

Russell County Schools 18-19 State Accountability Scores Report

Russell County Schools Superintendent Mr. Ford would like to start with saying, "The release of state accountability test scores always brings much apprehension. As a district, we will celebrate the successes and continue to plan and work towards the identified areas of need and growth. I am proud of the faculty, staff and administration that makes up Russell County Schools and we are blessed with wonderful community support. I am also proud of our students and the investment they make in their own future. A dedicated school system with students dedicated to learning coupled with parents/guardians and a community that supports its schools, is a winning combination. I encourage everyone to click the link at the conclusion of this media release for detailed information regarding each school and our district as a whole."

Russell County Schools District Assessment Coordinator, Rita Voils, stated, "The accountability system that is in place for the release of the 2018-2019 scores uses multiple academic and school quality measures, not a single test or indicator. The new accountability model is made up of six indicators, including: • Proficiency • Separate Academic • Growth • Graduation • Transition Readiness •

Quality of School Climate and Safety (2019-2020)."

New for the 2018-2019 release of scores is that schools and districts will be assigned an overall rating of 1-5 stars based on these indicators. These overall scores can be compared across schools at each level and compared to the overall state averages for each level. Achievement Gap is no longer identified as an indicator in the accountability system. However, if significant achievement gaps are found in schools and local education agencies (LEA) earning a 4 or 5 star rating, the star rating will be reduced by 1 star.

Overall Elementary Schools – 72.6	★	★	★	★	★
JES – 70.8	★	★	★	★	★
RSES – 76.9	★	★	★	★	★
SES – 67.9	★	★	★	★	★
MIDDLE RCMS – 67.4	★	★	★	★	★
HIGH RCHS – 63.9	★	★	★	★	★

* RCMS was reduced from a 4 to 3 due to a disability Gap

Mrs. Rita Voils explained, "At the elementary and middle schools, two of the indicators can be compared with last year, the Proficiency Indicator and the Separate Academic Indicator. The Proficiency Indicator is made up equally of math and reading scores. The Separate

Academic Indicator is calculated from student scores in Science, Social Studies, and Writing. Both of these indicators are reported on a scale from 0-125 and received a level corresponding to the score."

For the Proficiency Indicator, Russell County had two schools scoring in the "High" category, those being Russell Springs Elementary (RSES) with a score of 85.6 (High), followed by Russell County Middle School (RCMS) with an 81.2 (High). Jamestown Elementary (JES) with a 68.6 and Salem Elementary (SES) with a 72.5 placed them in the "Medium" category. Russell County High School (RCHS) scoring a 46.8 placing them in the "Low" category.

For the Separate Academic Indicator, RSES's rating is in the "Very High" category at 84.4; JES's rating is 77.0 "High"; SES's is 65.2 "Medium"; RCMS rates at 64.9 "Medium"; and RCHS is at a 57.7 "Low".

The Growth Indicator Rating is based on a scale from 0-300 at the elementary and middle school levels and measures student's growth from 2017-2018 to 2018-2019. All three elementary schools are in the "High" category – JES 68.4; Salem 65.3; Russell Springs 62.6. RCMS's score is 55.5 "Medium" for growth. At the high school level, growth is not calculated.

Russell County High School (RCHS) increased their Transition Readiness

Indicator from 77.3 to 85.8 placing them in the “High” category for this measure. The high school increased their Graduation Indicator Rating from 96.9 to 98.6, which placed them in the “Very High” category for Graduation Rate.

While we are very proud of the areas where schools have shown improvement, excellence, or growth, there are areas where we fell short and are focusing on for the 2019-2020 school year.

Math and Science district-wide are a focus for this year. As part of the Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy (SRCL) Grant, numerous math and science teachers are meeting throughout the year to learn new literacy strategies and incorporate them to improve teaching and learning in the content areas.

Teachers are also working on the alignment of the new standards that were implemented this year, and we are working on getting math vocabulary across the district aligned as well to ensure consistency. At the middle school the science teachers are not only part of the SRCL, but they have also been part of professional learning activities with PIMSER, a math and science institute who model research-based practices for classroom teachers. Russell County High School has also implemented a new Mastery Prep curriculum to help with meeting ACT Benchmarks. With that,

