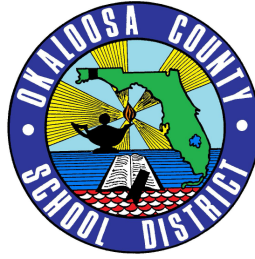


# SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OKALOOSA COUNTY

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS  
MARCUS D. CHAMBERS

ATTORNEY TO THE BOARD  
C. JEFFREY McINNIS, Esq.



BOARD MEMBERS  
TIM BRYANT  
D. PARKER DESTIN  
LINDA EVANCHYK  
BRETT HINELY  
LAMAR WHITE

## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
February 2, 2026

Contact: Catherine Card  
Public Information Officer  
catherine.card@okaloosaschools.com

### Okaloosa County Schools Celebrated Literacy Week, Florida, While Honoring America 250

The Okaloosa County School District proudly celebrated Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida, January 26–30, 2026, engaging students across the district in meaningful literacy experiences while supporting America 250, the nationwide commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States. This year's theme, "Read, White, and Blue: Celebrating 250 Chapters of America!", aligned with the district's ongoing commitment to civics education and civic literacy. Throughout the week, students explored literature connected to American history, democratic principles, and the diverse voices and stories that have shaped our nation, reinforcing the district's role in preparing informed, engaged citizens.

Schools across Okaloosa County participated in reading-focused activities, including classroom read-alouds, book discussions, themed events, and lessons aligned with the Civics B.E.S.T. Standards. District resources such as Five Fun Founding Facts, curated literacy highlights, and the Civics B.E.S.T. Literacy List supported instruction. They helped bring the America 250 theme to life for students of all ages. As part of the celebration, elementary and middle school students across the district participated in a bookmark design contest, using creativity and positive messaging to promote a love of reading and civic pride. The contest allowed students to connect literacy with patriotism and an appreciation for history. Congratulations to Ashly, a 7th grader at Pryor Middle School, and Adam, a 5th grader at Lewis School, for their outstanding designs.

"Celebrate Literacy Week allowed us to connect reading with our nation's story in a meaningful way," said Superintendent Marcus Chambers. "As we approach America's 250th anniversary, Okaloosa County schools are proud to play a role in educating students about our shared history while inspiring a lifelong love of reading." The Okaloosa County School District remains committed to supporting America 250 through intense literacy instruction, civics education, and student-centered learning experiences that honor the past while preparing students for the future.



####

CENTRAL COMPLEX-202 A HIGHWAY 85 NORTH-NICEVILLE, FL 32578  
TELEPHONE (850) 833-3100 FAX (850) 833-4237

CARVER HILL ADMINISTRATION COMPLEX-461 W. SCHOOL AVENUE-CRESTVIEW, FLORIDA 32536  
TELEPHONE (850) 689-7117 FAX (850) 689-7121