



Leon County Schools
ANNUAL REPORT
2020-2021

SAFE START. STRONG FINISH.

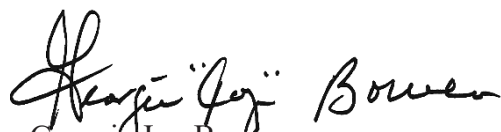
Dear Community Members—

Repeated often during the 2020-2021 school year were the words, “flexibility, compassion, and grace.” For an unprecedented time in public education, this motto guided us to a Safe Start and a Strong Finish as we navigated the reopening of schools during a global pandemic. Through it all, we remained committed to providing a safe and healthy school environment and enriching educational pathways.

When the 2020-2021 school year began, LCS offered three education options: in-person learning, school-based Digital Academies, and Leon County Virtual School. In order to best equip our scholars for both the present circumstances at-hand, and for the future, we made the financial commitment to purchase Chromebooks for all of our students. In addition, our schools adopted Canvas, a Learning Management System (LMS). Our teachers adapted to not only Canvas, but also a hybrid educational model as they taught both in-person and Digital Academy students. There aren’t enough words to thank our teachers and support staff for their fortitude and commitment to keep everyone safe and continue to provide daily instruction.

Along with classroom and at-home learning, we also served and delivered over a million meals both in school, drive-thru pick-up, and select school bus stop deliveries. Because we realized mental and emotional health support services would be even more vital during this time, we were able to provide virtual counseling services to our Digital Academy students. With safe planning, abbreviated sports seasons and extracurricular activities resumed; parents and families transported their student for after-school activities and mandatory tests; and the Class of 2021 was able to celebrate with alternative prom events and outdoor graduation ceremonies at Gene Cox Stadium.

Although the 2020-2021 school year had never-before-seen challenges, we firmly believe that as a school district family, we rose up together to meet them. We are proud of our efforts to keep students safe and our schools open. The 2020-2021 Annual Report reflects our mission and vision in continuing to provide a world-class education to our Leon County school students through a Safe Start and a Strong Finish to the academic year.


Georgia Joy Bowen
2020-2021 School Board Chair


Rocky Hanna
Superintendent





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OUR 2020-2021 SUPERINTENDENT AND SCHOOL BOARD



Rocky Hanna,
Superintendent



Georgia "Joy" Bowen
Chair 2020-2021



Darryl Jones,
Vice Chair 2020-2021



Rosanne Wood



DeeDee Rasmussen



Alva Striplin



Arsha Harris
Student Member



Vision

LCS will provide an engaging, safe and respectful learning environment that fosters effective communication, collaboration and critical thinking while creating productive citizens who value diversity and positively contribute to society.

Mission

The mission of LCS is to educate, inspire and empower all students to become responsible and engaged citizens who are equipped with the critical thinking skills needed to thrive in our global society.



We believe in ...

Excellence. LCS pursues the highest standards in academic achievement and organizational efficiency.

Integrity & Ethical Responsibility. LCS requires the highest level of integrity and personal responsibility for all stakeholders.

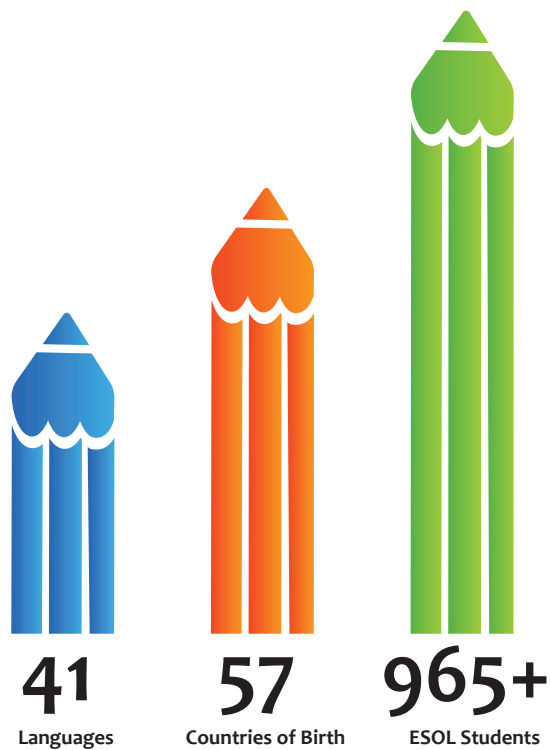
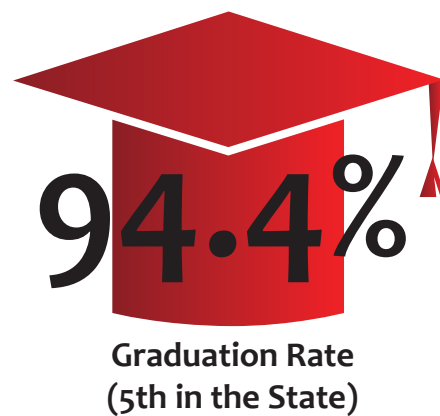
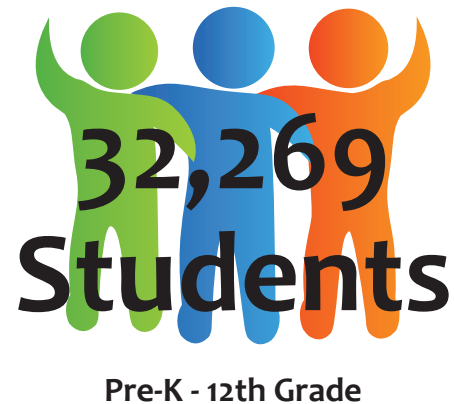
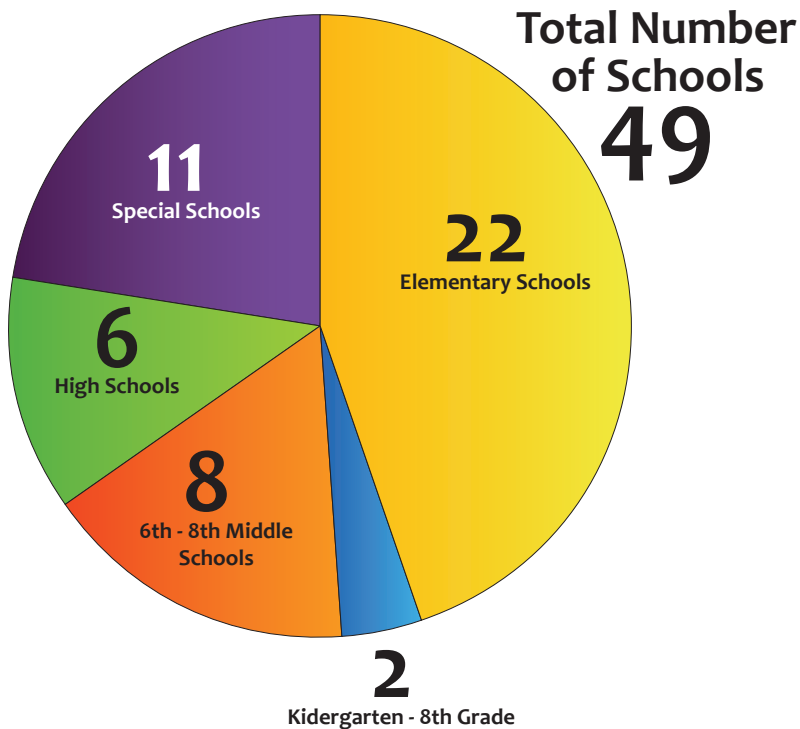
Equity. LCS fosters an environment that encourages all stakeholders to close the achievement gap, maximize achievement for every learner and provide equitable opportunities for all.

