

WILLIAMSON COUNTY SCHOOLS

Profile of **Excellence** February 2015



Williamson County Schools is a K-12 school district located in the heart of Middle Tennessee with approximately 36,000 students enrolled throughout 41 schools: nine high schools, eight middle schools, 23 elementary schools and one K-8 school. According to the 2014 Tennessee State Report Card, Williamson County Schools leads the State in academic achievement.

vision statement

Williamson County Schools will become a district recognized nationally for students who excel in academics, the arts, and athletics.

Six National Blue Ribbon Schools

28 National Merit Finalists in 2014-15

15 State Athletic Championships in 2013-14

One SCORE Prize Winner and Two Finalists in 2014

\$123 Million in Scholarships Offered to the Class of 2014

Class of 2014 Ranked First in TN with ACT Composite of 23.5

46 All-State Band, Chorus or Orchestra members in 2014-15

Ranked First in Tennessee in Academic Achievement 3-8 in 2014

27 Reward Schools by the Tennessee Department of Education in 2014



Message from the Superintendent

Williamson County Schools has long been recognized as a premier school district. Our students perform exceedingly well on academic measures; our parents are engaged in the learning process; and our business and civic communities actively support schools. It is my belief that our teaching and support staff is comprised of some of the nation's brightest and most talented.

While we are proud of our tradition of excellence, we stand at the forefront of educational innovation to prepare our graduates for tomorrow's challenges. WCS is relentlessly focused on rigor, relationships and relevance. I am humbled to serve the students of our great district and am proud to share their amazing accomplishments with the greater Williamson County community.

Dr. Mike Looney, Superintendent of Schools



FAST FACTS

- All high schools have Advanced Placement (AP) Programs.
- WCS currently offers 19 different Programs of Study in Career and Technical Education, and most recent data indicate that approximately 5,300 high school students have taken at least one CTE course during high school.
- 2014-2015 countywide student/teacher ratios are: kindergarten through five 21.02:1; six through eight 20.95:1; nine through twelve 20.93:1.
- During 2013-14, the students in Williamson County Schools achieved a 99.49 percent promotion rate.
- The WCS graduation rate for 2014 was 94.4 percent.
- K-12 student attendance for 2013-2014 was 99.6 percent. This rate surpasses the Tennessee Department of Education goal of 93 percent.
- Over the past five years, WCS has grown by an average of 864 students each year.
- All schools and the central office are accredited by AdvancEd, the nation's largest academic accrediting agency.
- There are before and/or after school child care programs in all elementary schools.
- Pre-kindergarten classes are in the following schools: Bethesda, Crockett, Fairview, Heritage, Hunters Bend, Longview, Trinity, Westwood and Winstead for 2014-15.
- More than 500 professional development opportunities were offered to teachers and staff during 2014.
- WCS has expanded its Bring Your Own Technology initiative, adding additional teacher leaders in each school who guide teachers in implementing technology-rich lessons.

"The success of the Williamson County School System is vital to the overall economic health and viability of our county. Our citizens, both residential and corporate, realize that investing in our children's education is an investment in our future."

Rogers Anderson, Williamson County Mayor



Message from the Chairman of the Board

On behalf of the Williamson County Board of Education, I am pleased to share in the success of our students. Our district is well on its way to meeting and exceeding the goals outlined in the Board's Strategic Plan to become nationally recognized in academics, the arts, and athletics. As a board, we are encouraged that our students continue to outperform their peers across the state in academic achievement and that the Class of 2014 had the highest ACT score in the history of the district. Our work as a school district and as a school board will not be complete until every student reaches his or her fullest potential.

PJ Mezera, School Board Chairman

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

Williamson County Schools continues to lead Tennessee in academic accomplishments. According to the 2014 State Report Card, the district earned all A's in achievement and three A's and one B in value-added growth. WCS students ranked first in Tennessee in reading/language arts, mathematics, science and social studies for grades 3-8. In fact, WCS students in all subgroups (economically disadvantaged; Black, Hispanic and Native American; English language learners; and students with disabilities) outperformed the general student population of Tennessee in 3-8 reading/language arts and mathematics.

