior with a 3.5 GPA and outstanding athletic achievements on the Varsity Girls’ Basketball Team, Weightlifting and Track teams.
- ◀ **Aubrey Sumner** — Pine Forest High School senior was Top 10 of her class and President of the Student Government Association.
- ◀ **Carly Anderson** — West Florida High School senior in the WFHS Criminal Justice Academy with a perfect, unweighted 4.0 GPA and weighted 4.8 GPA.
- ◀ **Landon Fernandez** — Pensacola High School senior, a dedicated scholar-athlete, maintaining a weighted GPA of 4.23.
- ◀ **Charlotte NeSmith** — West Florida High School senior with a 3.98 unweighted and 5.13 weighted GPAs, along with her participation and success as a three-sport athlete.
- ◀ **Hannah Hollingsworth** — West Florida High School senior in the Multimedia Academy, with a 3.57 unweighted and a 4.37 weighted GPA.
- ◀ **Lily Driver** — West Florida High School senior in the Agricultural Biotechnology Career Academy with a perfect 4.0 GPA for the first semester of this year and a 3.75 unweighted and a 4.52 weighted GPA overall.
- ◀ **Quinn Duong** — West Florida High School senior in the Multimedia Academy and AP classes with a perfect 4.0 unweighted GPA which placed him in the top 4% of his class with a 4.875 weighted GPA.
- ◀ **Jesus Robles-Reyna** — West Florida High School senior in the Academy of Information Technology with a 3.87 unweighted and a 4.72 weighted GPA
- ◀ **James Christopher** — Pine Forest High School senior, an A/B student heavily involved in student councils and leading the way to success for many student events.
- ◀ **Mieke Bendolph** — Pensacola High School senior, a fourth-year cadet in the school’s Air Force JROTC program who distinguished herself as a dedicated leader, active student, and committed member of her school and community.
- ◀ **Emma Bradford** — West Florida High School senior in the Pre-Nursing program with a 3.5 unweighted and a 4.25 weighted GPA while packing her schedule with AP and honors classes.
- ◀ **Presley Davey** — Northview High School ninth grader is an outstanding example of the absolute model student, in the classroom and on the field.
- ◀ **Annabelle Lynd** — Northview High School ninth grader is a selfless leader who has passed several industry certifications and balanced her extracurricular activities with also maintaining her studies at a high level.

Visual, Performing & Language Arts

- Makinzi Roley** — Northview High School student earned a perfect score on the state English Language Arts (ELA) test in 2025.
- Maegan Coleman** — Tate High School FFA member placed first at the District Prepared Public Speaking contest.
- Shiloh Cash, Kaala Cowell, Jagger Etheridge, Mariah Foster, Nikolaus Huber, Kira Kimmons, Estelle Lentini, Duyen Luc, Anh Luc, Khloe McMillian, Kiley Menser** — Tate High School students (led by veteran French teacher, Evangeline Leventhal) who participated in Le Congrès de la Culture Française en Floride and earned recognition in several categories: Superior Merit, Excellent Merit and Honorable Mention.
- Chase Redman** (trombone), **Aiden Harris** (trombone), **Braylen Barton** (alto saxophone), and **Cooper Boddy** (baritone saxophone) — Ransom Middle School music students set a new school record successfully auditioning and earning coveted spots in the prestigious Florida All-State Band.
- Paige Ruhnow** — Ransom Middle School student was recognized at the Accelerated Reader (AR) Top Reader, reading 1,755,099 words and passing 20 AR tests.
- Symeria Moore** — Workman Middle School 8th grader earned 1st Place in the Digital Art Category at the Pensacola Museum of Art’s Annual Youth Art Exhibition, demonstrating exceptional creativity, technical skill, and artistic voice.
- Maggie Lee** — Bratt Elementary School student who was honored by a state educators group for her essay, entitled “Snow House Memories”, sharing how her Gammaw and Pop impacted her life.
- Lelah Landy** — Tate High School School senior, an all-star art student who is taking five art classes (including AP 3D Art and AP Drawing), was recognized as the Escambia and Santa Rosa County High School Student of the Week.

Extracurricular Activities

- Bennett Campbell** — Lipscomb Elementary School, 4th Grade 1st Place in the Florida 4-H Public Speaking district competition.
- Elliot Reeser** — Lipscomb Elementary School, 5th Grade 1st Place in the Florida 4-H Public Speaking district competition.
- Quentin Smith** — Pine Meadow Elementary School second grader was the winner of his group in the annual America’s Favorite Student competition, an annual fundraiser for The Planetary Society, a nonprofit founded by legendary astronomer Carl Sagan to advance space science and exploration.
- Ryann Gibbs** — Ransom Middle School, 6th Grade 1st Place in the Florida 4-H Public Speaking district competition.
- Keylin Stallworth, Caiden Gremillion, and John Bosson V** — Ransom Middle School students who graduated Escambia County Sheriff’s Blazer Academy Class of 2026.
- Harleigh Grace Parsons** — Ernest Ward Middle School Horse Judging earned 10th place in the state finals.
- Vincent Sammons** — Booker T. Washington High School freshman, earned first place in the Fall Competitive Stock Market Challenge, a nationally recognized financial education program that allows students to manage a simulated investment portfolio, sponsored by the SIFMA Foundation and American Express.



American Idol Top 3 finalist Keyla Richardson was a 2015 Tate High School graduate.

Student Athletes

Abby Vernier — West Florida High School junior, was the top female golfer in the area, finishing 7th at FHSAA 2A Girls Golf State Championship.

Taylor Clements — West Florida High School senior, won the 2A state titles in the girls 50 freestyle and 100 breaststroke.

Lauren Armstrong, Audrey Turner, Jordana Wright, Kiley Menser and alternate Izzy Eden — Tate High School, became the first Girls 400 Freestyle Relay team in Tate history to make it to the FHSAA 3A State Swim Meet.

Anna Kunkel — Northview High School senior in the FHSAA Regional Golf Championship, finishing in the top five with a score of 74.

Gage Coates — Tate High School senior, won the Esports Fall 2025 Madden NFL Central Region Championship Game, defeating his opponent from Bishop Verot Catholic High School in Fort Myers. Coates earned the No. 2 seed in the playoffs with an impressive 7-1 regular season record. The national league, hosted by PlayVS, featured 32 teams from across the United States, including competitors from Iowa, Alabama, and Kansas

Ian Malone — Booker T. Washington High School, earned a state runner-up title in swimming and diving at the FHSAA Swimming and Diving 3A Championship.

Claire Gorton — Pensacola High School, received the 2026 “Friday Night Rivals Scholar Athlete” award, successfully juggling being in the International Baccalaureate program and the captain of the school’s varsity volleyball team.

Maggie Stewart — Northview High School senior won the fifth place medal in the traditional division and finished ninth in the state for Olympic at the FHSAA 1A Girls Weightlifting Championship.

Amoni, Keyarsten, and Kennedy Lewis — Pine Forest High School girls basketball team made history for being the first time three sisters have been on the same Pine Forest girls basketball squad.

Woods McCue — eighth-grade student at Brown Barge Middle School competed against a handful of former PDGA World Champions in the inaugural Disc Golf Pro Tour’s MVP Big Easy Open in New Orleans..

Alyssa Bourn — Ransom Middle School eighth-grade student won both gold and silver medals in bicycling at the Florida Special Olympics State Games.

Woods McCue — Brown Barge Middle School eighth-grade student competed against a handful of former PDGA World Champions in the inaugural Disc Golf Pro Tour’s MVP Big Easy Open in New Orleans.

SHINING STAR AWARDS

Honoring outstanding fifth grade students who have demonstrated exemplary citizenship, leadership, and the core values of the Escambia County School District. This was the 28th year that WSRE hosted this event, originally in partnership with the Greater Escambia Community Foundation and now in partnership with the Escambia County Principals Association.

- < A. K. Suter Elementary — **Saanvika Gampa**
- < Bellview Elementary — **Veronika Yasenovska**
- < Beulah Elementary — **Alyson Woods**
- < Blue Angels Elementary — **Dominic Jackson**
- < Bratt Elementary — **Lane Stuart**
- < Brentwood Elementary — **Jameson Manni**
- < Byrneville Elementary — **Kipton Little**
- < C.A. Weis Elementary — **Za’Riyah Goble**
- < Cordova Park Elementary — **Maren Fox**
- < Ensley Elementary — **Malia Newberry**
- < Ferry Pass Elementary — **Emma Smith**
- < Global Learning Academy — **Zy’Tranna Mitchell**
- < Hellen Caro Elementary — **Marlie Walters**
- < Holm Elementary — **Brooklyn Hines**
- < Jim Allen Elementary — **Elaine Ladieu**
- < Kingsfield Elementary — **Alessa Zavala**
- < L.D McArthur Elementary — **Amelia Yepishin**
- < Lincoln Park Elementary — **Fabian Coronado**
- < Lipscomb Elementary — **Jeffery Mensah**
- < Longleaf Elementary — **Shanell English**
- < Molino Park Elementary — **Ella Campbell**
- < Montclair Elementary — **Liam Lionheart**
- < Myrtle Grove Elementary — **Khloe Cobb**
- < N.B. Cook Elementary — **Weston Berry**
- < Navy Point Elementary — **Auburn Haruguchi**
- < O.J. Semmes Elementary — **Tanayia Milton**
- < Oakcrest Elementary — **Angela Austria**
- < Pensacola Beach Elementary — **Olivia McPherson**
- < Pine Meadow Elementary — **Nolan Spencer**
- < Pleasant Grove Elementary — **Logan Dunlap**
- < Scenic Heights Elementary — **Janae Kisor**
- < Sherwood Elementary — **David Contreras Casteneda**
- < Warrington Elementary — **Jakobi Henry**
- < West Pensacola Elementary — **Lluany Jimenez-Zebadua**

COX INSPIRATIONAL STUDENT HERO AWARDS AND
ECCPTA STUDENTS OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Honored students for demonstrating strength, resilience, and perseverance while overcoming significant personal hardships. From navigating medical challenges and family loss to persevering through difficult personal circumstances, each student has remained committed to personal growth while inspiring classmates, educators, and school communities.

Awards winners for 2026 were:

- ✦ A.K. Suter Elementary School — **John Wasilenko**

✦ Bellview Elementary School — **Ava Thomas**

✦ Bellview Middle School — **NaKeem Burgess II**

✦ Beulah Elementary School — **Kennedy Conway**

✦ Beulah Middle School — **Ja’Karius Lewis**

✦ Blue Angels Elementary School — **Timothy “Tim” Hayes**

✦ Booker T. Washington High School — **Ja’Von Williams**

✦ Bratt Elementary School — **Shawn Lewis**

✦ Brentwood Elementary School — **Kova Sutton**

✦ Brown Barge Middle School — **Danielle “Dani” Reinsnour**

✦ Byrneville Elementary School — **Blake Mathis**

✦ C.A. Weis Elementary School — **Zakiyah Jolly**

✦ Cordova Park Elementary School — **Maya Barker**

✦ Ensley Elementary School — **Camila Lara**

✦ Ernest Ward Middle School — **Lillian Trinchler**

✦ Escambia High School — **William Mitchell**

✦ Escambia Westgate Center — **Chase Statam**

✦ Ferry Pass Elementary School — **Emma Bolton**

✦ Ferry Pass Middle School — **Samantha “Sam” Ross**

✦ Global Learning Academy — **SaRenity Walker**

✦ Hellen Caro Elementary School — **Mia Chapman**

✦ Holm Elementary School — **Aaliyah Watley**

✦ Hope Horizon – Elementary — **Graham Utter**

✦ Hope Horizon – Secondary — **Colton Hernandez**

✦ Jim Allen Elementary School — **Karter Davis**

✦ Jim C. Bailey Middle School — **Cristofer Garcia**
- ✦ Kingsfield Elementary School — **Samson Boardwyne**