Citizenship. LCS honors the diversity of our community by working as a team to ensure the educational success of all our students and by living up to our professional responsibility to promote democratic principles.

Compassion and Respect. LCS enhances the self-esteem, safety and well-being of all stakeholders through positive relationships built on honest, respect, compassion and empathy.

Perseverance. LCS promotes the development of the individual's inner strength so that he or she can remain constant to a purpose, idea or task. This includes dedication, consistency and a positive attitude.

Our District, Our Schools



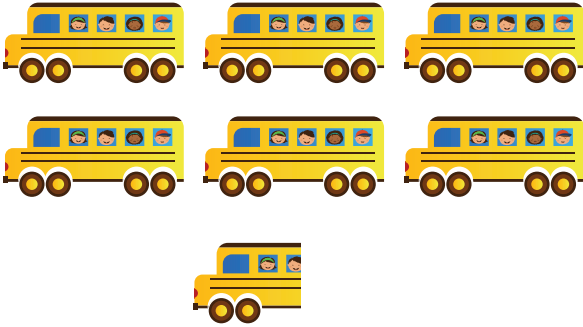
1:1
District



Chrome Notebook for every student

Transportation

197 Buses



142 Routes



154 Drivers

2,955 Bus Stops



Nutrition/Meals Served



1.9
Million

Number of Employees



Facilities



158

Renovations/Upgrades





Pillar I: Safety

Learning and work environments that are safe and healthy are pivotal for student wellness, academic achievement, and overall development. Students who feel safe and well—both physically and psychologically—will feel supported, motivated, and more engaged in learning. Leon County Schools strives to provide safe, healthy, and caring environments that are sensitive to the needs of the individual student, as well as the safety and health of the entire district.



Pillar II: Student Achievement

It is our ultimate goal to provide a world-class education to help students realize their full academic, personal, and career potential. We equip them with the skills necessary for future success—whether it is post-secondary education pursuits or workforce development. Leon County Schools endeavors to deliver innovative, advanced, and relevant academic curriculum, along with real-world opportunities that are responsive to labor market trends, align with a student’s goals and diverse needs, and prepares them to excel in their chosen profession or vocation.





Pillar III: Quality Resources

We believe that highly qualified teachers, administrators, and employees are the key to a well-rounded academic experience, along with state-of-the-art educational technology, materials, and facilities. By recruiting, retaining, and mentoring highly effective instructional staff and leaders, our district ensures that students receive a high-performing and responsive workforce that is dedicated to a student’s personal and academic achievement. Our district also endeavors to provide and utilize technology to enhance student learning, along with continually updating and modernizing our facilities.



Pillar IV: Engaged Community

Partnering and collaborating with community stakeholders is essential to the success of our school district, along with enhancing and diversifying communication strategies to strengthen connections. We continuously seek ways to improve communications both internally and externally, boost involvement and engagement at our schools, improve understanding of our vision and mission, and empower our partners to be active participants and advocates for our school district and public education.



Pillar V: Fiscal Stewardship and Transparency

Ensuring sound and efficient fiscal stewardship, transparency, and effective business practices is why we continue to remain in a strong financial position, year-after-year. Our goal is to promote the value and benefits of taxpayer investment in Leon County Schools, along with implementing a culture of continuous improvement, reducing debt and energy waste, encouraging sustainability practices, and optimizing efficiency and effectiveness.



