

BCS MAKING PROGRESS

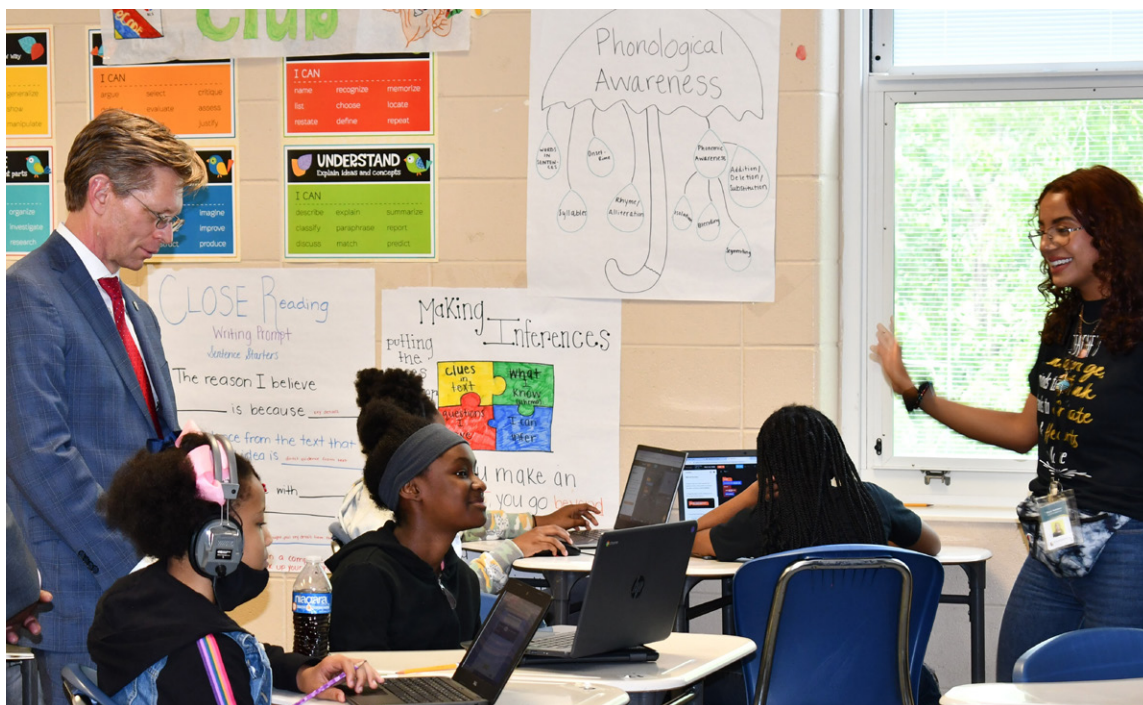
State Report Cards Show Continued Achievement Increase in Birmingham City Schools

Birmingham City Schools overall district grade increased two points on the recently released Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) Report Cards, and several schools showed increases in letter grades.

Birmingham received a grade of 73 overall, an increase of 71 over the previous report. One school – Oliver Elementary – moved from a C to a B. Six Schools – Avondale, Brown, Huffman Academy, Robinson, Tuggle and Washington K-8 – moved from D to C.

Four Schools – Arrington Elementary, West End Academy, Green Acres Middle and Hayes K-8 -- moved from F to D.

In another report on the state's CSI (Comprehensive Support and Improvement) schools, comprised of Title I schools in the lowest 5% with critical needs, 10 BCS schools worked their way off of the list. Parker High, Huffman High, Carver High, Hudson K-8, South Hampton, K-8, Hayes K-8, Green Acres Middle, Huffman Middle, Bush Hills Steam Academy, and Charles A. Brown are no longer listed among CSI schools in Alabama.



State Superintendent Dr. Eric Mackey makes a stop at Oliver Elementary in Spring 2022. Oliver moved from a “C” to a “B” on the recently released State Report Card.

Superintendent Dr. Mark Sullivan said the district is headed in the right direction, but continued focus in some key areas is needed to improve student achievement in all schools.

“We will not be satisfied until all schools and every student reaches the highest level of their

potential,” Sullivan said. “We have been strategic in equipping our teachers, academic coaches and principals to meet the needs of our scholars.