✦ Lincoln Park Elementary — **Joshua Jones-Foster**

✦ Lipscomb Elementary School — **Oliver Wright**

✦ Longleaf Elementary School — **Ka’Myriah Stallworth**

✦ McArthur Elementary School — **Allyssa Elrod**

✦ Molino Park Elementary — **Ryder Phillips**

✦ Montclair Elementary School — **Phallon Samuel**

✦ Myrtle Grove Elementary — **Dylan Weyand**

✦ N.B. Cook Elementary School — **Julian-Reese McClung**

✦ Navy Point Elementary School — **Isaiah Nation**

✦ Northview High School — **Hannah Jerkins**

✦ O.J. Semmes Elementary School — **De’Andre “D.J.” White**

✦ Oakcrest Elementary School — **Jaylen Holmes**

✦ Pensacola High School — **Jai’Juan McBride**

✦ Pine Forest High School — **Ashton Young**

✦ Pine Meadow Elementary School — **Conner Warlick**

✦ Pleasant Grove Elementary School — **Ray’Una Moton**

✦ Ransom Middle School — **Jordan Bryant**

✦ Scenic Heights Elementary School – **Braylen Coleman**

✦ Sherwood Elementary School — **Makayla Giard**

✦ Success Academy — **Kaiden Richardson**

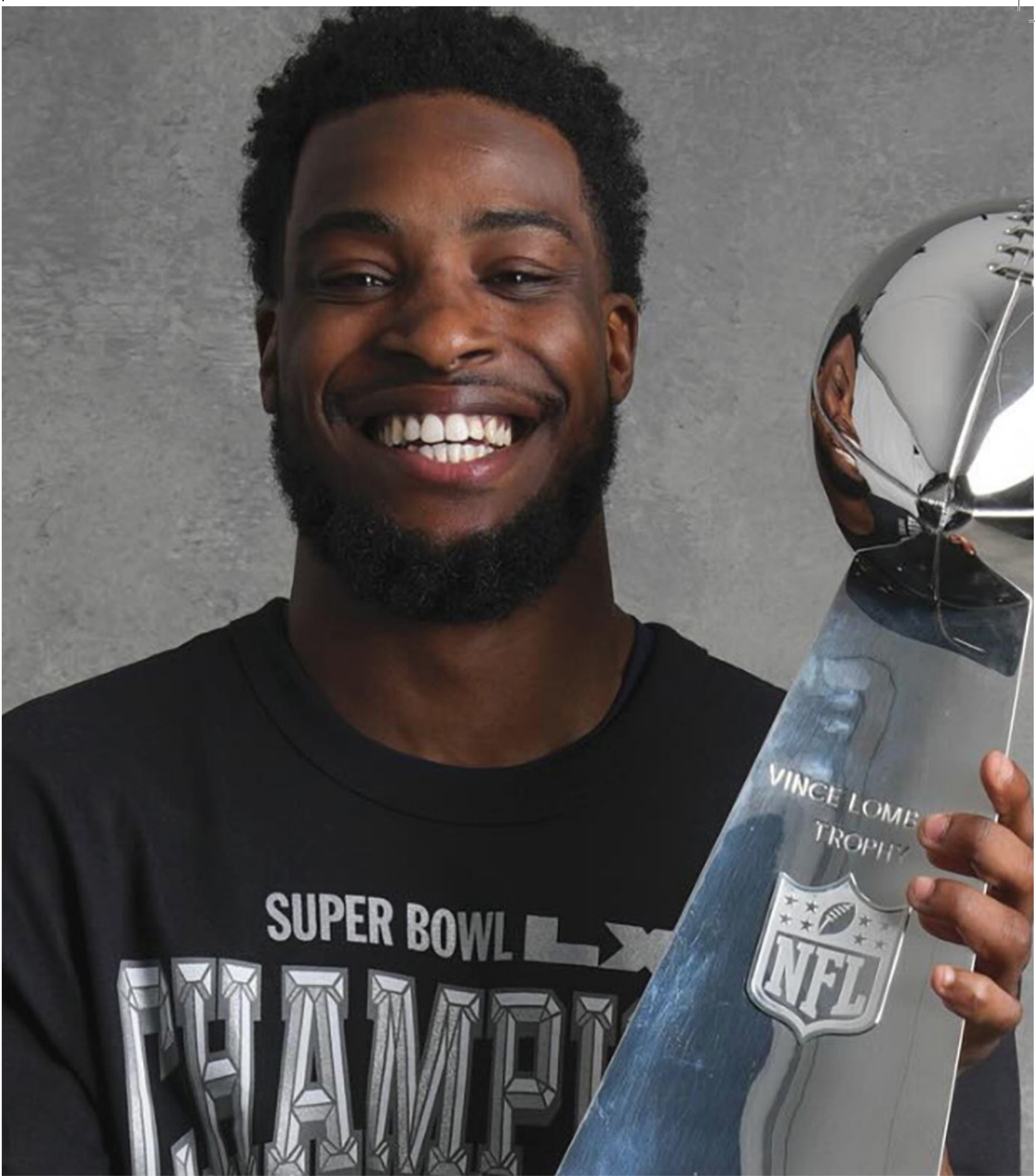
✦ Tate High School — **Macy Jensen**

✦ Warrington Elementary School — **Lina Weston**

✦ West Florida High School — **Zamauriyah Gilliam**

✦ West Pensacola Elementary School — **Tony Rand**

✦ Workman Middle School — **Jazelle Clothier**



The 2019 Pine Forest High School graduate, Devon Witherspoon, led the dominant Seattle Seahawks defensive performance that paved the way for a 29–13 victory in Super Bowl LX.

COLLEGE-BOUND STUDENT ATHLETES

- ◀ **Chamiah Francis** — Booker T. Washington senior committed to play basketball for Florida State University.
- ◀ **Taylor Clements** — West Florida High School senior is continuing her academic and athletic career with the West Virginia University's women's swimming and diving program.
- ◀ **Trenton Henderson** — Pine Forest High School senior signed to play football at Louisiana State University.
- ◀ **Demetress Mosley** — Pine Forest High School senior signed to play football at South Alabama University.
- ◀ **Justin Weatherall** — Pine Forest High School senior signed to play football at Florida Atlantic University.
- ◀ **Bentley Van Pelt** — West Florida High School senior, Top-25 finish at the state 2A boys golf tournament, enrolled at University of Montevallo.
- Taite Davis** — Tate High School graduate, enrolled at Lurleen B. Wallace Community College to continue his academic and athletic journey.
- ◀ **Lillian Abner** — Tate High School senior is continuing her academic and athletic career at Morehead State University, a NCAA Division I school renowned for its 54 college national championships.
- ◀ **Mykamia Padgett** — Tate High School senior has committed to play softball for the NCAA Division I Alabama State University Hornets in Montgomery.
- ◀ **Anna Kunkel** — Northview High School senior is continuing her golf career at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.
- ◀ **Riley Brooks** — Northview High School senior has signed to play softball at Coastal Alabama Community College.
- ◀ **Josiah Brown** — Booker T. Washington 3-star DB signed with University of Memphis.
- ◀ **Omari Lampkins** — Pine Forest High School senior has signed to play football at Hutchinson Community College.
- ◀ **Elijah West** — Tate High School senior has signed to play football at Florida Atlantic University.
- ◀ **Andrion Battle** — Escambia High School senior has committed to the football program at Northwest Mississippi Community College.
- ◀ **Xion Miller** — Escambia High School senior has committed to the football program at Northwest Mississippi Community College.
- ◀ **Jack Boutwell** — Northview High School golfer signed to continue his education and play golf at the next level, attending Reid State Community College on scholarship.
- ◀ **Bryton Mclellan** — Tate High School senior signed to play baseball and continue his education with Wallace Community College.
- ◀ **John Hatch** — West Florida High School senior signed to continue his academic and baseball career with the Baptist University of Florida.

2026 Pensacola Sports Senior Scholar-Athlete Award Winners

- ◀ **Abby Vernier** — West Florida High School: Overall Girls Senior Scholar-Athlete (\$5,000 Scholarship)
- ◀ **Kaylie Mitchell** — Tate High School: Multi Sport Girls (\$500 Scholarship)
- ◀ **Charlotte NeSmith** — West Florida High School: Girls Cross Country
- ◀ **Taylor Clements** — West Florida High School: Girls Swimming
- ◀ **Trinity Jordan** — Escambia High School: Girls Track
- ◀ **Kaylie Mitchell** — Tate High School: Multi Sport Girls
- ◀ **Ruby Seacrest** — Booker T Washington: Dr. Alec Kessler Memorial Foundation Scholarships (\$1,000)
- ◀ **Lawson Killingsworth** — Booker T Washington; Dr. Alec Kessler Memorial Foundation Scholarships (\$1,000)



Tate High School cheerleader Lillian Abner signed to continue her academic and athletic career in cheerleading at Morehead State University

FFA students recognized at *97th Florida FFA State Convention & Expo*

TATE HIGH SCHOOL

- < **Luke Graham** — State Finalist Creed Speaking, Leadership Development Events, Top 12 in state
- < **Daniel Aldridge, Raevyn Aldridge, Luke Graham, Henry Merritt, Christopher Smythe, Caileigh Tonsetic, Anthony Villaverde, Parker White** — Aquaculture, 3rd in State, Career Development Events
- < **Talia Smith** — 1st Place in Veterinary Science, Proficiency Awards
- < **Kaydon Biggs, Blakely Campbell, Christian Hollingsworth, Brooke Hoomes, Phoenix Myrick, Ellen Rigby** — State FFA Degrees
- < **Sarah Alexander, Kamden Jones, Austin Manning, Francis Martin, Lillian Warne** — American FFA Degrees
- < **National Chapter being advanced to Nationals & Premier Chapter** — General Awards and Achievements

NORTHVIEW HIGH SCHOOL

- < **State Finalist Parliamentary Procedure** — Leadership Development Events, Top 12 in state
- < **Premier Chapter Award, Florida’s Finest Chapter (National Chapter Award) & Chapter Advocacy Award: 2nd Place** — General Awards and Achievements
- < **Outstanding Alumni Chapter: 3rd Place** — Alumni Awards
- < **Braden Glick** — 1st Place in Fiber and Oil Crop Production, Proficiency Awards
- < **Tyler Gilmore, Jackson Bridges, Hunter Manning** — State FFA Degrees
- < **Cody Pugh, Tyler Riggs, Jayden Franklin** — American FFA Degrees
- < **Hunter Manning** — State Talent Performer, General Awards and Achievements
- < **Ona Spinks** — Elected District 1 Secretary, General Awards and Achievements
- < **Courtney Solari** — Outstanding Young Alumni Award

WEST FLORIDA HIGH SCHOOL

- < **State Finalist Conduct of Chapter Meetings** — Leadership Development Events
- < **Feeder Swine** — Proficiency Awards
- < **Premier Chapter Award** — General Awards and Achievements
- < **Suzie Baker** — Extemporaneous Public Speaking, 4th place in state, Leadership Development Events
- < **Gabriel Flores** — State Talent Performer, National Anthem Session 1
- < **Suzie Baker and Kayley Ramswell** — National Agriscience Fair Finalist, Social Systems, Division 6
- < **Lily Driver and Ally Aguilar** — State Agriscience Fair, Animal Systems, Division 6: 2nd place
- < **Kensi Armendariz** — State Talent Performer, “Girl Crush” Session 3
- < **Cheyenne Armstrong** — Agriscience 3rd Place Animal Systems Division 1, General Awards and Achievements

BEULAH MIDDLE SCHOOL

- < **Gabriel Lang, Garrison Bruck, Grady Jackson, Lydia Arnold, Emma Malecki, Olivia Nunn** — Parliamentary Procedure, Leadership Development Events, Top 12 In State
- < **Solise Beeks, Louis Hartjen, Lydia Arnold** — 5th Place Aquaculture, Career Development Events
- < **Izsabella Long** — Agriscience 3rd Place Social Science Division 2, General Awards and Achievements

PENSACOLA HIGH SCHOOL & FLORIDA VIRTUAL SCHOOL

- < **Isabelle Jenkins** — Florida FFA State Secretary 2025–2026, State Star in Agriscience, State Proficiency Winner in Agriscience, Agriscience 2nd Place Animal Systems Division 5, State Degree Recipient, Finalist for the Ryan Ryam Outstanding District Officer, 1st in the State in Aquaculture, Highest individual in State in Aquaculture
- < **Jayden Williams & Jonathan McIntosh** — 1st in the State in Aquaculture

Florida Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) State Leadership Conference

Students and advisors attending the state conference included Tate High School, Booker T. Washington High School, West Florida High School, Pensacola High School, Beulah Middle School, Bailey Middle School, Bellview Middle School, and Workman Middle School. Students competed in a variety of academic and performance-based competitions designed to prepare them for careers in business, finance, marketing, technology, and entrepreneurship.