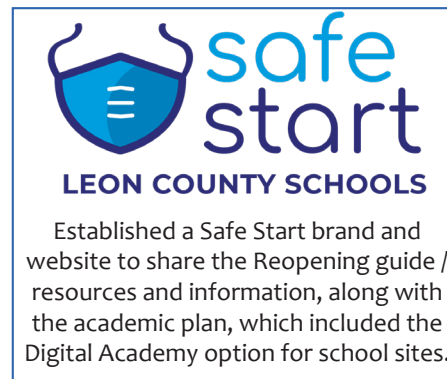
**“The district has worked hard to place the safety of our school communities first.”
—School Principal**



Safe Schools and Work Environments

COVID-19 Protocols and Response

- Created a Reopen Leon Schools plan, and a health and safety procedures manual to provide a safe, secure, and clean environment for all students, employees, and visitors.
- Created a COVID-19 Dashboard to track cases among students and employees.
- Hired additional custodial staff to clean and disinfect schools and facilities; established “The Strike Team.”
- Created a diverse Re-Open Leon Schools Task Force committee to provide guidance, and field questions from parents, students, staff, and community members.
- Transportation made adjustments to accommodate students on buses, including seating charts and keeping two students per seat to assist with contact tracing. Conducted additional cleaning and disinfection procedures between runs.
- Shipped Personal Protective Equipment and supplies to schools and administrative sites, including:
 - *Gloves: 893,300 Units
 - *Disposable Masks: 10,500
 - *Reusable Masks: 3 million cloth and 5,000 H600 surgical grade masks
 - *Face Shields: 5,000
 - *Hand Sanitizer: 7,568 bottles
 - *Digital Thermometers: 2,342
 - *Disposable Gowns: 2,000



- Promoted testing and vaccination events, along with providing testing sites and vaccination collaboration with the Leon County Health Department and other partners.
- We provided more than 1.9 million meals (regular menu in schools and at curbside meal distributions).

Department of Safety and Security

- Completed assessments of all of our facilities as required by the Marjory Stoneman Douglass Act.
- Developed a School Guardian program to supplement our long-standing School Resource Deputy Program.
- Made numerous enhancements on school campuses with upgraded security cameras, security fencing, security stations, emergency mass notification systems, security window tinting, access control.
- District Security Center—marketing enhancements.



3 million cloth and 5,000 H600 surgical grade masks distributed

SAFETY

- Implemented school safety analyst positions: they help with social media monitoring related to threats to our schools, student /individual self-harm.
- Collaboration with the Professional and Community Services Department to implement enhanced security for school board meetings.
- Implemented districtwide mobile RAVE Panic Button.

Social / Emotional Well-Being and Mental Health

- 392 Newly trained school level staff in Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA). YMHFA is an evidence-based youth mental health awareness and assistance training program to help school personnel identify and understand the signs of emotional disturbance, mental illness and substance use disorders, and provide such personnel with the skills to help a person who is developing or experiencing an emotional disturbance, mental health or substance use problem.



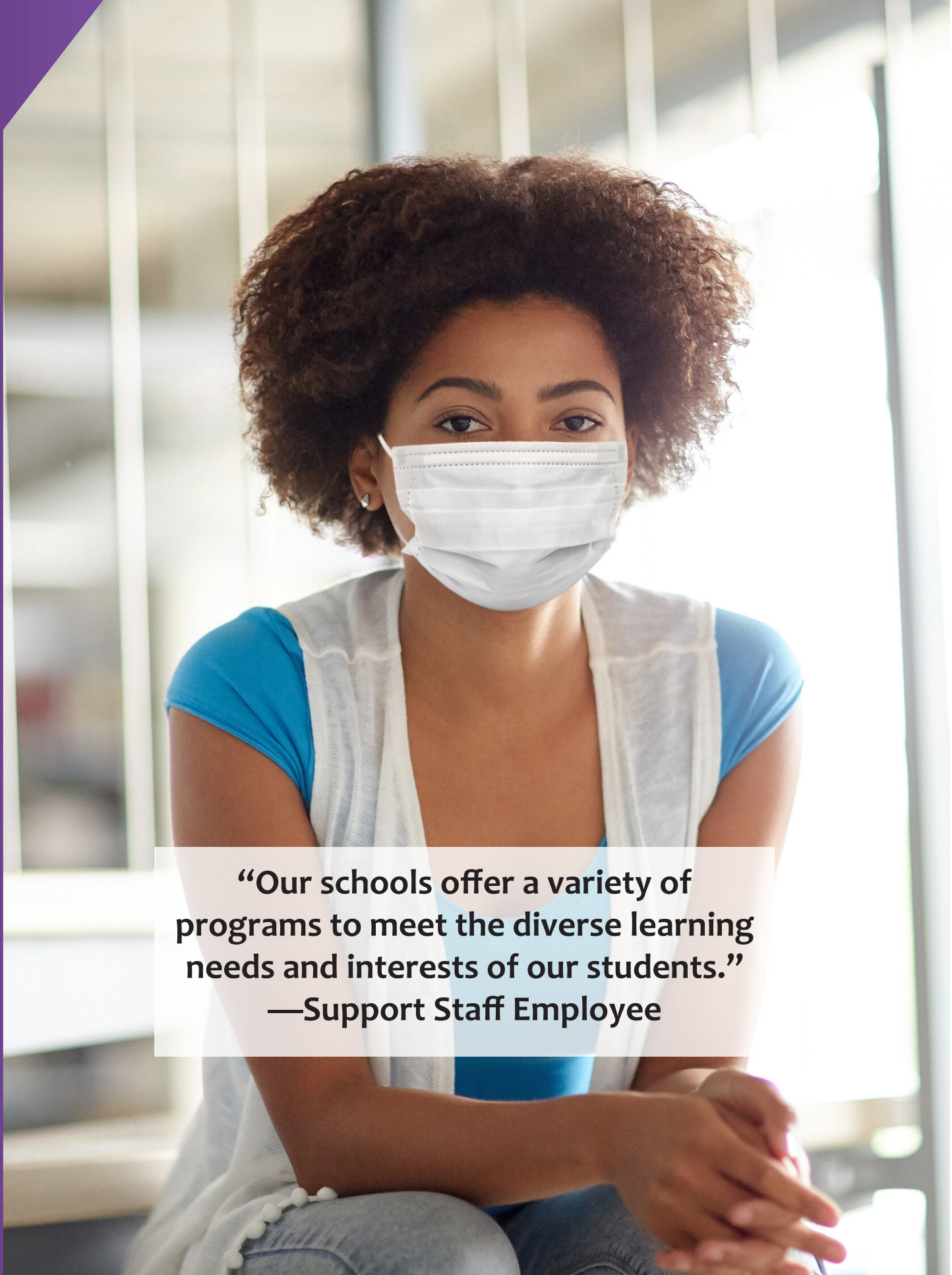
The COVID Health Heroes campaign was created in collaboration with Sachs MEDIA, who generously donated their time and services. The campaign included designs for posters and social media graphics and videos that featured a diverse group of students who illustrated how to be a “COVID Health Hero.” Our thanks also to the community partners (Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, 100 Black Men, and the Rotary Club of Tallahassee Southside) who funded the printing of the posters that were displayed at all of our school sites.