The district also ranked first in Algebra II, Biology I and English I and II.

Additionally, WCS students ranked second in English III and in the top tier for Algebra I and US History.

The graduating class of 2014 achieved an ACT composite score of 23.5, a record for WCS, and a big step toward the Board strategic goal of an ACT composite of 24. WCS ranked first in ACT performance, outscoring the Tennessee average of 19.8 and the national average of 21.0.

Tennessee's accountability system also recognizes "reward" schools as the top five percent in performance (achievement) and progress (growth). For 2014, WCS had 20 schools recognized for performance, one for progress and six more for both. This total of 27 reward schools is a new record for the district.

Area		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Mathematics	Achievement	A	A	A	A	A
	Growth	D	C	A	A	A
Reading / Language Arts	Achievement	A	A	A	A	A
	Growth	D	B	A	A	B
Science	Achievement	A	A	A	A	A
	Growth	D	D	B	A	A
Social Studies	Achievement	A	A	A	A	A
	Growth	B	B	A	A	A



ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

- The following schools have obtained National Blue Ribbon School status: Grassland Middle, 2004; Brentwood Middle, 2006; Page High, 2011; Hillsboro School, Kenrose Elementary and Trinity Elementary, 2014.
- Hillsboro School was awarded Tennessee's State Collaborative on Reforming Education (SCORE) prize for middle schools in 2014. Ravenwood High School was a high school finalist, and WCS was a district finalist.
- The College Board named Williamson County Schools to the 5th Annual AP District Honor Roll for increasing access to Advanced Placement course work while maintaining or increasing the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher on AP exams.

STUDENT AWARDS IN ACADEMICS

- 1 US Presidential Scholar in 2014
- 9 TN High School Press Association Awards in 2013-14
- 15 National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences State Awards in 2013-14
- 5 TN Technology Student Association Awards in 2013-14

- 1 TN Science Olympiad Winner in 2013-14
- 3 TN State HOSA Awards in 2013-14
- 12 Youth in Government Awards in 2014
- 1 2014 TN Advanced Placement Scholar Award
- 3 National German Exam Awards in 2013-14

STAFF AWARDS IN ACADEMICS

- 2013-14 TN Principal of the Year by the National Association of Secondary School Principals
- 2014 TN Geography Teacher of the Year
- 2013-14 TN Technology Student Association Advisor of the Year
- 2013-14 TNTESOL Teacher of the Year
- 2013-14 TN High School Press Association Media Advisor of the Year
- 2013-14 TN State HOSA Advisor of the Year
- 2014-15 National President of the Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Society
- 2014 The Don Jenkins Award for Excellence in the Teaching of English Recipient

"When you work for Williamson County Schools, you know that you have to go into that school building every single day and give it everything you've got because that's what Dr. Looney expects; that's what the principals expect; and that's what teachers expect of the students. We expect to be the best."

Fred Hewitt, Fairview Middle School Teacher

ATHLETIC PERFORMANCE

WCS has more than 4,000 high school student-athletes who are participating in extracurricular sports in 2014-15.

WCSsportsConference high school football gate receipts totaled more than \$420,000 for 2014, not including playoff games. Gate receipts support school athletic programs. Tax dollars are not used to support athletics, with the exception of \$85,000 a year from the General Purpose Budget that is given to middle and high schools, combined, to pay for athletic field maintenance.

ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENT

- 15 TSSAA State Athletic Championships in 2013-14
- 1 All American Wrestler in 2014 by the National High School Coaches Association

- 2014 TN Soccer Gatorade Player of the Year
- 1 State qualifier in every TSSAA fall sport in 2014
- 2014 State Middle School Cross Country Champion
- 2 Mr. Football Finalists in 2014
- 1 US Army Football All-American in 2014
- 3 Players selected to the East vs. West All-Star Football Team in 2014
- 2 Cheerleaders selected to cheer at the East vs. West All-Star Football Game in 2014
- 2014 TN Cheerleader of the Year
- 2013 Wendy's High School Heisman Winner for TN
- 1 Under Armour All-American in 2013
- 2013-14 State of TN Boys' Soccer Coach of the Year
- 2014 Coach East vs. West TN All-Star Team



FINE ARTS

The number of students participating in the arts continues to grow. In March 2014, the first annual Williamson County Fine Arts Festival provided a full day of performances and exhibitions at the Factory in Franklin where students from around WCS displayed their talents to appreciative audiences.

During 2014-15, 99.7 percent of all middle school students are enrolled in a fine arts course sometime during the year with 42.5 percent of all high school students participating in fine arts classes. However, these numbers do not reflect participation in the wide range of extracurricular opportunities that are available. More than 25 plays or musicals are performed annually in middle and high schools. Choral and band concerts are held each semester to showcase student talent.

ARTS ACHIEVEMENTS

- 15 All-State Band Musicians in 2014-15
- 10 All-State Orchestra Musicians in 2014-15
- 21 All-State Choir Members in 2014-15
- 2 National Forensic League State Champions in 2014

- 1 National Honor Choir Member in 2014
- 2 National Honor Orchestra Members in 2014
- 1 National Honor Band Member in 2014
- 1 Choir selected to perform in Lincoln Center's Avery Fisher Hall in 2014
- 1 Choir selected to perform with Foreigner at the Schermerhorn in 2014
- 1 US Army Band All-American in 2014
- 8 Scholastic Art Gold Key Awards in 2014-15
- 1 Scholastic Art American Vision Nominee
- 2 TN High School Speech and Drama League State Champions in 2014
- 2014 TN Educational Theatre Association President
- 2014 John Philip Sousa Foundation Laureate of the Bandworld Legion of Honor Recipient
- 2013-14 TN High School Speech and Drama League State Educator of the Year Krider Award Recipient

"My four years at Centennial have given me many opportunities to explore, learn and put my knowledge to use. While these exceptional learning paths have prepared me educationally, just as important have been the opportunities WCS made available to serve my community. I feel fully prepared to move on to the next phase of my education at college."

Elise Hurt – Centennial High Senior

OPERATIONS

FINANCE

The 2014-2015 General Purpose School Fund Budget has approximate expenditures of \$273,000,000, with 85 percent of the budget representing salaries and benefits for teachers and other employees. The majority of total revenues, 54 percent, are generated from Williamson County through the property and sales tax. The Williamson County Board of Education ranks 84 out of 135 in the state for expenditures per student with a per pupil expenditure of \$8,587.30 excluding construction and major capital projects for 2013-14, as reflected by the 2014 State Report Card.



HUMAN RESOURCES

There are approximately 2,500 educators and 2,000 support personnel in Williamson County Schools who are supported by the Human Resources Department. Of professional employees, 61 percent have attained an educational level of a master's degree or higher, and the average teacher base salary is \$46,853. In October 2014, Williamson County Schools was named Employer of the Year by WorkForce Essentials.

FOOD SERVICE

During an average school year, WCS school cafeterias will serve 3.4 million lunches and 300,000 breakfasts. That's 20,000 lunches and 1,700 breakfasts a day. The percentage of students receiving free or reduced priced meals is 11 percent. Safety is a priority in WCS kitchens, which average a score of 99.23 on health inspections performed by the Williamson County Health Department.



HEALTH SERVICES

WCS nurses serve students in all schools and see over 180,000 clinic visits; perform over 52,000 procedures such as catheterizations, tube feedings, tracheal suctioning, insulin administration, ostomy care; and give over 56,000 medications annually. They return 87 percent of students back to the classroom learning environment after treatment. Each year nurses offer annual health screenings to students in grades K, 2,4,6,8 and 9. Our nurses also train all bus drivers, cafeteria workers and school staff regarding bloodborne pathogens and administration of epinephrine auto injectors. In addition, they certify approximately 500 employees in CPR annually.



