

For Immediate Release
December 28, 2018

Tuscaloosa County School System Report Card Released as Part of Alabama Unified Report

The Alabama State Department of Education released the Alabama State Report Card on Friday. The Report Card uses six Accountability Indicators to calculate a letter grade for schools and school systems statewide. The Tuscaloosa County School System received an overall grade of C, with a total of 77 points. Compared to last year's Report Card, TCSS showed gains in three Accountability Indicators: Academic Achievement, Graduation Rate, and College and Career Readiness.

TCSS received the same score as last year in the Indicator of Chronic Absenteeism. Chronic Absenteeism is defined as missing 15 or more days in a school year, for any reason, including excused absences. In the indicator of Academic Growth, TCSS's score fell from last year. Progress in English Language Proficiency is a new Indicator added to the Report Card this year and applies to students just learning the English language.

"The Alabama State Report Card provides one source of information about our schools and school system," Tuscaloosa County Schools Superintendent Dr. Walter Davie said.

"Our faculty, staff, and administrators will continue to work diligently every day to meet the needs of our diverse student population and to show improvement for each student and school."

The Report Card is based on data collected during the 2017-18 school year. Therefore, many initiatives already underway this school year target needs indicated by the report card. Those areas of focus include:

- Collecting data throughout the school year, so that instructional changes are made as needed. This includes intervention for struggling students and enrichment for high-achieving students.
- Working to make sure teachers clearly understand content standards.
- Counseling and tracking student progress toward graduation, as well as college and career planning.
- Strengthening efforts with parents to ensure students are never unnecessarily absent.
- Providing high-quality professional development for teachers.
- Implementing new initiatives to aid progress for English Language Learners. The ELL population in the Tuscaloosa County School System has approximately tripled over the past five years.

Additionally, TCSS Curriculum and Instruction Directors will work with principals and teachers to address specific, school-level areas of need beginning in January.

The Alabama State Department of Education developed the Report Card to comply with state and federal law. In 2012, the Alabama Legislature created the Legislative School Performance Recognition Program Act, which requires a letter grade to be assigned to most Alabama public schools. The report card is also in accordance with the federal Every Student Succeeds Act.

You may explore all parts of the new Alabama State Report Card here:

<http://www.alsde.edu/dept/erc/Pages/home.aspx>