2018-2019 KY SCHOOL ASSESSMENT RESULTS								
SCHOOL	0-125 Point Scale 100 - Proficient				0-300 Point Scale (Elem & Middle) Rated Very High to Very Low			
	Proficiency Indicator	STATE Proficiency Indicator Average	Separate Academic Indicator	STATE Separate Academic Indicator Average	Growth Indicator		STATE Growth Indicator Average	
JES	68.6	70.4	77.0	64.7	68.4		57.7	
RSES	85.6	70.4	84.4	64.7	62.6		57.7	
SES	72.5	70.4	65.2	64.7	65.3		57.7	
Elementary Overall	76.8	70.4	77.1	64.7	65.0		57.7	
RCMS	81.2	72.3	64.9	63.3	55.5		52.5	
					Transition Readiness/State Average		Graduation Rate/State Average	
RCMS	46.8	56.8	57.7	62.0	85.8	66.8	98.6	91.1

students in grades 9-11 were tested using Mastery Prep in early September with their TRU Score, an ACT prep test. Teachers will analyze these results to guide their instructional planning to assist in meeting the academic needs of their students.

Jamestown Elementary Principal, Diane Blankenship was pleased to report, “JES was .2 points away from being a 4-star school this year with an overall score of 70.8 (71.0 was 4-star!) and a 3-star rating. We received marks of ‘high’ performance with a score of 77 in Separate Academic (Science, Social Studies, and Writing), and were within 3 points of being ‘very high’. Our Growth score was ‘high’ at 68.4, and with only .6

more would have been classified as ‘very high’, and was 10.7 points higher than the state average. So overall, we scored ‘high’ in two of the three indicators used to determine the 3-star rating, and came extremely close to a 4-star rating. Plus, there were no significant gaps in achievement among our student groups, which we are very proud of.”

“While we were pleased with our overall rating, we saw some decreases in proficiency. The overall proficiency score was 68.6, ‘medium’ performance, with 77.0 being ‘high’. We are not content with this classification, and are already taking steps to improve. Steps include implementing a school-wide P-5 behavior program called PBIS rewards, working to

become trauma informed, implementing high-yield instructional strategies, utilizing a data informed approach to differentiation, and setting goals and celebrating achievement with students. All of these efforts are research-based and recommended for school improvement. We are committed to continuous improvement and seeing our students meet their full potential, and will continue to work hard to help that happen."

"At JES, our vision is rooted in "Growing our Future" through investing in every child's development academically, behaviorally, and socially. Growth is our goal, and we saw that at a high level this past year. I personally wish to thank the teachers, staff and parents at JES for your ongoing commitment to the important work of teaching and learning and your willingness to go the extra mile to help our kids thrive. Congratulations to students for your achievements. We are proud to be a part of your journey!"

Rene' Gossage, Russell Springs Elementary Principal states, "I am excited to announce that Russell Springs Elementary has a 4 star rating out of 5! The number of students performing at the Proficient and Distinguished level continues to increase in tested subject areas. In Reading, 66.7% of our students scored P/D. We are 12.1% above the State. In Math, 66.3% scored at the P/D level and we are 17.1% above the

State. Science is making progress with 35.2% scoring P/D which is 3.5% above the State. Science is an area that we will focus on this year to make proficiency gains. Our Writing scores jumped 9.6% compared to the 2018 KPREP scores with 74.2% of our students scoring at the P/D level. This is 27.6% above the State! Another high performing area is Social Studies. 80.4% of our students scored P/D which was a 5.7% increase. Our students are 27.4% above the State in Social Studies."

"Our faculty and staff are dedicated and work hard for all our students. Dedicated teachers = dedicated students who give their very best effort each and every day. Throughout the year, our teachers and students work together to set performance goals that will reflect their dedication and hard work. We believe that all students can be successful, and we do everything we can to make sure we equip them with the skills they need to be successful. I am proud of our students! I am proud of our faculty and staff! I am proud of Russell Springs Elementary School!"

"Over the past few years Salem has focused on creating a solid foundation of improvement for our school and students," Kimberlee Webb, Salem Elementary Principal, stated. "As test scores came out this year we were able to see that the hard work we are putting

in is creating success for our students. Salem had increases across the board with an 8.9 point increase in Proficiency (Math & Reading) and a 13 point increase in our Separate Indicator (Social Studies, Science & On-Demand Writing). However, it was our gain in our student growth of 47.8 points that really solidified what we are doing is working. While we are celebrating improvement in all areas, we are still working to make adjustments that will continue to enable our students to learn and grow to their highest potential. This year we have continued to meet, reflect, discuss, and plan for the changes that will allow our students to show continued growth. As a principal it is sometimes hard to put into words how proud you are of the accomplishments of your school, but without a doubt I am blessed to work with families, students, and staff that come together on a daily basis. Therefore, we embrace the scores we have, look to the possibilities before us and continue to focus on 'Students first, teamwork always'."