Direct employment of ten (10) LCS school-based mental health services providers — school psychologists, school social workers, and school counselors.

- 271 Instructional Staff completed social and emotional learning (SEL) professional development receiving instruction on topics of SEL curriculum concepts, strategies and implementation options; practice in facilitating student-driven discussions and engagement strategies; and links to academic motivation and skills.
- Each school's crisis response team completed training on the Threat and Suicide Risk Assessment process.
- Contracted Services with community-based partners (DISC Village, Inc.) to provide ten (10) specialists to implement evidence based mental health programs and provide support to elementary schools.
- Interagency agreement with DISC Village, Inc. to add 3 mental health counselors and 17 Health and Wellness Special to focus on delivering evidence-based mental health care treatment to students in secondary schools.
- Interagency agreements and collaborative efforts or partnerships with community mental health programs, agencies, or providers to provide additional mental health, social/emotional behavior, and substance abuse support upon parent initiation or school referrals.
- Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)
- Social and Emotional Learning Curriculum – Sanford Harmony
- Social and Emotional Learning Curriculum – Quaver (Elementary Special Area Supplemental)
- Social and Emotional Learning Curriculum – SEL School Connect (Secondary)
- Mental and Emotional Health Education – Secondary
- Substance Use and Abuse Prevention Education
- Human Trafficking Prevention Education



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT



**“Our schools offer a variety of programs to meet the diverse learning needs and interests of our students.”
—Support Staff Employee**

Closing the achievement gap while accelerating all students to their full academic potential.

Per the Florida Department of Education, due to COVID-19, school grades were not given out to all districts unless requested.

- Chromebooks and Internet Access
 - Provided a Chromebook (1:1) for every Leon County Schools student.
 - Through the Foundation for Leon County Schools Internet for All campaign, Comcast Internet Essentials and hotspots were provided to any family in need of Internet connectivity.
- Implemented Canvas, a Learning Management System (LMS) districtwide.
- Partnered with the nation's online learning leader—Florida Virtual School, for digital content.
- More than 64,000 progress monitoring assessments were administered.
- Expanded intervention services for in-person and at-home learning.
- Provided virtual mentoring and volunteering opportunities.
- Amos P. Godby High School and James S. Rickards High School continue to offer Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) programs.
- All of our schools offer Career Technical Education (CTE) opportunities.
- Fifteen graduating seniors earned their associate degree (AA) from Tallahassee Community College (TCC), along with their diploma.

Preparing Students for College and Career

- Ensuring that all students graduate with a relevant, viable, post-secondary plan.
 - All of our high schools offer Honors, Advanced Placement, and dual enrollment classes.
 - All of our middle schools offer high school credit classes.

Lively Technical College



1,768 Students



472 Full Program Completers



Over 4,000 industry certificates earned by secondary students

Early Childhood Education

- Provided families more access to quality early learning programs Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) as measured by VPK seats available.
- Transitioned our current “inclusion” model of 6 VPK students: 12 Students with Disabilities (SWD) to a 9:9 model as measured by the number of inclusive classrooms.
- Increased kindergarten readiness for students attending an LCS Pre-K program.

Provide Educational Choice to meet Diverse Needs of Students

- Provided three education options for students—in-person, school-based Digital Academies, and Leon County Virtual School.



- Magnet Programs in 2020-2021
Amos P. Godby High School
 (Aerospace Technology, Agritechnology, Digital Design, Digital Media/Multi-Media Design, Engineering Pathways, Nursing Assistant, Welding)
Apalachee Tapestry Magnet School of the Arts (Visual and Performing Arts)
Augusta Raa Middle School (Visual and Performing Arts)
Elizabeth Cobb Middle School (Math and Science)
Fairview Middle School
International Baccalaureate (IB-Prep)
James S. Rickards High School (IB)
SAIL High School

- Implemented Distance Learning Plans in order to provide appropriate and feasible services to benefit and support the learning of each individual students in light of the school closures and all circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 situation, including the student’s educational and emotional needs in a distance learning environment.
- Provided training to all ESE instructional staff and related services personnel in providing services remotely to their students.
- Provided specialized instruction through the Canvas platform as well as through other encrypted, remote means such as MS Teams and Zoom in addition to curricular packets that were made available to parents.
- Continued to track student progress in order to develop robust IEPs.
- All ESE instructional and related services providers collaborated to schedule and provide remote services.
- Finalized all components of open evaluations and re-evaluations that could be completed remotely.
- Utilized national and state-wide resources in order to support students with disabilities.
- District ESE administration participated in regularly scheduled statewide information sessions in order to build capacity in providing services to students with disabilities during COVID-19.

Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Department

- Continued to hold annual Individual Education Plans (IEP) meetings through remote means to ensure meaningful participation of parents.



23 Seniors were chosen as National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalists

- Ensured student confidentiality during remote learning activities by having parents adhere to FERPA guidelines for the provision of remote, group instructional services.
- Offered parents resources in how to assist in their child’s learning during school closures.
- Held routine remote training/ information sessions for all ESE support personnel in how to effectively support school-based and itinerant ESE personnel in providing effective and feasible services to their students with disabilities.
- Provided robust Talented and Gifted Services for our Schools.

Additional Programs

- Continued to provide a districtwide graduation coach.
- Continued to provide programs to meet unique academic and behavioral needs of students in special circumstances such as Ghazvini Learning Center, Success Academy, Heritage Trails, PACE Center for Girls, and SAIL High School.
- Continued to provide a variety of programs for adult learners to be successful in a changing economy through Adult and Community Education (ACE) and Lively Technical College.
- Continued to provide year-round access to Leon County Virtual School to all Leon County Virtual School students. The Leon County Virtual School franchise was ranked #1 in the state of Florida for the 2020-2021 school year.

Arts Enrollment

Continued to provide extensive visual and performing art opportunities and course work for our students, both in-person, virtually, and after school.

Athletics

Amos P. Godby High School

Boys Track	220-weight class 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place District finishers and 3rd place individual State Championship
Girls Track	Individual 1st place District finisher and 4th place individual State Championship
Wrestling	District 1st Place

James S. Rickards High School

Girls Basketball:	Class 5A District Champions
Football	Class 5A State Championship Runner-Up
Flag Football	District Runner-Up
Swimming	State and Individual Finishers
Boys Track	District Champions, Regional Champions, and 4th Place State Finisher Individual 1st Place State Champion finisher 400 meter Individual 3rd place State 4X4 finisher Individual 6th Place State 4X1 finisher Individual 6th Place State Finisher 4X800

James S. Rickards High School continued

Boys Track *continued* Individual 2nd Place
 Finisher Shot Put
 Individual 3rd Place
 State High Jumper
 Individual 3rd Place
 State Hurdler 110
 Individual 8th Place
 State 300 Hurdler
 Girls Track District Runner-Up
 Third Place State Shot
 Putter
 Individual 6th Place
 State 100 meter
 Individual 6th Place
 State 200 meter
 Individual 7th Place
 State 300 meter
 Girls Weightlifting Upper / Lower (UL)
 Weight Class District
 Championship finisher
 Five individual
 Regional qualifiers

Lawton Chiles High School

Baseball District Champions
 Competitive Cheer Regional Runner-Up
 Boys Cross Country District Champions,
 Regional Champions
 Girls Cross country District Champions
 Boys Golf District Champions,
 Regional Champions,
 State Champions
 Girls Golf District Runner-Up
 Boys Swimming District Champions,
 Regional Champions
 Girls Swimming District Champions,
 Regional Champions,
 State Champions
 Girls Soccer District Champions,
 Regional Runner-Up
 Softball District Champions
 Boys Tennis District Runner-Up,
 Regional Champions
 Volleyball District Runner-Up
 Wrestling District Duals Runner-
 Up, Regional Runner-
 Up

Leon High School

Basketball District Runner-Ups
 Boys and Girls
 Cross Country District Runner-Ups
 Boys and Girls
 Volleyball District Champions
 and Regional Runner-
 Ups
 Wrestling Individual District
 Runner-Up and
 individual State
 Finals Qualifier

Lincoln High School

Boys Basketball District Champions
 and Elite 8
 Cross Country Both Boys and Girls
 teams were Regional
 qualifiers; one
 individual state
 qualifier and finished
 16th overall
 Football Regional Semi-
 Finalists
 Lacrosse Second Round of
 District Playoffs
 Girls Soccer District Runner-Up
 Softball Elite 8
 Beach Volleyball District Champions
 Boys Weightlifting Nine individual
 Regional qualifiers
 Girls Weightlifting Team District
 Runner-Up; twelve
 individual Regional
 qualifiers; three
 individual State
 qualifiers
 Wrestling Three individual State
 medalists and
 qualifiers; nine
 individual Regional
 qualifiers

QUALITY RESOURCES



**“The people that I work with are more like family than co-workers.”
—A thirty-five-year paraprofessional**

Provide highly qualified and effective teachers, administrators, and staff

- Training on Canvas for over 2200 teachers and instructional staff.
- Provide state-of-the-art educational technology, materials, and facilities.
- Closing the Digital Divide
 - Became a 1:1 District / purchased Chromebooks for every student
 - Foundation for Leon County Schools Internet for All Campaign provided Internet connectivity for any student in need.

