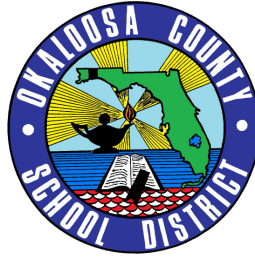


SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OKALOOSA COUNTY

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
August 18, 2026

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

OCSD VPK Classrooms Earn Outstanding State Designations

The Okaloosa County School District (OCSD) is celebrating another year of outstanding results from its Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) classrooms, with six schools earning an “Excellent” designation and three earning an “Above Expectations” designation from the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) for the 2025–2026 school year. FDOE’s VPK accountability system evaluates providers based on quality, child achievement, and learning gains, providing a comprehensive measure of how effectively VPK programs prepare young learners for kindergarten and future academic success. The following OCSD VPK sites earned an “Excellent” designation:

- Bob Sikes Elementary
- Edwins Elementary
- Northwood Elementary
- Riverside Elementary
- Southside Primary
- Walker Elementary

Three additional OCSD VPK sites earned an “Above Expectations” designation:

- Longwood Elementary
- Mary Esther Elementary
- Okaloosa STEMM Academy

“Congratulations to our VPK teachers, administrators, and staff on this tremendous accomplishment,” said Superintendent Marcus Chambers. “These results reflect the commitment our schools have to giving our youngest students a strong start. The foundation built during these early years is incredibly important, and we are proud of the exceptional work happening in our VPK classrooms across the district.”

Amy Dale, Director of Elementary Curriculum, also praised the educators who support OCSD’s youngest learners. “Our VPK programs play an important role in preparing students for kindergarten and establishing resiliency skills they need to be successful,” Dale said. “We are incredibly proud of our VPK teachers and school leaders for their dedication to providing high-quality learning experiences for our students. These designations are a reflection of their hard work and commitment to early learning.”

OCSD is proud to continue its commitment to high-quality early learning opportunities and to ensuring students enter kindergarten ready to learn, grow, and succeed.



###

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