"I am extremely proud of the progress we made over this past school year at Russell County Middle School," Wayne Ackerman, Principal at RCMS stated. Across the state, middle schools are scored in the following three areas, Proficiency, Separate Academic Indicator, and Growth.

Proficiency

“Over the past few years, Russell County Middle School has made continual progress in reading and math proficiency, and this year was no different as students achieved higher levels of success. In addition to more students reaching proficiency, over the past five years, we have also increased the number of students performing at the distinguished level in reading and math.”

Separate Academic Indicators

“From all three areas assessed by the state, separate academic indicators is the category receiving additional direct and focused attention. New textbooks, new curriculum and new technology have been implemented, in addition to professional development to strengthen these subject areas.”

Growth

“The growth of every individual student is paramount to us, and is continually monitored through daily formative assessments, common assessments, MAP and weekly teacher meetings. These tools enable us to pinpoint areas of individual student need, allowing for differentiation, specific teaching strategies, and student growth.”

“Based on the combined scores from these three areas, Russell County Middle School achieved the rating of a 4 star

school. However, all schools in the state lose a star if that school has any subgroups with a significant gap. Although we have made noticeable gains with our students with disabilities over the past year, this gap makes our overall rating 3 stars.”

“We are always thankful for the community support given from our parents, churches, public agencies and businesses. We appreciate your continued support and want to do all we can on our end to see that all of our students reach their full potential.”

At the high school level, Mr. Darren Gossage, Principal at Russell County High School, stated, “I am proud of our successful graduation rate and our continued improvement in transition readiness. This data is a result of the knowledge and continued focus on individualized learning and goal-setting for all students, regardless of future plans, whether to attend college, trade school, or enter the work force immediately.”

Gossage continues, “There are gains to be made with the

ACT, however, and initiatives have been implemented, including the purchase of practice ACT exams for all 9th through 11th graders, which includes question-by-question feedback for each student, aiding teachers in remediation to ensure improvements for each student. As of September, over 50% of the RCHS senior class is either academic or career ready, and plans are in place to assure the remaining students have every opportunity to reach this goal as well by graduation.”

Last year, the state introduced a new classification system for schools in the bottom percentage of Kentucky schools.

2018-2019 Russell County Schools Proficient/Distinguished Scores										
School	Reading	State Average	Math	State Average	Science	State Average	Social St.	State Average	Writing	State Average
JES	54.3	54.6	43.5	48.6	37.7	31.7	63.9	53.0	63.9	46.6
RSES	66.7	54.6	66.3	48.6	35.2	31.7	80.4	53.0	74.2	46.6
SES	54.3	54.6	51.8	48.6	32.3	31.7	41.2	53.0	43.1	46.6
Overall Elem	59.5	54.6	54.9	48.6	34.6	31.7	65.2	53.0	63.5	46.6
RCMS	64.4	59.6	59.2	46.4	21.0	26.0	58.6	58.8	35.9	31.9
RCHS	36.9	44.5	23.0	35.3	20.6	29.9	n/a	n/a	44.0	50.3

Comprehensive School Improvement

(CSI) and Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI). There are **NO** CSI or TSI schools in the Russell County School District. Last year, Russell County Middle School was identified as TSI due to one subgroup, students with disabilities. TSI schools were identified based on subgroups populations falling in the bottom 5%. This year, we are proud to report that RCMS is no longer identified as a TSI school.

Mrs. Sandra Dick, Director of Special Education, explained, "I am pleased that at the elementary level, there were no significant achievement gaps that resulted in a reduction of their star ratings. This is a very encouraging as this should factor into future scores as students move to higher grades with improved skills in reading and math. This is a critical element as students have to be prepared to do well at school and as they transition to adult life."

"Also, this year the middle school was able to move out of the designation of TSI due in part to narrowing the gap between students with and without disabilities. There has been a very concerted effort there to adopt strategies to better help students with disabilities and it is evident in the progress that has been made."

"In addition, the high school has been able to retain a strong special education

staff and to attract new staff members with experience when turnover occurred at the end of the year," Mrs. Dick continues. "At this level, it is hard to balance the demands of the curriculum and to remediate skill deficits, but progress is expected for the upcoming year with the scoring rubric for all grade levels including a focus on narrowing the achievement gap."

In closing, Superintendent Ford exclaimed, "I want to commend all the teachers and staff who work tirelessly throughout the day to help students achieve their goals. We are ready to face the challenges that lie before us and will work hard at seeing improvement in our focus areas this year."

Parents and Community Stakeholders are encouraged to access the School Report Card by going to the Kentucky Department Education website at <https://openhouse.education.ky.gov/src> for more detailed information.