“Our community partnerships with organizations such as the United Way and the City of Birmingham’s Page Pals

program are helping to address literacy. Also, a team of national educators will soon begin supporting teachers to strengthen math instruction and student comprehension,” Sullivan said. “We are using all available tools to support our educators and

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THE SUPERINTENDENT SPEAKS

It's hard to believe, but 2022 already is coming to an end. This has been an awesome year in Birmingham City Schools. Once again, our educators and our scholars have shown how success really looks.

I'm pleased with the gains in student achievement, and I am confident that our students will continue to grow and learn in the New Year. In three years, we've seen a 35 percent decrease in the number of Birmingham schools on the state's failing schools list.

We also have seen a reduction in the number of CSI (Comprehensive Support and Improvement) schools in our district. This success happens because of the hard work of our educators, students and families who are focused on success for every scholar in Birmingham City Schools.

As we closeout 2022 and enter the holiday season, I want to thank everyone who contributes to the success of Birmingham City Schools.

The gains experienced in classrooms would not be possible without the commitment and hard work of our transportation team, buildings and maintenance, nursing staff, child nutrition, office support, counselors, and therapists, in addition to our educators.

Birmingham City Schools is home to champions in

the classroom and in sports. Congratulations to the Martha Gaskins robotics team. These young scholars captured first place in the Fall CoderZ League Robotics Competition.

The Ramsay Rams Football Team also brought home a big trophy. They are the Alabama High School Athletic Association 5A Champions. Ashton Ashford, a junior tied a state playoff record – scoring five touchdowns in the team's win on Dec. 1, 2022.

Congratulations to our Ramsay student-athletes, their principal and the coaches who guide and prepare them for the challenge every day.

Winter Intersession starts on Jan. 3, 2022. This is an opportunity for all students to get additional support and enrichment. It is our hope that all students who have not registered will go online and sign up right away. About 5,000 scholars participated in Fall Intersession. We are looking to surpass that number this winter, because intersession plays a key role in the overall academic success of our students.

As you travel and enjoy family and friends over the holidays, please make your health and safety a priority. Across the country, there are reports of increases in respiratory illness, the flu and COVID-19.

We want all our students, faculty, and staff to remain safe and



Ramsay running back Ashton Ashford ran for 284 yards and five touchdowns in his team's 41-20 win in the state 5A championship.

healthy during the break.

you all for an amazing 2022 in Birmingham City Schools!!!

Regular classes will begin on January 9, 2023, and I look forward to seeing everyone in place and ready for the new year. Happy Holidays and thank

- *Dr. Mark Sullivan*

UPCOMING DISTRICT DATES

Dec. 19	Start of Winter Holiday
Jan. 3-6, 2023	Winter Intersession
Jan. 9, 2023	Students Resume Classes
Jan. 12, 2023	2nd Grading Period Report Cards Go Home
Jan. 14, 2023	BCS Cheer Competition
Jan. 16, 2023	MLK Day
Jan. 19, 2023	District Wide Spelling Bee

BCS MEDIA TEAM

Sherrel Wheeler Stewart	Strategy & Communications Officer
Nikki Seaborn	Communications Coordinator Editor BCS Report
Fred Fluker	Publication Designer
Fred Davenport	Communications Specialist
Rachel Waller	Web Administrator
Estela Tirado	Bilingual Communications Specialist

INVESTING IN STUDENTS

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM TO LAUNCH CONFLICT RESOLUTION

The City of Birmingham continued its investment in area youths in November by approving funds for a conflict resolution curriculum to be used in Birmingham City Schools (BCS).

The City Council unanimously approved the Common Ground strategy that will provide the Habilitation, Empowerment, and Accountability Therapy (H.E.A.T) curriculum in high schools, middle schools, K-8 and alternative schools within the BCS district. The program uses an evidence-based, culturally relevant, holistic approach to handling anger management and conflict resolution.

The first group of students to experience H.E.A.T. celebrated their completion of the program with a ceremony on Tuesday, December 13, 2022, at Carver High School.

"This is another tool in our toolbox as we work to support prevention measures to address violent crime in our community," Mayor Randall L. Woodfin said. "I want to thank the Birmingham City Council as well as Birmingham City Schools for this partnership."