Facilities Upgrades and Renovations: Main Highlights

Elementary Schools

Apalachee Elementary School

- Resurfacing basketball court and installing basketball goals

Astoria Park Elementary School

- Security fencing

Bond Elementary School

- Outdoor Classroom

Buck Lake Elementary School

- Shade shelter over Pre-K playground
- Replacement of fence along primary playground

J. Michael Conley Elementary

- Schoolwide exterior plaster replacement project

Gilchrist Elementary

- Overflow drive

Hartsfield Elementary

- Access entry office

Oak Ridge Elementary

- Covered play area
- Portable demolition
- Playhouse

Pineview Elementary

- ADA sidewalk
- Parent Drop-Off cameras

John G. Riley Elementary

- Parking lot improvements
- Security fence

Roberts Elementary

- Mass Notification System

Ruediger Elementary

- Covered Play Area and resurfaced basketball court and installed new basketball goals
- Access entry office

Sabal Palm Elementary

- Outdoor Classroom (Project funded by Leadership Tallahassee Class 36)

Sealey Elementary

- Roof renovations/remodeling
- Access entry

Kate Sullivan Elementary

- Playground fence
- Single point entry
- Mass Notification System

W.T. Moore Elementary

- Re-roof buildings 1, 2, 3, and 5

Middle Schools

Augusta Raa Middle School

- Mass Notification System

Deerlake Middle School

- Tennis Court repair and resurfacing

Elizabeth Cobb Middle School

- Mass Notification System

Fairview Middle School

- Building 3 reroof
- Phase V B total renovation and buildout of buildings 3 and 4
- Phase V C site work and demolition of building 1

Montford Middle School

- Mass Notification System
- Security Gate

R. Frank Nims

- Portable demolition
- Gym Sound System

Swift Creek Middle School

- Canopy connector from 1 to 8 to 7
- Tennis Court improvements
- Wood gymnasium floor
- Repainted gymnasium
- New motorized bleachers

High Schools

Amos P. Godby

- Removing trees and replacing fence

Lawton Chiles High School

- Football Fieldhouse lockers

Lincoln High School

- Shade shelter
- Security fence

James S. Rickards High School

- Phase V demolition of Building 6, demolition of remainder of the buildings 5 and 14, new restroom building, new stair tower with elevator, new stairs to building 1, new canopies and courtyard with site lighting
- Phase VI remodel and renovate building 18 (Media Center) to include 8 classrooms, teacher planning room, student restrooms, facility restroom, Media Center and offices
- New AstroTurf on football field
- Track and Field bathroom and concession renovation

K-8 Schools

Fort Braden K-8

- Access entry office

Woodville K-8

- Door hardware lock replacement schoolwide

Special Sites

Gretchen Everhart School

- Replace steel canopies

Heritage Trails

- New basketball court and fencing

PACE Center for Girls

- Demolished portables

Other Sites

Gene Cox Stadium

- Façade improvements

Lively Technical College

- Renovation of Barber Shop



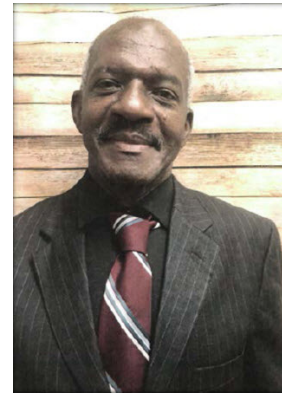
Excellence Awards 2020-2021



Teacher of the Year
Althea Valle,
Amos P. Godby
High School



Glenn-Howell
Educator of the Year
Chelsea Johnson-Muir,
Amos P. Godby High
School



School-Related
Employee of the Year
Lester Stephens,
Chaires Elementary
School



Megan Sahely,
Director of
Orchestras for
Leon High School
and Augusta Raa
Middle School,
was named a
Yamaha 40 Under
40 Educator which

celebrates and recognizes outstanding music educators who are making a difference by growing and strengthening their music programs.



Sally Ash, the K—5
Visual Arts Teacher
at Woodville
Pre-K—8 School,
received the 2021
Opening Nights Arts
Advocate Award
which recognizes
educators who

demonstrate a strong commitment to high-quality arts education in the classroom.



