

Report

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percent had enrollments with at least 50 percent of students from low-income families. Conversely, among schools that received at least a B, 75.7 percent had enrollments with less than 50 percent of students from low-income families.

“School grades are moving in the right direction, but they continue to underscore the academic challenges faced by many students from disadvantaged families, starting with pre-school,” Ms. Atkinson said. “We know schools are helping students make progress, but many schools have large numbers of students who are starting from behind.”

For schools receiving a D or F letter grade, N.C. Department of Public Instruction officials said they plan to evaluate each school and provide resources to assist in their improvement.

Graduation rate

The report shows that 87.3 percent of county students completed high school in four years or less. This compares to 85.5 percent the previous year.

The county graduation rate remains above the state average of 85.8 percent, which increased slightly from 85.4 percent the previous year.

West Carteret was the only high school with a falling graduation rate, down to 83.1 percent from 85.7 percent the previous year.

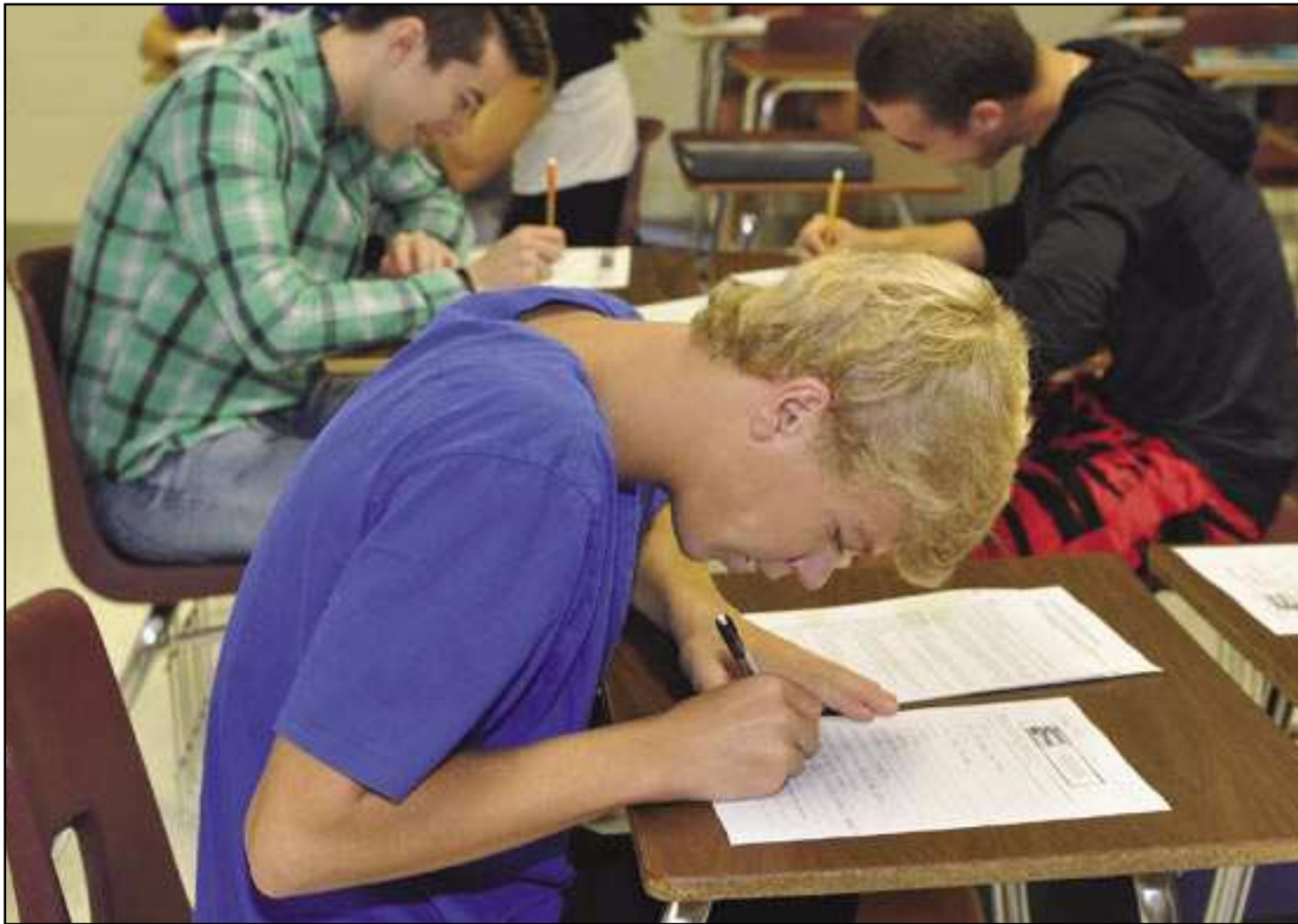
Croatan’s graduation rate was 95 percent for 2015-16, up from 88.1 the previous year, and East Carteret saw 90.6 percent, up from 83.1 percent the previous year.