Led by District 1 FBLA Director Jacob Hill, the advisors and students attending the conference included:

Middle Schools

Tanganykia Johnson, Bailey Middle School – 2 students

Jessica Steele and **Vikki Maldonado**, Bellview Middle School – 7 students

Ena Floyd-Johnson, Beulah Middle School – 11 students

Lisa Wadley and **Quintarries Upshaw**, Workman Middle School – 9 students

High Schools

Kelli Smirniotis, Booker T. Washington High School – 8 students

Jacob Hill and **Heather Horn**, Pensacola High School – 109 students

Tommy Maher and **Janice Courson**, Tate High School – 25 students

Renako Banks, West Florida High School – 7 students

Several Pensacola High School students earned top placements and have qualified to represent Florida at the FBLA National Leadership Conference in San Antonio, Texas this June.

Hospitality & Event Management – 1st Place
Katherine Sidden, Gretchen Lamar, Lauren Strickland

Banking and Financial Systems – 2nd Place
Melody Nguyen, David Knoblock, Aya Prince

Broadcast Journalism – 2nd Place
Nour Ogab, Ashley Truong, My Vy Phu

Financial Planning – 2nd Place
Zella Trahan

Human Resource Management – 2nd Place
Sarah Ahmed

Website Coding & Development – 2nd Place
Smaran Adepu

Business Plan – 4th Place
Bijoux Houghton, Smith Maxey

International Business – 4th Place
Sylvia Linder

Introduction to Parliamentary Procedure – 4th Place
Keller Leonard

Network Design – 4th Place
Oliver Crane, Henry White, Graeme Harrell

Personal Finance – 4th Place
Jayden Posada

Retail Management – 4th Place
Avery Locke

Sports & Entertainment Management – 4th Place
Elisabeth Collins, Maci Glenn-Moore

Customer Service – 3rd Place
Parker Briscione

George Stone Criminal Justice Training Center

Thomas Accardi, Fernando Almanzar, Jessica Bizzell, Marc Blanton, Marc Clarke, Jeshua Collado, Rachel Kanter, Robert Kersey, Deandra McClain, Stephan Schultz, Daniel Tipton and **Tyra Yelverton** — graduated from the George Stone Criminal Justice Training Center and joined the Escambia County Corrections. Over the course of three months, the students participated in an intensive curriculum that combined physical training, academic studies, and hands-on certifications—completing a rigorous 420-hour training program designed to prepare them for careers in corrections.

..... ESCAMBIA COUNTY HISTORY FAIR AWARDS

The Escambia County History Fair showcased entries from students who had advanced from school-level competitions. These entries spanned various categories, including exhibits, websites, performances, documentaries, and historical papers.

- ✦ The Junior League of Pensacola sponsors the J. Earle Bowden Young Historian Award for Outstanding Senior Entry, which was presented to **Katherine Sidden** and **Yash Gujral** at Pensacola High School, for their exhibit titled “Gandhi’s Salt March.”
- ✦ The Katherine Pomeroy Memorial Award for Outstanding Junior Entry in 2026 was awarded to **Kamari Smith, Madelyn McShane**, and **Parker Austin** at Ransom Middle School for their documentary “The Great Upheaval: From Czarist Reaction to Soviet Revolution.”

..... ELEMENTARY INDIVIDUAL DIVISION ... ELEMENTARY GROUP DIVISION

- ✦ 1st place — **Paul Lewis**, NB Cook, “Daniel ‘Chappie’ James”

✦ 2nd place — **C.J. Harris**, NB Cook, “Baseball’s Legendary Leroy Satchel Paige”
- ✦ 2nd place — **Michael Daniel** and **Carmen Stabler**, Ferry Pass, “Blue Angels: Revolution, Reaction and Reform”

✦ 3rd place — **Jayce Klores** and **Holling Norton**, NB Cook “The Space Race: Reaction and Revolution Through the Actions of Wernher von Braun and Sergei Korolev”

..... JUNIOR INDIVIDUAL DIVISION JUNIOR GROUP DIVISION

- ✦ 2nd place — **Dillon Seamans**, Ernest Ward Middle, “Potato Blight: British Blame and Irish Change”
- ✦ 1st place — **Daisy Blum, Kali Audiffred, Kayla Wroblewski**, and **Sienna Wilkerson**, Ranson Middle, “A Mark of Honor: The Revolutionary Courage of Jonathan Walker”

✦ 3rd place — **Finley Williamson, Raiden Spencer, Uryah McCasland**, Ranson Middle, “Bricks and Bullets: Reforming the Concept of ‘Resistance’ in History”

..... SENIOR INDIVIDUAL DIVISION SENIOR GROUP DIVISION

- ✦ 1st place — **Jack Spencer**, Pensacola High, “Longitude at Sea”

✦ 2nd place — **Abigail Hudspeth**, Booker T. Washington High, “How Sit-ins Reformed America’s Mindset”

✦ 3rd place — **Naren Yerramsetty**, Pensacola High, “The Reaction Of The Revolution: How Baron von Steuben Structurally Reformed The Continental Army”
- ✦ 1st place — **Katherine Sidden** and **Yash Gujral**, Pensacola High, “Gandhi’s Salt March”

✦ 2nd place — **Lucy Mitchem** and **Peyton Chester**, Pensacola High, “Streetcar Strike of 1908”

..... JUNIOR INDIVIDUAL DOCUMENTARY DIVISION JUNIOR GROUP DOCUMENTARY DIVISION

- ✦ 3rd place — **Megan Gray**, Ransom Middle, “A Spark of Reason, A Reign of Blood: The Paradox of French Reform”
- ✦ 1st place — **Kamari Smith, Madelyn McShane**, and **Parker Austin**, Ransom Middle, “The Great Upheaval: From Czarist Reaction to Soviet Revolution”

..... SENIOR INDIVIDUAL DOCUMENTARY DIVISION SENIOR GROUP DOCUMENTARY DIVISION

- ✦ 1st place — **Graeme Harrell**, Pensacola High, “If They Can Move Fruit, We Can Move Bodies”

✦ 2nd place — **Mariyah Burnette**, Booker T. Washington High, “The Dawn of Revolution: France 1789”

✦ 3rd place — **Susan Lorge**, Pine Forest High, “The Treaty of Versailles: How an Attempt at Peace Led to War”
- ✦ 1st place — **Clayton White** and **Josh Ibrahim**, Pensacola High, “From Rubber to Restaurants to Ratings”

✦ 2nd place — **Henry White** and **Peter Ruiz**, Pensacola High, “A Castle Built on Sand: How the Collapse of the Dot-Com Bubble Built the Modern Economy”

✦ Tie 3rd place — **Lyana Benjamin** and **Makaylee McGee**, Pine Forest High, “The Reynolds Pamphlet”

✦ Tie 3rd place — **Maliyah Harrison** and **Zuntenaija Williams**, Pine Forest High, “How Did the Black Lives Matter Movement Shape America into the World We Know Today”

HISTORICAL PAPER AWARDS

- < 1st place — **Damien Peaden**, Pine Forest High, “Revolution: How Inventions Created the Modern World”

ELEMENTARY INDIVIDUAL DIVISION

...

ELEMENTARY GROUP DIVISION

- < 1st place — **Karly Fiddler**, NB Cook, “Boston Tea Party”
 - < 2nd place — **Jackson Hadden**, NB Cook, “Tanks from the War to End All Wars”
- < 1st place — **Isaac McCallum, Wyatt Gonzalez**, and **Asher Toles**, NB Cook, “Ellison Bennett: Civil Rights Activist”
 - < 2nd place — **Alex Lett, Landree Williams**, and **Narangua Horback**, NB Cook, “The Trail of Tears: A Reaction that Shaped Reform”
 - < 3rd place — **Alexandria Morgan, Emmilyn Olson**, and **Arianna Harbuck**, NB Cook, “Virginia Hall: A War Hero”

SENIOR INDIVIDUAL DIVISION

...

SENIOR GROUP DIVISION

- < 1st place — **Jacob Ramsey**, Pensacola High, “McCarthy and Anti-Communism: A Conversation between two friends”
- < 1st place — **Brady Jones** and **Marcelo Murillo**, Pensacola High, “McCarthyism and The Effects of Communism”
 - < 2nd place — **Audrianna Moore** and **Mackenzie Kanzlemar**, Pensacola High, “How Napoleon’s Reign Impacted France”
 - < 3rd place — **Ashton Carter, Berkley Allen**, and **Max Densmore**, Pensacola High, “The Sun Still Shines”



FLORIDA HISTORY FAIR AWARDS

Twenty-nine students represented Escambia County this year at the State History Fair in Tallahassee. The 2026 theme was “Revolution, Reaction, Reform in History.” Escambia County brought home two first-place, two second-place, and a third-place entry, along with special prizes. First and second-place winners will compete in the National History Day competition in College Park, Maryland.

- < 1st Place Senior Group Documentary
From Rubber to Restaurants to Ratings:
The Michelin Guide
Josh Ibrahim & Clayton White —
Pensacola High School
 - < 1st Place Junior Individual Exhibit
Potato Blight: British Blame
and Irish Change
Dillon Seamans —
Ernest Ward Middle School
 - < 2nd Place Senior Group Exhibit
Streetcar Strike of 1908
Peyton Chester & Lucy Mitchem —
Pensacola High School
 - < 3rd Place Senior Group Documentary
A Castle Built on Sand: How the
Collapse of the Dot-Com Bubble
Built the Modern Economy
Peter Ruiz & Henry White —
Pensacola High School
 - < Special Awards:
Outstanding County Award
**Gandhi’s Salt March, Yash Gujral
& Katherine Sidden** —
Pensacola High School
 - < Special Awards: 2026 National
Maritime Historical Society Scholarship
Senior Division- 1st Place
Longitude at Sea
Jack Spencer – Pensacola High School
- < Special Awards: Science Heritage Award
If They Can Move Fruit,
We Can Move Bodies
Andrew Harrell — Pensacola High School
 - < Special Awards:
Florida Archival Research Award
Peyton Chester & Lucy Mitchem —
Pensacola High School
 - < Special Awards:
Mapping History Award
Longitude at Sea
Jack Spencer — Pensacola High School
 - < Runoffs Awards:
Senior Individual Documentary
The Dawn of Revolution: France 1789
Mariyah Burnette —
Booker T. Washington High School
 - < Runoffs Awards:
Senior Individual Documentary
If They Can Move Fruit,
We Can Move Bodies
Andrew Harrell — Pensacola High School
 - < Runoffs Awards:
Junior Group Exhibit
A Mark of Honor: The Revolutionary
Courage of Jonathan Walker
**Kali Audiffred, Daisy Blum, Sienna
Wilkerson, & Kayla Wroblewski** —
Ransom Middle School

ACHIEVEMENTS: **TEACHING & LEARNING**

State education standards continue to rise. Our students and schools continue to shine.

Since 2017, we have earned a 'B' grade from the Florida Department of Education and 86% of our schools continue to uphold and exceed last year's grades. All of our high school and middle schools earned a 'C' grade or higher. Four of our high schools have 'B' grades and five of our middle schools have 'A' or 'B' grades. Ernest Ward Middle School was the most improved, earning an impressive 130 more points than in 2024—an increase of 30.2%.



The WFHS Electrathon team's newest all-electric vehicle was custom built and designed by the student-members of the team to honor the Escambia County Sheriff's Office. The team is made up of around 25 students and is focused on much more than racing. Students learn critical life and technical skills, including working effectively as a team, problem-solving, critical thinking, engineering design, battery management, gear ratios, fabrication, and data analysis. Electrathon racing is not about speed—it is about energy efficiency and endurance, with cars competing in one-hour races to see who can go the farthest on a limited amount of energy.