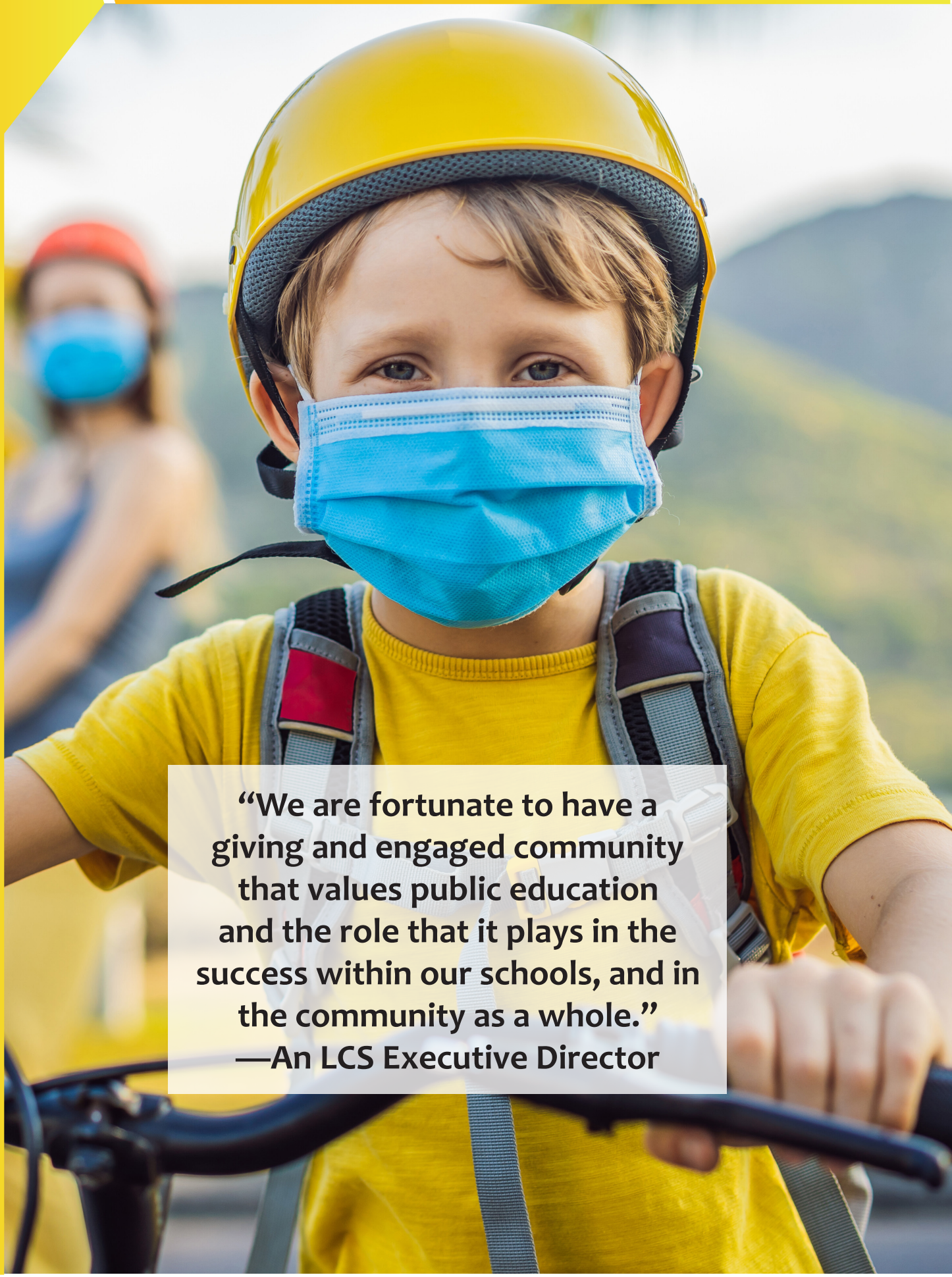
United Way of the Big Bend

United of the Way of the Big Bend
Cornerstone Award (Collected
\$100,000 to \$249,999)

QUALITY RESOURCES



ENGAGED COMMUNITY



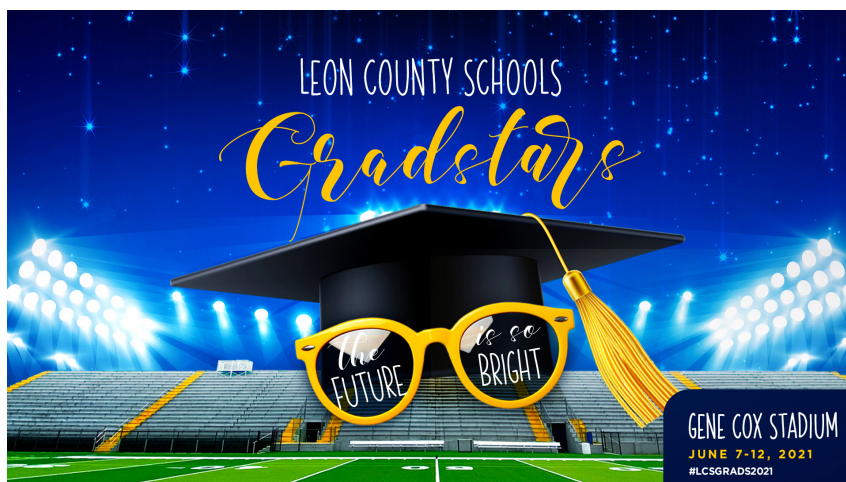
**“We are fortunate to have a giving and engaged community that values public education and the role that it plays in the success within our schools, and in the community as a whole.”
—An LCS Executive Director**

Improve communication and collaboration with all LCS stakeholders

- Hired a skilled Marketing Coordinator.
- Website enhancements.
- Robust Safe Start Leon Schools website.
- Created a diverse Re-Open Leon Schools Task Force committee to provide guidance and field questions from parents, students, staff, and community members.
- Expanded use and enhancements with Facebook Live and YouTube.
- 1:1 District – messages to students via Canvas.
- Messages to parents via Focus.
- Online registration.
- Online / Virtual Open Houses, Magnet Program Showcases and Kindergarten Orientations.
- Superintendent’s school visits and opportunities to engage with the community as a whole.
- Maintain (virtually) and expand district advisory councils - District Advisory Council, Students District Advisory Council, Title I Advisory Council, Exceptional Student Education Advisory Council, and Early Learning Advisory Council.
- Extensive communication training sessions with Voss and Associates.
- Conducted outdoor graduation ceremonies at Gene Cox Stadium—LCS GradStars.

Increase community involvement throughout LCS

- Increased resilience and innovation with volunteers and mentors during the pandemic.
- Paved new ground with online mentor training.
- Increased robust partnerships throughout our community (Leon County Health Department, Bond Community Healthcare, Second Harvest of the Big Bend, Neighborhood Medical Center, FSU, FAMU, TCC, Leon County Sheriff’s Office, Tallahassee Police Department, Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare, Capital Regional Medical, Farm Share, Junior League of Tallahassee, United Way of the Big Bend, Girls on the Run, etc.).
- Increased involvement with civic and faith-based organizations.
- Memberships with United Partners for Human Services (the voice of human services) and all Chambers within the community.