The H.E.A.T. curriculum,



Scholars at G.W. Carver High School are the first to complete the Common Ground/H.E.A.T conflict resolution of program. The program will be offered at high schools throughout the district starting in January 2023

currently used in Birmingham Municipal Court as part of the drug court initiative, expanded to a pilot program at Carver High School to address conflict resolution.

"We decided to take that same concept and adapt it to conflict resolution. Instead of talking about substance use or abuse, we talk about violence," said Birmingham Municipal Court Presiding Judge Andra Sparks.

"We have found the transition has been good. We have seen a significant difference in the young

men that have gone through the program."

"We believe in the program so much that we have brought our school principals on board in support of it. There is a need for conflict resolution in our schools," Birmingham City Schools Superintendent Dr. Mark Sullivan told council members.

The curriculum will be supported by up to 100 trained and credentialed coaches who will provide therapeutic counseling sessions two times a week within Birmingham City Schools. K-5

schools will not be included in this first phase, but up to 15 to 20 students will be identified for the program.

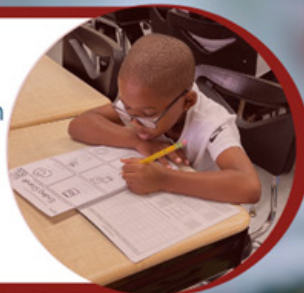
The Pinwheel Group, which created the H.E.A.T. curriculum, will train coaches in the coming weeks. The city is coordinating with Birmingham City Schools to inform parents and guardians about the program

The program budget will be \$1 million with all services performed over the next three fiscal years.



What's Included?

- ❄️ One-on-one & small group instruction
- ❄️ Transportation
- ❄️ Breakfast & Lunch
- ❄️ After-school care



Need to improve your kid's grades?



Use the QR code to register! For more information, contact your child's school.

2023 WINTER INTERSESSION

January 3 - 6

8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

2022 ALL-CITY CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL





BCS EXCELLENCE

MARTHA GASKINS ROBOTICS TEAM WINS TOP COMPETITION

The Martha Gaskins Elementary School Robotics Team won first place in the Fall CoderZ League Robotics Competition, capturing attention and praise from throughout the region. The team was honored on Tuesday, Dec. 13 by the Birmingham City Council, and it was featured in several newscasts.

Students like fifth-grader Kaylie Underwood said it's exciting to be number one.

"I was excited and happy," she said. "I've always been in second place or third."

Board President Neonta Williams accompanied the students and their principal at the City Council Meeting. She applauded their achievement.

"These are our future engineers, mathematicians, and robotics developers," Williams said. "We are proud of them. In five years of learning, they are already champions."

Martha Gaskins Principal Dr. Herbert Blackmon, said robotics,



Birmingham City Council members honored students from Martha Gaskins Elementary. The fifth-graders competed with more than 60 other school teams in the Fall 2022 CoderZ League Robotics Competition and walked away as Eastern United State Champions.

coding and stem activities are a hallmark of the school.

"We celebrate in closing the achievement gap and the opportunity gap," Blackmon said.

"This shows the excellence that exists in our school and in our school district."

Robotics Coach, Dr. Yuvraj Verma, has been at Martha Gaskins five months and is in his first year of teaching.

"These students were so dedicated. They made a lot of effort," he said. Other students have approached him to ask if they can join the robotics team, Verma said.

The team is working now to travel to the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. Their goal is to raise \$10,000 for the trip.

These six scholars were honored Tuesday, Dec. 13 during the Birmingham City Council meeting.

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our students from kindergarten through high school. We look forward to their continued progress."

In addition to the schools with increased letter grades:
*The number of schools included on the list for Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) decreased 53 percent, from 15 in 2019 to eight in 2022.

While several schools improved on the recent report cards, 12 schools dropped a letter grade since the last accountability period in 2018-2019, Sullivan said.

The district will respond to the needs in these schools with an increased focus on mathematics by:

- Partnering with the District Management Group.
- Focusing on chronic absenteeism with school-based student support and the use of external partners.
- Engaging a variety of partners to support efforts to raise high school student achievement on the ACT, the test used to assess high schools statewide.