Middle School moves

To continue the upward momentum in the education of our middle school students in Escambia County, we implemented the following key strategic moves:

- ◀ We created sixth grade classes at Cordova Park, West Pensacola and Longleaf elementary schools to give parents the option of having their child continue attending these elementary campuses or move up to a middle school. Longleaf plans to transition to a K-8 model by the 2027-2028 school year.
- ◀ We started the **Middle School Scholars Program** at Pensacola High School (PHS) which is a magnet program for academically advanced 7th and 8th grade students. This program is designed to give these students more opportunities by meeting them where they are academically while providing them with an opportunity to earn high school credits and a head start to their high school career.
- ◀ We developed and launched a **Middle School Resource Web Page** to provide guidance and helpful information, in one central location, to parents and guardians of middle school students.

New approaches to teaching.

Class time and screen time aren't the only methodologies to successfully educate the next generation. Opportunities for hands-on learning and the implementation of innovative programs are at the forefront of how we teach.

Global Learning Academy — hosted an Earth Day Festival, partnering with New Worlds Reading to Boost Literacy in Pensacola. A community-focused celebration of environmental stewardship and educational growth, the festival took a significant step in supporting student literacy through an on-site partnership with the New Worlds Reading Initiative and in collaboration with the University of Florida Lastinger Center for Learning.

ECUA's Career Exploration Program — a five-day, hands-on summer experience that gives high school students a behind-the-scenes look at how the ECUA uses science, technology, engineering, and problem-solving to keep essential services running in our community. Students gain real-world experience in different parts of the ECUA operations, from infrastructure and technology to teamwork and troubleshooting. This program is all about learning by doing and students who complete the program will earn a certificate of completion.

ECPS Middle School STEM Showdown — Middle school students competed in the first annual ECPS STEM Showdown. The day-long event saw 6th, 7th, and 8th-grade teams from Bellview, Beulah, Brown Barge, Ernest Ward, Ferry Pass, and Cordova Park going head-to-head in a series of rigorous scientific, mathematical and engineering challenges.

Unlike traditional extracurricular competitions, the STEM Showdown was uniquely designed to test benchmarks that students learn during their regular school day, turning classroom concepts into high-stakes, hands-on applications.

- ◀ Grade 6: Students demonstrated engineering precision in the Tower Challenge, using only straws and tape to support a tennis ball, and displayed their data analysis expertise in Meteorology.
- ◀ Grade 7: Competitors navigated the complexities of light and physics in the Wave Maze and tested their technical communication skills in the fan-favorite "Write It, Do It" event.
- ◀ Grade 8: Competitors focused on chemistry and data analysis, identifying unknown substances in the Mystery Powders lab and interpreting complex information in Grasp a Graph.

While grade-level teams focused on classroom benchmarks, the Robotics track featured specialized teams of up to four. These students spent the day in the Small Gym programming Edison V3 robots to navigate two different "Pathway" courses and two "Task" challenges. The robotics competition culminated in a final run where robots had to deposit items into designated zones with 100% autonomy.

The STEM Showdown is about more than just winning. It's about seeing students take the math and science they learn in the classroom and use it to solve a physical problem in real-time.

Alternative Pathways

GED classes are offered at George Stone Technical College and several of our elementary schools. Classes are open enrollment and students can start anytime.

We provide educational services to juveniles behind bars who have been adjudicated as an adult. It is part of a cooperative agreement with Escambia County that allows our teachers to hold classes in the county jail.

ACHIEVEMENTS: **TEACHERS,
STAFF &
MENTORS**

*It takes a big heart to
shape little minds.*

It starts with reading, writing and arithmetic, but results in confidence and self reliance. At the front of every classroom, workshop, bench, hallway is that teacher, coach, principal who every student will recall fondly, years after they graduate from high school, for the impact they made on their lives and careers.



Escambia County
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Trinity Barnett was named Teacher of the Year. Ms. Barnett is an Art teacher at Blue Angels Elementary School.



Teacher of the Year

Trinity Barnett — Art teacher at Blue Angels Elementary School was named Teacher of the Year. Ms. Barnett was recognized for her dedication to fostering student creativity and providing mentorship to staff. She has taught at Blue Angels Elementary for 10 years, beginning as a substitute teacher.

Employee of the Year

Paula Pierce — a staff member in the Student Services department was recognized for her dedication and support of school social worker assignments. She was nominated or recognized through the department directed by Dr. Lisa Joyner, the Director of Student Services, at the J.E. Hall Center.

Outstanding Administrators of the Year

Tara Palasciano — Principal of Bailey Middle School was named Outstanding Principal of the Year. Ms. Palasciano joined forces with the principal of Hellen Caro Elementary School to find ways to make the transition from elementary to middle school earlier on our 6th-grade students and their parents. During the 2004-2005 academic year, she was named the school district's Teacher of the Year, and in 2019, she received the Outstanding Assistant Principal of the Year award. With 22 years in the county, she was a reading teacher and instructional coach at Ferry Pass Middle School for 10 years and an assistant principal at Bellview Elementary School for eight years.

Erin Cramer — Assistant Principal at West Florida High School was recognized as the Outstanding Assistant Principal of the Year. Ms. Cramer is known as a creative and innovative administrator who continues to find ways to motivate West Florida High students. She established WFHS Capstone Night where \$2,500 in scholarships and awards are given to students and coordinated several student incentives initiatives including the Lunch and Learn sessions, a grade recovery program and the Florida Ready to Work program.

School Librarian of the Year

Maryjane Gardner — Tate High School librarian was named school librarian of the year in Escambia County. The Escambia School Library Association selects one exceptional educator for the prestigious Dr. Paula Gleason Librarian of the Year Award, an honor that celebrates excellence in supporting student learning, promoting literacy, and leading innovative library programs. The award highlights librarians who go above and beyond in fostering a love of reading, teaching digital citizenship and research skills, building strong collections, supporting staff, and serving as leaders on their campus.

ESCAMBIA COUNTY'S TEACHER OF THE YEAR FINALISTS

- < **Trinity Barnett** — Blue Angels Elementary School
- < **Courtney Geiger** — Lipscomb Elementary School
- < **Cameron Peters** — Bailey Middle School
- < **Kathryn Cody** — Booker Washington High School
- < **David Dawson** — Pine Forest High School

TEACHERS OF THE YEAR SELECTED TO REPRESENT THEIR RESPECTIVE SCHOOLS.

- < Jim Allen Elementary — **Michelle (Shelly) Helton**
- < Bellview Elementary — **Teswana Johnson**
- < Beulah Elementary — **Shelly Mitchell**
- < Blue Angels Elementary — **Trinity Barnett**
- < Bratt Elementary — **Angela Stuart**
- < Brentwood Elementary — **Sarah Long**
- < Hellen Caro Elementary — **Lori Walsh**
- < N. B. Cook Elementary — **Megan Habayeb**
- < Cordova Park Elementary — **Brittany Foster**
- < Ensley Elementary — **Susannah Wright**
- < Ferry Pass Elementary — **Nikki Cole**
- < Global Learning Academy — **Whitney Osborne**
- < Holm Elementary — **Etter Wright**
- < Kingsfield Elementary School — **Melissa Venable**
- < Lincoln Park Elementary — **Ashley Phillips**
- < Lipscomb Elementary — **Courtney Geiger**
- < Longleaf Elementary — **Gena Keszthelyi**
- < McArthur Elementary — **Laura Sellers**
- < Molino Park Elementary — **Chad Hetherington**
- < Montclair Elementary — **Felicia Hudson**
- < Myrtle Grove Elementary — **Brigit McAroy**
- < Navy Point Elementary — **Jana Arnett**
- < Oakcrest Elementary — **John Herber**
- < Pine Meadow Elementary — **Tara Garic**
- < Pleasant Grove Elementary — **Carol Larsen**
- < Scenic Heights Elementary — **Amanda Pinckard**
- < O.J. Semmes Elementary — **Jessica Zent**
- < Sherwood Elementary — **Bridget Wakeman**
- < A. K. Suter Elementary — **Juliana Barrett**
- < Warrington Elementary — **Christina Myers**
- < C. A. Weis Elementary — **Julia Hodo**
- < West Pensacola Elementary — **Debra Jewell**
- < Bailey Middle School — **Cameron Peters**
- < Bellview Middle — **Clareta Broadnax**
- < Beulah Middle — **Kenneth Atkinson**
- < Brown Barge Middle — **John Blackwelder**
- < Ernest Ward Middle — **Megan Bryan**
- < Ferry Pass Middle — **Velvet Kalber**
- < Ransom Middle — **Holly Kendrick**
- < Workman Middle — **Quintarries Upshaw**
- < Escambia High School — **Kristy Davis**

- < Northview High School — **Brandon Korinchak**
- < Pensacola High School — **Lora Fairhurst**
- < Pine Forest High School — **David Dawson**
- < Tate High School — **Richard Coleman**
- < Washington High School — **Kathryn Cody**
- < West Florida High School — **Tyler Mertz**
- < Alternative Education — **Adam Stumpf**
- < Beulah Academy of Science — **Molly Villanueva**
- < Achieve Academy — **Brenda Baldwin**
- < Success Academy — **Gregory Steen**
- < Escambia Virtual Academy — **Tristan Harris**
- < Escambia Westgate — **Kimberly Ripley**
- < ESE — **Joyce "Kelton" Boykin**
- < Hope Horizon — **Tara Hagan**
- < George Stone Technical College — **Maria Moultrie**
- < Pensacola Beach Charter — **Kimberley Talbert**

51 international teachers — Some of our teachers bring a firsthand worldwide perspective to their students and classrooms. This year, that diverse perspective came from 51 international teachers from all over the globe — ranging from as far as the Philippines to as close as Jamaica. The district also has educators from Chile, Columbia, Ecuador, Ghana, India and Zimbabwe.



Other Honors and Recognition

Rick Shackle — Principal of Booker T Washington High School, received the Florida Taxwatch’s “Principal Leadership Award.” The program recognizes Florida’s most effective principals in K–12 public schools.

Derrick Thomas — Principal of Workman Middle School, was presented with a Community Leadership Award from The Alpha Alpha Theta Sigma Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., an award-winning chapter known for its focus on academic excellence and community service. This honor is in recognition of his strong leadership, his support of his staff, and his dedication to the Workman Middle School community. Mr. Thomas was also recognized by the Law Office of Phil Hall, P.A. in Pensacola in honor of National Principals Month. In a letter to Mr. Thomas, attorney Phil Hall stated “Mr. Thomas, you have made a big difference,” and continued to say, “Thank you for your commitment to your school and for serving as a leader to students, teachers, parents, and community members alike.”

Quintarries Upshaw — Civics Teacher and Teacher of the Year at Workman Middle School, was selected as a 2026 fellow for the American Civic Tradition Fellowship, a prestigious national program hosted by the Jack Miller Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The American Civic Tradition Fellowship is a yearlong professional enrichment program designed for K–12 civics, government, and history teachers. As part of the Jack Miller Center’s Founding Civics Initiative, the program attracts top middle and high school social studies educators from across the country. Mr. Upshaw was selected as one of only eight educators nationwide chosen to represent his region and Escambia County School District through this highly competitive fellowship.

As a member of the Alpha Alpha Theta Sigma Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity in Pensacola, Mr. Upshaw was also named a 2026 Golden Apple Award recipient. This award recognizes his educational impact at Workman Middle School—creating tutoring and mentoring opportunities with the support of his fraternity

Alicia Gifford — Escambia High School teacher was recognized with the Extra Yard for Teachers (EYFT) from the Sun Belt Conference. As part of the College Football Playoff (CFP), the Sun Belt Conference supports its Extra Yard for Teachers Initiative each year and recognizes Ms. Gifford in Escambia County. This initiative supports teachers and schools across the 14 CFP member communities. During EYFT Week’s Big Day, schools honor a teacher with DonorsChoose gift cards to help fund classroom resources.

