

KDS Schools Show Improvement on State Report Card

The 2017-2018 report cards for Alabama's schools and districts have recently been released, and overall, KDS schools have shown improvement.

KDS DAR Middle School increased its score from an 84 to an 87, while KDS DAR Elementary School retained its 2016-2017 score of 87. KDS DAR High School showed marked improvement, moving from a score of 78 last year to an 86 this year.

The Alabama Department of Education calculates these grades based on multiple indicators including academic achievement, academic growth, graduation rate, college and career readiness, progress in English language proficiency, and chronic absenteeism.

KDS DAR High School scored higher than all other high schools in the Marshall County School System and all but one of the other city school systems within Marshall County.

"Our faculty is continuously employing new and innovative methods of engaging and encouraging students. This improvement in our grade can be largely attributed to their efforts in the classroom," said KDS High School Principal Stacy Anderton.

Marshall County Schools received an overall score of 82, improving from a 79 the previous school year. The county system's new score is two points above the statewide score of 80.

The Marshall County School System has also recently adopted new policies pertaining to student attendance which is in direct response to the issue of chronic absenteeism.

The chronic absenteeism measure, which reflects the percentage of students missing 15 or more days of school in an academic year, rose statewide from 17.7 percent to 18.3 percent during the 2017-18 school year. The Marshall County School System saw a 4% improvement in overall chronic absenteeism for the reporting period.

Anderton said, "It's important for students to be present and ready to learn. Our district is making great strides in addressing this issue, and we should see that reflected in next year's report cards."

The first semester of the 2018-2019 school year saw absences in the Marshall County School System decrease by 3,500, an improvement that will be reflected in next year's state report cards.

Cindy Wigley, Superintendent of Marshall County Schools, said, "I am very proud of the progress we have made in the Marshall County Schools. This is a direct result of the hard work of our students and staff as well as parents partnering with us on their child's education."

Wigley added, "While the report card released by the state only provides a snippet of the great things going on in our system, as we are much more than a letter grade, we have shown significant growth and will continue to work and improve."