Sullivan said students, parents and educators in Birmingham remained focused on achievement throughout the pandemic, and the continued progress in Birmingham City Schools is a result of their efforts.

"We are committed to continued academic progress in Birmingham City Schools," Sullivan said. "Our school board and this community supports our mission, and with that support, our scholars will have success."



Oliver Elementary students engage in learning as State Superintendent Dr. Eric Mackey looks on.

RAMSAY HIGH SCHOOL RAMS WIN STATE 5A FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP



The Mighty Rams of Ramsay IB High School are the AHSAA 5A Champions for 2022.

They won the title by defeating Charles A. Henderson High School at Jordan Hare Stadium at Auburn University on Dec. 1, 2022 with a score of 41-20.

The Rams were led by junior running back Ashton Ashford who carried

the ball 44 times and gained 281 yards. Ashford, who was named MVP for the playoff, tied a state playoff record with five touchdowns in one playoff game.

This is the second state championship for the Rams in recent years. The team won the 6A Championship in 2017. Coach Ronnie Jackson applauded his team's strong work ethic and

commitment to excellence.

"I think it's huge for Ramsay. Again, our kids deserve it," Jackson said.

"They've been putting the work in the entire off season. To see where they've come from, it's huge not just for the players, but for the teachers and our administration."

The team has been celebrated by the Birmingham City Schools, the

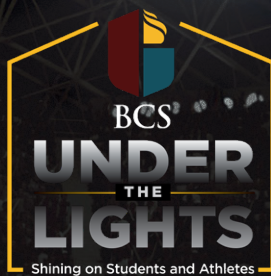
Birmingham Board of Education and the Jefferson County Commission. A victory parade is being planned for January.

"It's still unreal," said Anthony Miles, who plays left tackle. "I keep looking back at it from when we did the Ram walk, to us running out to hearing the fans cheering for us, it's just an unbelievable feeling."

UNDEFEATED PHILLIPS ACADEMY FOOTBALL TEAM WINS CHAMPIONSHIP



The J. H. Phillips Academy Middle School Football team went undefeated (8-0) for this football season and are the winners of the 2022 Birmingham City Schools Football Championship, led to victory this season under the leadership of Coach Justin Kelly, Jerrot Stewart, Christopher Ball, Tim Keenan, and Troymaine Pope. Athletically and academically, these outstanding scholars proved to be an unbeatable combination of talent and determination.



COURTSIDE

HIGH SCHOOL HOOPS EDITION

SCHEDULE

6PM GIRLS TIP OFF — BOYS TO FOLLOW

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2022

Huffman vs Shades Valley

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 2023

Ramsay vs Hueytown

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2023

Parker vs Homewood

MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 2023

Ramsay vs McAdory

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 2023

Woodlawn vs Shades Valley

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2023

Huffman vs Fairfield

WATCH



livestream.com/bcs & YouTube @BCS



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The BCS Specialty Schools Applications Are Open!

BCS Specialty Schools Application Process for the 2023-2024 school year.

This link will only work for applicants wishing to apply to Phillips Academy, EPIC, Princeton, W.J. Christian 6-8, and Ramsay I.B. High School.

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- INNOVATIVE PRACTICES AND TEACHING
- SELF-PACED LEARNING
- FLEXIBLE DAILY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

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MR. DAV'S FAVES

Showcasing some of the best stories of Birmingham City Schools reported by BCS Communications Specialist Fred Davenport



STUDENTS CREATING URBAN ART

▶ CLICK TO WATCH NOW ON [facebook](#)

A group of P.D. Jackson-Olin High School students have discovered something unique about themselves. The scholars have found they love to create urban art. Watch the video to hear from the Birmingham City Schools students.



JACKSON OLIN ALUM DAVID PALMER "THE DEUCE"

▶ CLICK TO WATCH NOW ON [facebook](#)

You may have heard about the "Deuce on the Loose," when Jackson Olin alum David Palmer lit up the football field with lightning speed for the Alabama Crimson Tide and then for the Minnesota Vikings. Check out this update on Palmer, an All-American from Birmingham City Schools and an example of the amazing talent birthed in BCS.