Lucy Waters — instructional behavioral assistant at Escambia Westgate, went to the nation capital to speak with different legislators about the importance of funding for Exceptional Education. She was enrolled in the ParaToTeacher scholarship program through UWF, which is designed to remove financial barriers for paraprofessionals who want to earn a degree in exceptional student education. Waters said she was excited to go and “carry the voices of all my colleagues and students to the people that make changes happen.”

Coach Dwight Thomas — Escambia High School, two-time state champion and coach of Emmitt Smith, was inducted into the Florida High School Athletic Association’s Hall of Fame on Sept. 21.

Coach Jade Brown — Booker T. Washington High School was named the 2026 Class 5A Coach-of-the-Year and 2026 Florida Dairy Farmers Girls’ Basketball Coach of the Year. Coach Brown joins Booker T. Washington’s Ronnie Bond as the only Pensacola-area coaches to win the Florida Dairy Farmers’ Basketball Coach of the Year. Brown led her squad to a 24–3 record and the Class 5A state title. In 14 years at Washington, Brown has posted a 214–110 record, including a 68–11 mark over the past three seasons.

CAREER ACADEMY AWARDS FOR TEACHERS, ACADEMIES, BUSINESS & INDUSTRY PARTNERS

Students, teachers, individual career academies and business partners were honored in a banquet held at Culinary Productions.

“We are so fortunate in Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties to have such active and robust career academies in our high schools and middle schools,” said ECPS Workforce Education Director Steven Harrell. “It is an honor to be a part of this enterprise. We are truly preparing our students for success after graduation.”

This year’s winners included:

- ◀ **Business/Industry Academy Partner Award: Criminal Justice** — Chip Simmons, Escambia County Sheriff’s Office
- ◀ **Business/Industry Academy Partner Award: Law Office** — Phil Hall P.A.
- ◀ **Middle School Career Academy Student of the Year** — Jaiden Stanton, Technology Education & Manufacturing Academy, Ransom Middle School
- ◀ **Middle School Career Academy Teacher of the Year** — Jessika Brown, Culinary Arts Academy, Bailey Middle School
- ◀ **Middle School Career Academy of the Year** — Leanne Jenkins, Agriculture – FFA, Beulah Middle School
- ◀ **High School Career Academy Student of the Year** – Jude Poller, Marketing & Entrepreneurship Academy, Booker T. Washington High School
- ◀ **High School Career Academy Scholar** — Tyson Tang, Aviation Technology Academy, Booker T. Washington High School
- ◀ **High School Career Academy Student Intern of the Year** — Lyric Woods, Marketing and Entrepreneurship Academy, Booker T. Washington High School
- ◀ **High School Career Academy Teacher of the Year** — Richard “Chip” Coleman, Agriscience Academy, J.M. Tate High School
- ◀ **High School Career Academy of the Year** — Rachel Veninga & Kristi Mead, Veterinary Science Academy, J.M. Tate High School

ACHIEVEMENTS: **SCHOOLS**

*From brick and
mortar to caps
and gowns*

We recognize that our schools are places where learning and inspiration can change lives. This is why we work hard to make our schools a place that fosters the imagination and a thirst for knowledge. A place where our students and educators are proud to share their achievements and rethink how we can raise the bar even higher.



The \$44 million upgrade to Myrtle Grove Elementary School was completely funded by the one-half cent sales tax revenue.



Elementary Schools

C.A. Weis Elementary School — continues to help struggling students glide toward excellence. The afterschool SAIL (Students Achieving Innovation and Leading) Academy provides tutoring and enrichment opportunities to their students.

New Myrtle Grove Elementary School — held an official ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony which gave community members the opportunity to see the new home for the school’s 403 PreK through fifth-grade students. The 77,000-square-foot two-story school located on Lillian Highway has features that are close to 100 years old. Historical elements pay homage to the school and the community. A mural wall with historic photographs stands perpendicular to a wall made with salvaged bricks and letters from the 1939-2023 school house. New upgrades feature all the latest technological advances — lightspeed instructional audio for teachers and a professional audiovisual system for events. With a total capacity for 636 students, the school also has an outdoor classroom, a STEM lab, and TV monitors in all the classrooms. The \$44 million upgrade was completely funded by the one-half cent sales tax revenue.

Molino Park Elementary — claimed the top spot and \$1,000 in the Superintendent’s Choose Wellness Challenge, and Ernest Ward Middle and Northview High were also tops in their respective categories.

Molino Park Elementary — collected 196 pounds of pop tabs to benefit the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Northwest Florida. The charity recycles the aluminum tabs, with the proceeds contributing to their mission of keeping families close to their children receiving medical treatment.

Scenic Heights Elementary — was crowned the 2026 Imagine Learning Literacy Bowl National Champion! The Imagine Learning Literacy Bowl is an annual, national bracket-style competition where students compete by completing digital lessons in the Imagine Language & Literacy program. This year was a record-breaking 9,437 schools from across the nation that battled it out in the 8th Annual Imagine Learning Literacy Bowl.

Sherwood Elementary School and Bellview Elementary School — Florida Power & Light Company (FPL) joined the Escambia County Education Foundation and the Escambia County School District to celebrate the completion of two STEM Classroom Makeovers at these elementary schools. FPL’s STEM Classroom Makeover Grant program, now in its fifth year, provides \$50,000 grants for eligible Florida schools to provide transformational learning opportunities in historically disadvantaged K-12 classrooms. The redesigned classrooms now boast new STEM technology to help enhance student engagement and foster creativity.

Sherwood Elementary — celebrated its 70th anniversary with a special community event, on campus, which was open to alumni, former staff, families, and community members. The 70th birthday celebration offers a chance to reflect on the school’s rich history while showcasing how it has grown and evolved to serve new generations of students.

Sherwood Elementary — was officially recognized as a Leader in Me Lighthouse School, a distinguished honor that highlights excellence in leadership, culture, and academic achievement. This recognition reflects years of dedication by students, staff, and the broader school community to fostering a culture of leadership, accountability, and continuous growth. The Lighthouse designation is awarded to schools that demonstrate outstanding implementation of the Leader in Me framework and measurable positive outcomes in both student development and academic performance. As a Lighthouse School, Sherwood Elementary will serve as a model for other schools, providing opportunities to share best practices and inspire continued transformation in education.

West Pensacola Elementary — a group of 6th grade students launched an inspiring initiative called the Look for the Good Project. This student-led effort was created to promote kindness, gratitude, and positivity throughout our entire school community. The students designed and created colorful posters encouraging others to “Look for the Good,” placed orange gratitude dots on the floors throughout the school and helped create a Gratitude Wall where everyone could participate.

From family members and friends to teachers, and favorite things, students proudly expressed their appreciation. The Gratitude Wall quickly became a highlight of the week. Students eagerly added sticky notes sharing messages of thanks, kind words, and positive thoughts. Each note helped build a powerful display of appreciation and unity. As part of the project, the school created and distributed special “You Matter” letters to people students felt grateful for. These heartfelt letters allowed students to personally thank those who have made a difference in their lives. In addition, “You Matter” cards were given out whenever someone was “caught” doing something kind. Whether it was helping a classmate or simply offering a smile, these cards recognized and celebrated acts of kindness throughout the day.



Middle Schools

Beulah Middle School FFA chapter — earned first and second place finishes at the recent district competition.

Beulah Middle School — secured third place with 209 points In the girls’ division at the annual Middle School Swim and Dive Championships.

Beulah Middle School — the FFA Aquaculture CDE Team earning fourth place in state in the middle school division at the Florida FFA State Aquaculture Career Development Event Contest at the UF IFAS Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory.

Beulah Middle School — the FFA program was among five in the state to be selected as 2026 Chapter Agriculture Advocacy Award finalists. The program is designed to encourage FFA members to participate in agricultural literacy and awareness projects on the local level.

Beulah Middle School — the FFA was awarded a National FFA service-learning grant to support a community project focused on addressing food insecurity.

Brown Barge Middle School — claimed the annual Middle School Swim and Dive Championships title in the girls’ division with an impressive 275 points.

Brown Barge Middle School — rounded out the top three in the annual Middle School Swim and Dive Championships in the boys division with 213 points.

Ernest Ward Middle School — Horse Judging team placed 15th overall in the state finals.

Ransom Middle School — The Ransom Academic Team finishes as Top Public School at Middle School Invitational Tournament, placing third overall out of 12 teams from across the Florida Panhandle and Alabama.

Ransom Middle School — Cheerleader team finished second in the Large Junior High Intermediate division at UCA Nationals. It was the first trip to Nationals for Ransom Cheer in 13 years.

Ransom Middle School — The Academic Team took second In Beulah Academy Tournament. In a field of eight teams from four schools, the Ransom C team made the playoffs, and the Ransom A team won the semifinal over King Middle.

Ransom Middle School — finished a strong second with 233 points In the girls’ division at the annual Middle School Swim and Dive Championships.

Ransom Middle School — captured the annual Middle School Swim and Dive Championships title in the boys division with 249 points.

Ferry Pass Middle School and Ransom Middle School — were awarded the Music Enrollment Awards at the Florida Music Educators Association (FMEA) Conference for having over 45% of students enrolled in choir, band, or orchestra. The FMEA Professional Learning Conference is one of the largest music education professional learning events in the United States.

Ferry Pass Middle School — at the 2026 Emerald Coast Regional Odyssey of the Mind Tournament, Ferry Pass teams earned awards in all Problem categories with one team earning a prestigious OMER award for exemplifying the philosophy and spirit of Odyssey of the Mind. Three of the teams qualified for and will be advancing to the Florida State Odyssey of the Mind Tournament in Orlando where they will compete with teams from all over Florida.

- Problem 1 Vehicle- “Off the Rails” coached by Michelle Speas – 3rd Place, State Qualifier — **Mia Mazor, Carter Martin, Waylon Morris**
- Problem 2 Technical- “Lost in Omerland” coached by Melissa Hughes- 2nd Place, State Qualifier — **Bryce Poole, Levi Armand, Zachary Goodyear, Madelyn Hitchcock, Peyton Stewart, Neveah Smith, Muhammad Abdallah**
- Problem 3 Classics- “Classics...The Epic Quest” coached by Kaye Worley- 1st Place, State, Qualifier, OMER Award — **Ty Hubbart, Jude Baughman, Tyler Jackson, Sophia Goodyear, Hayden Hollobaugh**
- Problem 4 Structure- “Life’s a Ball” coached by Michelle Stephens & Tara Johnson- 2nd Place — **Guiliana Perry, Josephine Lynch, Joslin Lee, Taliana Johnson**
- Problem 5 Performance- “Taller Tales of John Jivery” coached by Cheri Stoker- 2nd Place — **Nathanael Perry, Leona Vera Long, Ariel Vincent, James Bain, Charlotte Moss, Emmaline Cartee, Ryleigh Webb**

Ferry Pass Middle School — earned the runner-up title in the annual Middle School Swim and Dive Championships in the boys division with 235 points.

Workman Middle School — boys basketball teams dominated the 2025–2026 season, with both varsity and junior varsity teams securing Escambia County championships with undefeated records. The varsity team achieved their fifth consecutive championship with a 50–0 record over five seasons, while the JV team finished 20–0 over two years.





2026 FHSAA Class 5A Girls Basketball State Championship — **Booker T. Washington High School Lady Wildcats** and the 2026 Class 5A Coach-of-the-Year and 2026 Florida Dairy Farmers Girls' Basketball Coach of the Year — **Coach Jade Brown**.

High Schools

Four ECPS High Schools Earn Advanced Placement Honor Roll Recognition — were awarded Advanced Placement (AP) Honor Roll Recognition by the College Board.

- ◀ Pensacola High School earned Silver status
- ◀ Booker T. Washington High School, J.M. Tate High School, and West Florida High School earned Bronze status.

College Board's Advanced Placement® Program (AP®) enables students to pursue college level studies with the opportunity to earn college credit, advanced placement, or both while still in high school. Through AP courses, students learn to think critically, construct solid arguments, and see many sides of an issue, skills that prepare them for college and beyond.

Booker T. Washington boys and girls basketball — won FHSAA district titles, back-to-back District 1-5A basketball champions.