MAINTENANCE

The Maintenance Department works to keep buildings safe and clean for students and staff. The average age of a WCS building is 20 years old with 20 percent of the facilities 30 years or older. Maintenance technicians processed more than 14,575 work requests from schools during the 2014 calendar year, with a square-foot-maintained to technician ratio of 85,000 to 1. In addition, the district's Certified Playground Safety Inspectors processed over 400 work orders on playgrounds throughout the district including monthly inspections.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The IT Department provides technology support to students and staff by supporting more than 15,000 district-owned devices. Technicians support school phone and email services, the surveillance video network and student data services. Our school buildings have over 1,800 miles of network cable which if connected in a straight line would reach from Franklin, TN to California.

TRANSPORTATION

There are 263 buses in the transportation fleet which run 748 regular routes a day, 374 in the morning and 374 in the afternoon. Buses run 156 special education routes a day, 78 in the morning and 78 in the afternoon. During the 2013-14 school year, buses traveled 17,902 route miles per day or over three million miles. This number does not include field trips or athletic trips. During the 2014-15 school year, 23,850 students are registered to ride the bus.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Williamson County Schools has a Williamson County Sheriff's Deputy SRO serving each school. This safety partnership has been in place since October, 1999 and started in five schools. In addition, the district has a Safety Director who works closely with Emergency Management and other first responder agencies to continually improve the district's level of safety and security. The district's safety plans are electronically integrated with first responders.

"WCS has been the biggest driver of our success in the past, and providing a great education for all kids of Williamson County will be the most important thing we do as a community moving forward. A strong partnership between Williamson, Inc. and WCS is critical."

Matt Largen, President and CEO of Williamson, Inc

WHAT IS BE NICE?

It is treating other people the way you want to be treated by being kind, respectful and generous. Here in Williamson County Schools, it's just what we do!

THE STORY OF BE NICE

In 2013-14, a group of Fairview High School students and staff began working on ways to create a culture of kindness in their school. Together, they came up with the slogan BE NICE and began printing t-shirts and signs with the mantra. As the message spread, photos of students, teachers, celebrities and professional athletes holding the BE NICE sign began to appear on social media all over the world. More importantly, teachers and students at Fairview High began to report a change in student behavior.

Turns out, the BE NICE message was making a real difference, and schools across the district adopted the message for the 2014-15 school year.



PARENT AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The exceptional parental and community involvement in Williamson County Schools completes the formula for the district's success. Parent organizations including PTO, PTA, PTSO and booster clubs contributed approximately \$7.2 million to support students and schools during the 2013-14 school year.

WCS is proud of its growing partnership with the Williamson County Chamber of Commerce. The partnership with the Chamber includes a speaker's bureau, student internships and teacher externships. In addition, a Williamson County Schools staff member works directly with the Chamber weekly to connect the business community to students and schools.

DISTRICT COMMUNICATIONS

Keeping the lines of communication open is key to the success of students and schools. The school district website and each school has its own website and webmaster.

At the district level, WCS information can be found through the district's email newsletter, InFocus. You can also receive updates on breaking news, WCS happenings and student achievements by following the district on Twitter and Facebook.



"Williamson County Schools is not just a district; it's a family. As a parent, I can't think of a better place to raise a child than Williamson County where you have access to one of the best public school systems in the nation. The parental involvement in WCS is second to none."

Gina Fancher – Williamson County PTO Leadership Council Member

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

First District Kenneth Peterson
Second District Dan Cash
Third District PJ Mezera
Fourth District Dr. Paul Bartholomew

Fifth District Gary Anderson
Sixth District Jay Galbreath
Seventh District Robert Hullett
Eighth District Candy Emerson

Ninth District Rick Wimberly
Tenth District Dr. Beth Burgos
Eleventh District Mark Gregory
Twelfth District Susan Curlee