ENGAGED COMMUNITY

- Internet for All, a program of the Foundation for Leon County Schools has provided extensive partnerships with Comcast Internet Essentials, T Mobile, and ATT. This allows us to provide cost free internet services for our families in need.
- Provided virtual Chromebook training for parents.
- Extension of the Summer Feeding Program for our Digital Academy students.
- Implemented LCS' first Community Partnership School at Sabal Palm Elementary School (Children's Home Society, FAMU, FSU and LCS).
- Exploring the expansion of Community Partnership Schools at John G. Riley Elementary School.
- Active involvement and membership with the Children's Services Council.
- Increased collaboration with the City of Tallahassee and Leon County government.
- South City Foundation support
- Implemented the award-winning DJJ Parent Navigator Program.



FISCAL STEWARDSHIP AND TRANSPARANCY



Fiscal Stewardship and Transparency

- Set up Fiscal Transparency website with links by school showing three years of expenditure and staffing trends.
- Implemented cash management changes that increased interest earnings by 89% (pre-COVID-19) (Interest earnings previously \$160K/ pre-covid \$1.5M).
- Implemented electronic vendor payment process resulting in savings in postage and paper check utilization.
- Continuing to review and evaluate current processes and procedures to decrease audit criticism. Recently moved p-card reconciliation online to eliminate deficit spending and improve accuracy.
- Maintained AA Bond Rating from Fitch Ratings through pandemic while other Florida school district ratings were decreased. Fitch specifically referenced our district's increased financial resiliency and gradual increase of general fund unrestricted balance since last evaluated in 2016.
- The District has paid off 31% (\$70,867,895) of its debt; the District's beginning debt balance on July 1, 2016 was \$225,205,186 and as of June 30, 2020, at the height of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the ending debt balance was \$154,337,891.
- Received clean audit of Annual Financial Reports from the Auditor General's Office for two concurrent three-year cycles.



- Initiatives from FY 2018-19 continued in FY 2019-20 and FY 2020-21.
- Continued pay raises for all employees from the prior year \$8.6M.
- Continued Additional Funding for Student Activities and the Arts \$500K.
- Continued Deans for every Middle School \$250K.
- Continued \$5M Emergency Reserve.
- Continued School Safety Monitors \$1.2M.
- Continued School Behavior Specialist \$800K.
- Continued Community Partnerships \$207K.

Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Highlights

- Funds set aside for additional pay raises for teachers \$4.6M, total of almost \$10M provided for teacher pay raises (Includes Teacher Salary Increase Allocation).
- Additional Bus Aides provided for bus routes other than ESE bus routes \$900K.
- Additional COVID operating funds for all schools \$840K \$25/FTE.
- Reserve for Potential Budget Reductions \$6M.
This is a 6% holdback on the District's portion of the State funded FEFP Mirrors holdback currently imposed on State Agencies by the Governor in preparation for Special Session/ Session reductions.



Want to support our efforts in bringing the Leon County Schools mission and vision to life?



1) **Volunteering and Mentoring**

Make a personal difference in a student's life and future by registering to become a volunteer or mentor. Since 1969, volunteers have been enriching and shaping our community's future by sharing their gifts of time and talent with the students of Leon County Schools. Volunteers can serve in a myriad of ways from assisting teachers, working in the media center, to helping with student recognition activities. The possibilities are endless.

Each school year, Leon County Schools recruits mentors who are matched one-on-one with students and meet weekly from September-May. The mentor provides academic assistance, guidance, support and encouragement to the mentee. Mentors play a vital role in inspiring students to realize their goals and reach their full potential. The time commitment is usually between 30-45 minutes each week.

To become a volunteer or mentor, please complete the volunteer application at this link: www.leonschools.net/domain/4993

2) **The Foundation for Leon County Schools**

The Foundation for Leon County Schools (Foundation), a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization, connects the business community to the classroom with dedicated fundraising that directly impacts LCS teachers, students, and schools. The Foundation was established in 1986 when forward-thinking business, community, and education leaders

came together with a common goal of enhancing educational opportunities and experiences for Leon County students in order to assist in delivering a superior education.

Under the leadership of its Executive Director and a volunteer Board of Directors, the Foundation remains focused on enhancing programs that include Innovative Teacher Grants, dropout prevention, scholarships, professional development for teachers, Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) development, and health and wellness. The Foundation also serves as the 501 (c) (3) for Internet for All, KEYS, The Girl Flo Project, Two Regimes, and oversees the Partners for Excellence program.

For more information on how you can donate or support the Foundation's efforts visit www.foundationforlcs.org

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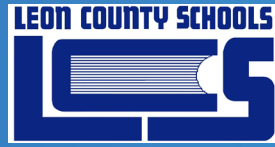
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Our many thanks to the district leaders, departments, and staff who helped to compile the information for the 2020-2021 Annual Report.



Nondiscrimination Notification and Contact Information

“No person shall on the basis of sex, marital status, race, religion, ethnicity, national origin, age, color, pregnancy, disability, military status or genetic information be denied employment, receipt of services, access to or participation in school activities or programs if qualified to receive such services, or otherwise be discriminated against or placed in a hostile environment in any educational program or activity including those receiving federal financial assistance, except as provided by law.” No person shall deny equal access or a fair opportunity to meet to, or discriminate against, any group officially affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America, or any other youth group listed in Title 36 of the United States Code as a patriotic society.

An employee, student, parent or applicant alleging discrimination with respect to employment, or any educational program or activity may contact:

Deana McAllister, Assistant Superintendent
Equity Coordinator

Leon County School District
2757 West Pensacola Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32304
(850) 487-7193
mcallisterd@leonschools.net

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A student or parent alleging discrimination as it relates to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act may contact:

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