Booker T. Washington High School — Lady Wildcats won the 2026 FHSAA Class 5A Girls Basketball State Championship.

Booker T. Washington High School boys swim team — finished 14th, the highest placement for a local team.

Booker T. Washington High School girls flag football team — set a new program record with 11 wins and won their first state playoff game in program history and Escambia County history with a 7-0 victory at St. Augustine in the Region 1-2A quarterfinal.

Booker T. Washington High School — The Aquatic Center at Booker T. Washington High School offers a free Elementary Swim and Dive Program to K to 5th graders in the Spring and affordable Sealion Program in the summer for K to 8th graders. The programs provide an orientation to basic water safety, an introduction to competitive swimming, with focus on improvement on freestyle and backstroke techniques, an introduction to freestyle and backstroke starts and flip turns, an introduction to 1-meter springboard safety skills and more.

Northview's FFA chapter — took top honors at District. The Northview Parliamentary Procedure team took first place, and Jackson Simmons placed first in the Farm Bureau District Discussion Meet Contest.

Northview High School — Lady Chiefs softball team is the Rural District 1 Champs, the Lady Chiefs' second district championship since 2019.

Northview High School — The boys baseball team won the Rural District 1 championship.

Northview High School — the NROTC placed in several events at the Gator Games in Pensacola including first in sit-ups, second in push-ups, and third in the Australian trolley.

Northview High School — the FFA program was among five in the state to be selected as 2026 Chapter Agriculture Advocacy Award finalists. The program is designed to encourage FFA members to participate in agricultural literacy and awareness projects on the local level.

Tate High School — the girls track and field teams won the District 1-3A championship.

Tate High School — won first place in the high school competition at the District 1 FFA Forestry Career Development Event.

Tate High School — Aggie varsity and junior varsity cheerleaders finished among the top squads at the UCA High School Nationals.

The Tate High School Showband of the South — earned straight superior ratings in the Florida Bandmasters Association District 1 Marching MPA, achieving straight superiors for the 54th consecutive year.

Tate High boys golf team — captured what is believed to be the first boys district golf championship in school history at the District 1-3A championship at Stonebrook Golf Club in Pace.

Tate High School — announced a new partnership between the Tate Quarterback Club and alumni Paul and Karen Bowers, who have generously provided Tate High School with new technology that will transform both the student learning experience and the Friday night football atmosphere. Through their support, Tate High School has received production communication headsets, video cameras, wireless transmitters, system switches, and Daktronics instructional software for the TV & Multimedia Academy. This cutting-edge equipment will allow students to gain real-world, hands-on experience in live production.

The Multimedia Academy students ran the video board on game nights and fans are seeing an upgraded experience similar to what you would find at large sporting events and concerts, with student-led camera work, instant replays, and enhanced production.

Tate High School — the Army JROTC program achieved historic success at the Sixth Brigade Florida State Drill Team and Color Guard Competition. Competing against roughly 120 of the state's top programs, the Aggie cadets secured two prestigious third-place finishes in Female Platoon Regulation and Female Squad Unarmed Regulation.

Tate High School — the FFA Aquaculture CDE Team made history by earning first place at the Florida FFA State Aquaculture Career Development Event Contest at the UF IFAS Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory.

Tate High School — the FFA chapter has been named one of "Florida's Finest" chapters. Recognizing the Tate FFA chapter for actively implementing the mission and strategies of the organization to grow leaders, build communities and strengthen agriculture.

Pine Forest football — wins District 1-4A title.

West Florida High — named to the U.S. News & World Report "Best High Schools" list. West Florida High School of Advanced Technology was a "Best High Schools" winner, earning a national ranking for the 2025-26 school year.

West Florida High School — home to a growing, highly motivated Electrathon race car team that provides students with hands-on experience in engineering, teamwork, and real-world problem-solving. The WFHS Electrathon team's newest all-electric vehicle was custom built and designed by the student-members of the team in order to honor the Escambia County Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Office has played a key role in shaping the Electrathon program and become a strong community partner with West Florida High School.

The team is made up of around 25 students and is focused on much more than racing. Students learn critical life and technical skills, including working effectively as a team, problem-solving, critical thinking, engineering design, battery management, gear ratios, fabrication, and data analysis. Electrathon racing is not about speed—it is about energy efficiency and endurance, with cars competing in one-hour races to see who can go the farthest on a limited amount of energy.

West Florida's Electrathon team has traveled across Florida to compete at major tracks, including Daytona International Speedway, Homestead-Miami Speedway, and Five Flags Speedway. These opportunities give students exposure to professional racing environments while applying classroom knowledge in real, high-stakes situations and preparing students not only for competition, but for future careers in engineering, technology, and skilled trades.

Alternative Schools

Escambia Westgate Center — celebrated the 20th anniversary of the opening of the Lacey A. Collier Sensory Complex, where students utilize the areas individually, in small groups or as a whole class depending on the needs of each student. This multi-sensory complex was designed based on the Snoezelen (pronounced SNOO-zuh-len) concept developed in the Netherlands over 30 years ago. The word "snoezelen" is a combination of two Dutch words meaning "to explore" and "to relax." A Snoezelen multi-sensory environment employs colors, lights, textures, and music to elicit a variety of responses from individuals with disabilities.

The University of West Florida's Center for Behavior Analysis is working closely with the faculty and staff at Westgate to determine the Snoezelen Center's impact on classroom behavior, pairing graduate students training to become Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBA) with the most specialized educational environments in the region. Additionally, the center hosts other district schools, as well as organizations from different states and countries, in order to assist them as they create their own centers.

George Stone Technical College — preps students for aerospace jobs with approval of Field International Aerospace Company. George Stone will be working with Field International to tailor a program to the company's needs.



By the Numbers

ENROLLMENT 33,345

Advanced placement, honors, and college in high school courses, as of March 2024:

1,244

Seniors with GPA of 4.00 and above.

Advanced Placement	2,144
International Baccalaureate	96
Dual Enrollment	610
Honors	7,453
AP, IB, DE, or Honors	10,303

WORK BASED LEARNING – CAREER ACADEMIES

Percentage of students earning CAPE Certifications:

77% High School

73% Middle School

56 Unique CAPE Certifications offered

CAPE Certifications Earned:

22-23 SY: 8,731 24-25 SY: 13,492 (7,194 w/o digital tools)

23-24 SY: 10,835 25-26 SY: 6,141 Does not include Digital Tools, as they are no longer able to be earned in middle school.

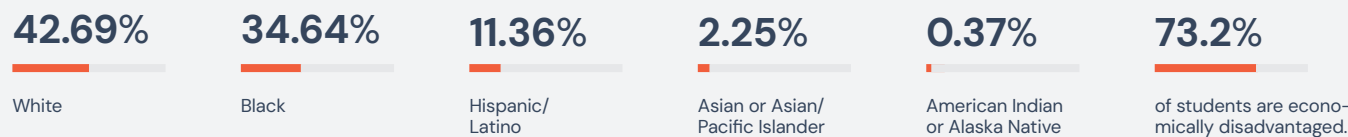
51,833 Certificates earned over the past 5 years (including 2025/2026)

SCHOOL GRADES

A 16 Schools B 18 Schools C 16 Schools D 3 Schools

Four of our high schools have 'B' grades and five of our middle schools have 'A' or 'B' grades. Ernest Ward Middle School being the most improved, earning an impressive 130 more points than in 2024—an increase of 30.2%.

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS



TOTAL EMPLOYEES 4,926

Admin 180

ESP 1,829

Instructional 2,559

Professional 358

52% Instructional

VOLUNTEERS & MENTORS

150 +

Volunteers (Across all grade levels)

2,995

Volunteer Hours

145

Active Mentors (District wide)

2,520

Mentor Hours Logged (Individual and Group Mentoring)

STUDENT HEALTH & WELLNESS

87 School Nurses

5 District RNs

16 RNs through ALOA Care Group

7 LPNs through ALOA Care Group

59 Health Technicians

124 School Counselors & Psychologists

65 School Counselors

16 Psychologists

11 High School Academic Advisors

32 Mental Health Counselors

Community Partnership Schools with on-site clinics:

C. A. Weis ES

Bellview MS

Pine Forest HS

SCHOOLS

ELEMENTARY 32

MIDDLE 8

HIGH 7

ALTERNATIVE CENTERS

George Stone Technical College
Acceleration Academy
Achieve Academy
Escambia County Jail
Escambia Juvenile Justice Center
Escambia Westgate Center
Hope Horizon
P.A.C.E. Program
Success Academy

CHARTER SCHOOLS

Beulah Academy of Science
Byrneville Elementary
Capstone Academy
Jacqueline Harris Preparatory Academy
Pensacola Beach Elementary School
Pensacola State College Charter Academy
Warrington Preparatory Academy

PURPLE STAR SCHOOLS

The purpose of the Purple Star School of Distinction Designation is to recognize schools that support the unique needs of military families, help military-connected students navigate critical challenges, and provide resources for military-connected students when transitioning to a new school environment. The program was established by the Florida Legislature (House Bill 429) and signed into law in June 2021.

To earn the Florida Purple Star School of Distinction Designation, schools are required to maintain the following:

- ◀ A school military point of contact to serve as the central liaison for military families.
- ◀ A school webpage for military students and families that includes resources like academic planning, transition planning, and educational opportunities.
- ◀ A student-led transition program to assist military students coming into the school.
- ◀ Staff professional development to identify and respond to the needs of military families.
- ◀ Five (5) percent open enrollment seats for military students and families.
- ◀ Three additional activities to support military families such as participating in a service project to connect the school with the military community, hosting an annual military recognition event, or offering a JROTC program, among others.

35 CURRENT PURPLE STAR SCHOOLS OF DISTINCTION:

◀ 7 High (All)

◀ 9 Middle (All)

◀ 19 Elementary

The Florida Department of Education recognized 17 new Escambia County Public Schools as Purple Star Schools of Distinction during the 2025–2026 school year. The most recent schools to achieve this honor are:

- ◀ A.K. Suter Elementary School
- ◀ Bellview Middle School
- ◀ Beulah Academy of Science
- ◀ Blue Angels Elementary School
- ◀ Ensley Elementary School
- ◀ Escambia High School
- ◀ Ferry Pass Middle School
- ◀ Global Learning Academy
- ◀ Jim Allen Elementary School

- ◀ Jim C. Bailey Middle School
- ◀ McArthur Elementary School
- ◀ Montclair Elementary School
- ◀ N.B. Cook Elementary School
- ◀ Northview High School
- ◀ Pine Meadow Elementary School
- ◀ West Florida High School
- ◀ West Pensacola Elementary School





Schools recognized with the Purple Star School of Distinction Designation:

HIGH SCHOOLS

- Escambia High School
- Northview High School
- Pensacola High School
- Pine Forest High School
- Tate High School
- Washington High School
- West Florida High School

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

- Bailey Middle School
- Bellview Middle School
- Beulah Academy of Science
- Beulah Middle School
- Brown Barge Middle School
- Ernest Ward Middle School
- Ferry Pass Middle School
- Ransom Middle School
- Workman Middle School

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

- AK Suter Elementary School
- Bellview Elementary School
- Beulah Elementary School
- Blue Angels Elementary School
- Ensley Elementary School
- Ferry Pass Elementary School
- Global Learning Academy
- Hellen Caro Elementary School
- Jim Allen Elementary School
- Kingsfield Elementary School
- Lipscomb Elementary School
- McArthur Elementary School
- Montclair Elementary School
- Navy Point Elementary School
- NB Cook Elementary School
- Pine Meadow Elementary School
- Pleasant Grove Elementary School
- West Pensacola Elementary School

TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

- George Stone Technical School

TECH RESOURCES

- 1:1 digital devices (Chromebooks and iPads) for all students in grades K-12 to support the personalized learning model.
- Metropolitan Area Network (MAN) comprised of 10 Gbps connections to every major facility with some redundant fiber and point-to-point wireless connections.
- Local network and cloud service accounts for all students and staff across a series of platforms (Google and Microsoft).
- Parent and community communication through the district’s websites, district’s and school’s social media, Drumroll newsletter, Podcast, Focus, phone calls, text messages, and streaming services such as graduations and School Board meetings.
- Canvas was implemented as our Learning Management System in 2022–2023 to benefit stakeholders connected to Escambia County Public Schools.

For teachers, Canvas streamlines course management, enhances communication, simplifies grading, provides data insights, and acts as a central resource hub.

Teacher Usage:

- 22–23: 21%
- 23–24: 38%
- 24–25: 68%
- 25–26: 69%

For students, Canvas offers easy access to materials, improves organization, enhances communication, and provides real-time feedback.

Student Usage:

- 22–23: 36%
- 23–24: 52%
- 24–25: 78%
- 25–26: 79%

- Overall, Canvas enhances the educational experience by improving organization, communication, and accessibility for all users.
- Since adopting Canvas two years ago, we have seen a dramatic increase in usage at the school level due to a concerted training effort with administrators, teachers, and families. The statistical data below outlines this growth:

TRANSPORTATION

- 19,000 students:
- 215 daily run school buses
 - 416 total buses
 - 10 buses for auction and 200 spare buses
 - 31,500 miles/day

FOOD SERVICES

- Number of meals served:
- Breakfast – 10,000 per day
 - Lunch – 20,000 per day
- Top three favorite entrees:
- Pizza
 - Southwest nachos
 - Chicken sandwich



WEEKLY PODCAST

Our Voices United in Education Podcast was recognized as the 2025 Best Podcast of the Coast by InWeekly magazine. It has become the top resource for parents and guardians in Escambia County to learn about scholarship, mentoring, afterschool, summer camp and a world of community educational and support programs. To date, we have recorded 200+ episodes that have seen more than 92,500 downloads.



The top three episodes are:

- 1. Ep 172 — **Emerald water = big green careers for boat tech!** with Stefan Schmitt
- 2. Ep 42 — **Snowball effect: Student success story** with Jamal Sharp
- 3. Ep 161 — **What’s the 411 on 911 jobs?** with Lee Gilreath

New episodes are launched weekly and can be accessed at VoicesUnitedinEducation.com or wherever you listen to podcasts.



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



ANNUAL EVENT

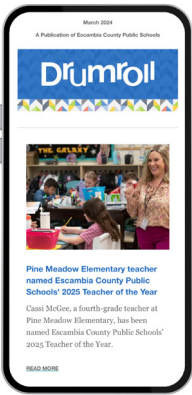
More than 350 families attended our second **Podcastapalooza** on Saturday, February 28th at Booker T. Washington High School. It was a special day and an incredible opportunity for parents and guardians to talk with the guests behind our **Voices United in Education** Podcast about free tutoring, after care, scholarships, and other programs and resources available to them and their children. The event included teachable moments with different species of critters, a live presentation by Animal Tales.

Podcast to Podcastapalooza—none of this would have been possible without the talent and efforts of our podcast host and producer, Meredith Hackwith Edwards and all the incredible guests and participants who stand united in our vision for every student to succeed. It also takes a team to produce every episode and document the different storylines for the community to hear.



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Our Drumroll newsletter shares the latest and greatest news being covered in Escambia County about our incredible students, talented teachers, successful graduates, innovative programs, and more. Don't miss a beat! Become a subscriber by signing up on our website.

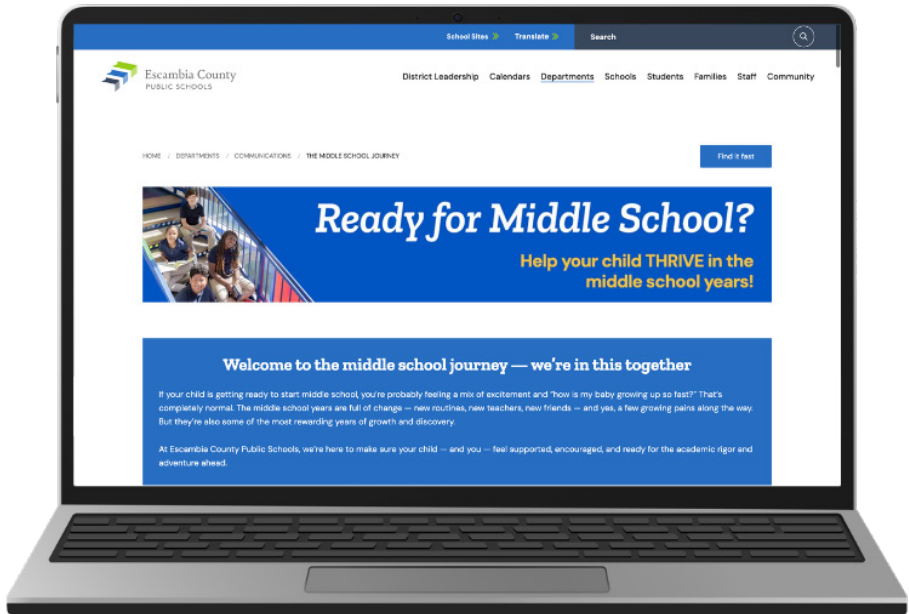


DIGITAL TOOLS

In 2024, Escambia County School District Professional Learning Department launched a new digital resource for teachers, complete with an easy-to-navigate list of websites, training modules, instructions, and guides to some of the more regular tasks and challenges teachers encounter.

From there, the District and all our schools migrated to a new website platform to make communications with parents and teachers, and the sharing of information, more intuitive and robust.

Guidance and helpful information was also curated specifically for the parents and guardians of middle school students. This new page on the District's website was developed as a resource to help parents, guardians and students navigate the too often turbulent middle school years.



STRATEGIC PLAN

In 2023, we launched a five-year Strategic Plan for the Escambia County Public Schools. The plan reflects our commitment to achieving the vision that emerged from the planning process—United For Every Student to Succeed. This vision provides a singular focus for our destination and the plan is our roadmap for getting there.

The following five areas of strategic focus continue to serve as our guideposts:

- 1 Students.** Our students are at the center of all we do. We will build on our successes while intensifying our emphasis on preparing all students to graduate ready to become productive citizens.
- 2 Employees.** We know learning is elevated when students are surrounded by people who can unleash their full potential. Thus, establishing a healthy culture that supports high-performing teachers, leaders, and staff is critical.
- 3 Leadership.** Our system is complex. We must work in unison to achieve shared goals. Agreed upon planning and reporting structures will support a unified, results focused leadership team that advances the performance of our entire school system.
- 4 Business.** Escambia County Public Schools must be a good steward of funding and other resources entrusted to our organization. We will prioritize financial and operational resources in the best interest of all students and the community.
- 5 Community Engagement.** Educating our students is bigger than what happens in the classroom. We need our entire community unified and “All In” to advance the success of our students. Thus, we will be proactive in our resolve to build the excellence of Escambia County Public Schools on the foundation of support from our community of stakeholders.

These five areas provide focus for our efforts and resource allocations through the next five years. Our divisions, departments, and schools are adding additional details to this plan which are tied to a dashboard for reporting our progress.

We are optimistic about the future of our schools and the future we are building for our students.

Our vision is bold. Our mission is clear. We will stand united for every student to succeed.

Five Areas
of Strategic
Focus



Strategic Focus #1

STUDENTS

All Students Graduate
Ready to Become
Productive Citizens

STATEMENT OF INTENTION

We uphold a “student first” approach to preparing today’s learners for tomorrow’s opportunities. By providing inspirational, world-class instruction, we will close the achievement gap while supporting the development of well-rounded students.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- On-Time Graduation Rate of 90% or Higher.
- Elementary Reading, Writing and Math Scores of 3 or Higher.
- Middle School Reading, Writing and Math Scores of 3 or Higher.
- High School Reading, Writing, Algebra and Geometry Scores of 3 or Higher.
- Annual Increase in Student Acceleration Scores.

GOALS

- Close the academic achievement gap throughout the school system.
- Deliver highly effective instruction and challenging curriculum and programs.

Strategic Focus #2

EMPLOYEES

A Healthy Culture
that Supports High-
Performing Teachers,
Leaders, and Staff

STATEMENT OF INTENTION

We create a positive organizational climate where employees feel encouraged, supported, and valued. Through our commitment to collaboration, professional development, and amplifying experts within our ranks, we will increase employee engagement and commitment.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- Employee Engagement Assessment Scores of 4 or Higher.

GOALS

- Unify employee commitment and ownership of our mission.
- Recruit and retain employees committed to our mission.
- Support a positive organizational climate.

Strategic Focus #3

LEADERSHIP

Unified,
Results-Focused
Leadership

STATEMENT OF INTENTION

We elevate the performance of the entire school system by breaking down silos to leverage our combined efforts. By aligning our goals through consistent and transparent communication, we will increase teamwork, responsiveness, and efficiencies to drive exceptional outcomes.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- Leadership Alignment Assessment Gap Reduced Each Year.

GOALS

- Align school and department-based planning with the district-level strategic plan.
- Align systems to increase responsiveness, efficiency and results.
- Communicate performance improvements proactively and with transparency.

Strategic Focus #4

BUSINESS

Financial &
Operational
Stewardship

STATEMENT OF INTENTION

We prioritize resources in the best interest of all students and the community. By operating in a strategic, responsible and transparent manner, we will demonstrate our commitment to being good stewards of taxpayer dollars.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- Operational Efficiency and Effectiveness in Top Quartile Annually.
- Financial Condition Ratio of 8%.

GOALS

- Align, develop and allocate resources as guided by the district vision.
- Demonstrate financial efficiency and transparency.
- Operate safe, secure and well-managed facilities.

Strategic Focus #5

COMMUNITY

Informed, Engaged
Stakeholders as
Advocates

STATEMENT OF INTENTION

We build the success of our schools on the foundational support from our community of stakeholders. By continuously creating avenues for communication, engagement and advocacy, we will increase pride in, and support for, our schools.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- Stakeholder Perception and Engagement Assessment Scores of 100%.

GOALS

- Position Escambia County Public Schools as the first choice for education and employment.
- Promote community-wide advocacy and investment to support student success.
- Build community pride in, and support for, Escambia County Public Schools.

District Highlights

In year four of our five-year strategic plan, we made significant progress to achieve our Areas of Strategic Focus. All starting at the top with the resolute and passionate leadership from our school board, educators and staff, and administrative teams at each and every elementary, middle and high school.

STUDENT HEALTH & SAFETY

- ◀ A new Florida bill, House Bill 1135 also known as the Second Chance Act, requires ECG or EKG testing for student-athletes, starting in the 2026-2027 school year. Escambia County Public Schools is ahead of the curve. Four years ago, we partnered with local organizations to provide ECGs for our student-athletes with signed consent from their parents.

FACILITIES PLANNING

- ◀ Occupied new MGE. Began construction of a performing art center at Escambia High School and started design on the one at Tate High School. Entered the final phase of renovation at Pine Meadow Elementary School.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- ◀ Replaced infrastructure components to improve availability of digital resources.
- ◀ Improved data and analytics capabilities offered through the district’s enterprise resource systems.

NEW WEBSITE

<https://www.escambiaschools.org/departments/internal-auditing/the-office-of-internal-auditing>

School Voucher Funding Issues

For the last few years, hundreds of students who received Family Empowerment Scholarships to attend charter or private schools or to be homeschooled have ended up enrolled in Escambia County Public Schools. More commonly known as school vouchers, Family Empowerment Scholarships are funded by taxpayers and the Florida Tax Credit program, which is privately funded by corporate donors.

This academic (2025-2026) year, 3,200 students (1,838 Family Empowerment Scholarship-Educational Options and 1,388 Family Empowerment Scholarship-Unique Abilities) from Escambia County received vouchers. Of those, more than nine percent actually ended up back in Escambia County Public School classrooms.

The problem is, Escambia County and other public school systems across Florida are having difficulty recouping state funding for those students, which is causing budget shortfalls and operating challenges for us and other public school

CHILDREN’S TRUST TO FUND FREE EYE EXAMS, GLASSES AND CARE FOR ECPS STUDENTS

Escambia Children’s Trust plans to fund a program with Community Health of Northwest Florida to bring free eye exams and glasses to all students in Escambia County Public Schools.

FOOD DRIVE

Escambia County Public Schools (ECPS) has again partnered with Manna Food Pantries to collect non-perishable food items for those in need in Escambia County.

This year’s drive collected 23,557 pounds of food for Manna’s food pantry – the equivalent of 27,844 meals to our neighbors in need. Under the direction of ECPS’s Office of Community Involvement, and in conjunction with the District’s Warehouse Services department, Escambia County schools and district offices were able to deliver 29 pallets of boxes filled with food to Manna.

Escambia County Public Schools, through donations of food and funds over the years, has provided more than 217,000 meals for our neighbors in need.

District Highlights

DISTRICT’S INTERNAL AUDITING OFFICE

Escambia County Public Schools maintains a highly effective internal auditing function. The Office of Internal Auditing, under the supervision of the Audit Committee and School Board, and in cooperation with the Superintendent and District staff, performs a wide variety of activities which help contribute to the District’s success. Each year, the Office of Internal Auditing conducts audits of the internal accounts of 50 District schools. Over \$7 million flows in and out of these accounts each year.

In addition, the Office helps safeguard the District’s assets by conducting physical asset inventories each year of the District’s 43,000+ assets, valued at over \$100 million, which include items such as computers, furniture, vehicles, athletic equipment, etc.

The Office assists with the District’s various governance activities, including the monitoring of approximately 80 outside support organizations such as booster clubs, PTAs, etc. Approximately \$3 million flows through these organizations each year. The Office also assists in monitoring of the District’s Fraud, Waste, and Abuse Anonymous Reporting Hotline.

Pursuant to its annual work plan, the Office conducts regular audits and reviews of the District’s operations, with the goal of improving efficiency and ensuring compliance with laws, rules, contracts, policies, and best practices. One of the Office’s most vital functions is the coordination of financial recoveries from insurance and FEMA for natural disasters. Over the last 25+ years, the Office has recovered over \$125 million from nine major disasters. The Office is proud to be one of the many District functions that are United for Every Student to Succeed.

NEW DIRECTOR OF INTERNAL AUDITING

McKenzie Lane has been appointed as the new Director of Internal Auditing. She previously worked for the District as a Senior Auditor before leaving to join Saltmarsh, Cleaveland, & Gund. She has now returned to the District in this leadership role. She holds a combined 15 years of experience in the finance and accounting sector for the following industries: Education, Financial Institutions, Construction, and small businesses. She currently serves on the Audit Committee for a local financial institution, Loyalty Credit Union. She also serves as a member of the Board of Directors for Manna Food Pantries, the local food pantry in our community.

NEW INTERNAL AUDITING TECHNICIAN

Sara Heuer. Former intern of the Office of Internal Auditing. She is currently a Senior at The University of West Florida and is majoring in Accounting.

NEW AUDITOR

David Roever. Came to ECPS from Navy Federal Credit Union. David is a former fraud investigator and Law Enforcement Officer. He is a veteran of the United States Marine Corps.

QUALITY ASSURANCE REVIEW

Every 5 years the Office of Internal Auditing goes through a Quality Assurance Review. This review evaluates the activities of ECPS’ internal audit function and determines whether policies, procedures and practices of the function adhere to The Institute of Internal Auditors’ (The IIA) Core Principles, Global Internal Audit Standards, and the Code of Ethics. The results of the review were communicated to the Office of Internal Auditing in June 2025. The ECPS Office of Internal Auditing received the following results: “It is our opinion that The School District of Escambia County, Office of Internal Auditing’s internal quality control system was adequately designed and operating effectively to provide reasonable assurance of conformance with the Standards for engagements during the period July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2024.”

INVENTORY

Beginning in 2026, the Office of Internal Auditing implemented surveys as the final step in our inventory audit process. These surveys are distributed to school-based IT technicians and focus on customer service–related feedback. They provide an opportunity for technicians to share suggestions for improving efficiency, identify areas where we can enhance our processes, and offer feedback. We are pleased to report that our office has maintained an average rating of “Excellent,” and we sincerely appreciate the valuable feedback we have received.

The 2026 inventory year has started out strong with our office reporting, as of April 6, 2026, only 5 missing items out of 8,226 inventoried thus far, totaling approximately \$8.3 million worth of assets. Since January 1, 2026, the Office of Internal Auditing has recovered 61 assets that were considered “lost” totalling an original cost of \$49,057.45. Fun fact, the oldest asset recovered this year by our office was from 2019.

INTERNAL FUNDS

The office audited 20 school’s internal funds for the 2024–2025 school year. A total of 7 schools had perfect audits this year. Ferry Pass Middle school has had perfect internal funds audits since 2003!

Long-Term Financial Planning

The District's financial objectives for general operating revenue may be summarized as follows:

1. Provide for adequate classroom resources and operational support to accomplish curriculum and instructional goals.
2. Provide for a competitive salary and benefits program for all employees.
3. Maintain adequate fund balance and financial condition consistent with School Board policy.

Awards and Acknowledgements

The District's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, received the following awards:

- ◀ The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA).
- ◀ The Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Association of School Business Officials (ASBO).

This was the seventeenth consecutive year that the District's ACFR has been so recognized and demonstrates the District's commitment to transparency for the benefit of the taxpayers of Escambia County. Accordingly, the District's 2024-245 ACFR is currently under review for such consideration..

The timely preparation of this report was made possible by the dedicated service of the entire staff of the Finance and Business Services department. Each member of the department has our sincere appreciation for the contributions made in the preparation of this report.

Safety & Security

Escambia County Public Schools continues to lead the way in the State of Florida in ensuring a safe-school environment for our students and staff. Audits conducted by the Florida Department of Education continue to show the highest levels of compliance with school safety laws throughout the state. Through partnerships with the Escambia County Sheriff's Office and Pensacola Police Department, all public schools have a law enforcement officer or school guardian daily. We welcomed 10 new armed Guardians to protect our elementary schools and continue to train additional Guardians for the 2026-2027 school year. Our schools continue to randomly screen students for the possession of weapons and illegal drugs throughout the school year. In addition, we continue to apply for and receive thousands of dollars annually in grant funding for the physical hardening of our schools.

ESCAMBIA COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

The Mission of the Escambia County Public Schools Foundation is to enhance education by investing in our students to ensure their success. The Foundation is proving to be a strategic partner in education with the Escambia County Public Schools through collaboration and focused programs that align with the District's strategic plan.

The Foundation has grown exponentially over the past three years in both revenue and new programs. New Board Members bring a broad range of experience and expertise, and the Program Manager supports the programs and grant reporting.

MAJOR PROGRAMS

\$100,555.13 was awarded for 19 projects in classrooms, at schools, and to departments through Grants for Excellence that focus on literacy, low-performing students, improving graduation rates, and resiliency. Projects included calm down rooms, Electrathon cars, a field trip to the Pensacola Opera, Cochlear equipment, virtual reality systems



and so much more. Some major outcomes were a 683% increase in Carpentry certifications, 53% decrease in discipline referrals and 170% increase in Kindergarten literacy growth. The State of Florida Matching Grant Program funded half of the program in 2026.



School District Education
Foundation Matching
Grant Program

TOOLS FOR TEACHERS

This online teacher resource store now in its third year, provides free classroom supplies to educators and their students. A collaborative project with the Escambia County Public Schools Warehouse, the program serves 3,000 educators in our county. The online store includes supplies that teachers identified as the ones they most often use their own money to purchase.

During the 2025-2026 school year, Tools for Teachers cost \$150,000 to operate. The Central Warehouse processed 1,500 orders to educators district-wide this year,



Community partners and volunteers are a huge part of this program packing 28,630 items to send to the schools. The most popular item was facial tissues and also popular are snacks for students in the classroom.

Large private and corporate donations, grants, and part of the State of Florida Matching Grant Program funds were used to purchase inventory. This is a true community flagship project that will require partnership and support to sustain!

MIRA & SENIOR ACADEMIC AWARDS

Each year, the Foundation recognizes the top seniors in the Arts and Academics at our high schools. Ten students at each high school are awarded MIRA Awards for their creative and artistic talents in fine arts. Academic Awards are given to the



Top Five students—top students in each major subject area and National Merit Finalists at each High School. Recipients receive a medallion to wear with their cap and gown at graduation and are recognized at Senior Night.



FAMILY FUN DAY—EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION

The Foundation partners with local sponsors to host an annual event inviting all ECPS employees and their families to a Family Fun Day at the Wahoos Stadium to show our appreciation for their dedication to the students in Escambia County.

TAKE STOCK IN CHILDREN

Take Stock in Children is a statewide program operated locally by the Escambia County Public Schools Foundation. This program provides a mentor, a college success coach, workshops, and college readiness assistance. Students are held accountable for their grades, attendance, behavior, and commit to remain crime and drug free. At graduation, if standards are maintained, students receive a 4-year tuition scholarship. Currently 189 students, grades



7-12, are in the program with 60% on the honor roll and 28 graduates for May 2026 are registered for college and vocational/technical programs for summer and fall of 2026. 125 Take Stock Scholars are attending college and vocational/technical programs. Since inception, there have been 200 + graduates, including Associates, Bachelors, Masters, PhD/ JD/MD's, and Vocational/Technical Certifications.

Take Stock in Children Scholars selected in 2025

- ◀ Bailey Middle — **Olivia Cipriano, Nevaeh Hadder, Aria Hungerford, Semaiah Nitzke-Jenkins, Ashton McMahan, Mary Soper, Zachary Soper, Ramon Spann, Jr., Malachi Williamson, and Killian Williamson**
- ◀ Bellview Middle — **Levi Paul** (formerly of West Pensacola Elementary)
- ◀ Beulah Middle — **David Hall, Lillymae Knight, Basileigh Olford, and Kaylee Spearman**
- ◀ Brown Barge Middle — **Faisal Abumohaimed, Barin Barthwell, Giovanna Capocci, Tyson Culliver, Dakoda Ellis, Trevor O'Neill, Duc Tran, and Chloe Wood**

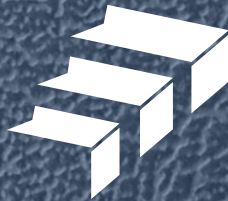
- ◀ Dixon School of Arts & Sciences — **Annelly Barcia, Ezekiel Chase, and Lavon Slater, Jr.**
- ◀ Ernest Ward Middle — **Brantley Laborde**
- ◀ Ferry Pass Middle — **James Bain, Nigel DeVaughn, Coriana Powell** (formerly of Cordova Park Elementary), **Stephen Williams, Tiana Williams, Zari Woods**
- ◀ Florida Virtual School — **Douglas Caden Epps**
- ◀ Ransom Middle — **Darwin Franco-Gonzalez, Micah Hrabak**
- ◀ West Florida High — **Rickiyah Randall**
- ◀ Workman Middle — **Ayla Rostofer and Sunshine Sampson**

GRANTS

The Foundation received over \$240,000 in grants from Florida School District Education Foundation, HCA, FPL, International Paper, Wells Fargo, and other organizations benefiting programs, schools, teachers, and students in Escambia County.

PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUCCESS

- ◀ The Foundation partnered with the Northeast Pensacola Sertoma Club as the beneficiary of the HogFest 2024 and the 2024 Dragon Boat Festival on Bayou Texar raising \$35,000 towards Foundation programs and the club's mission of kindergarten readiness.
- ◀ Navy Federal Credit Union supported the Escambia County Public Schools Foundation through the proceeds from their annual 5K Run in downtown Pensacola. In 2024, Navy Federal donated \$25,194 to the Foundation in support of public education.
- ◀ Florida Power & Light donated \$25,000 to the Escambia County Public Schools Foundation in support of Tools for Teachers.
- ◀ Pensacola Association of Realtors donated \$6,580.53 in proceeds from their Chili Cookoff to the Escambia County Public Schools Foundation.
- ◀ Other major donors were Greenhut Construction, PenAir Credit Union, Members First Credit Union, Wharton-Smith, Inc. and Construction Group.



Escambia County

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

75 North Pace Blvd, Pensacola, FL 32505



850.432.6121



escambiaschools.org