Proficiency standards

The state report also includes the number of county students who are proficient and college ready in math and reading in grades three through eight, as well as a breakdown of individual schools. Furthermore, the report measures the number of students proficient and college ready in fifth and eighth grade science, along with the percentage of high school students proficient and college ready in math I, English II and biology.

The proficiency grades are based on a five-level scale, with Achievement Level 3 considered the state proficiency standard. Students at this level show sufficient command of subject material.

Achievement Levels 4 and 5



Croatan High School junior Graham Talbert works on an English assignment Thursday. This school, among others in the county, marked well on the latest state READY Accountability report that details a number of school benchmarks. (Cheryl Burke photo)

are considered career and college ready, and students at these levels show solid command and superior command of subject material respectively.

The percentage of traditional county third- through eighth-graders considered proficient in reading was 68.1 percent in 2015-16, up from 67.2 percent the previous year.

Tiller School reported 82 percent proficient in reading for 2015-16, down from 89 percent the previous year.

The state average proficient in reading for 2015-16 was 56.9 percent, up from 56.3 the year before.

The report also showed 56.0 percent of county students on pace for college in reading for 2015-16, up from 55.8 the previous year. Tiller reported 78 percent on pace for college in reading in 2015-16.

In math, 61.3 percent of traditional county students were proficient in 2015-16, up from 60.1 the previous year.

Tiller School reported 86 percent proficient in math for 2015-

16, up from 81 percent the previous year.

The state average was 54.7 percent proficient in math for 2015-16, up from 52.2 percent the year before.

The report also showed that 54.3 percent of county third-through eighth-graders were on college pace in math for 2015-16, up from 52 percent the previous year. Tiller reported 84 percent on pace for college in math for 2015-16.

In fifth grade science, 80.1 percent of traditional county students were proficient for 2015-16, compared to 73 percent the previous year. The state average proficient was 71.6 percent, up from 64.6 percent the previous year.

Tiller School reported 93 percent proficient in fifth-grade science, up from 92.9 percent the previous year.

It also showed 70.5 percent of county fifth-grade students on pace for college in science, up from 62.9 percent the previous year. Tiller reported 90 percent on pace for college in fifth-grade

science for 2015-16.

In eighth grade science, 80.2 percent of county students were proficient in 2015-16, up from 80 percent the prior year. The state average proficient for 2015-16 is 73.9 percent, up from 72.6 percent the year before.

It also showed 73 percent of county eighth-grade students on pace for college in science, up from 71.6 percent the previous year.

As for county high school students, results in math I were 72.9 percent proficient in 2015-16, down from 77.8 percent in 2014-15. The state average was 60.5 for 2015-16, up from 59.8 percent for 2014-15. It also shows 63.2 percent of county math I students on pace for college in 2015-16, compared to 66.7 percent the previous year.

In English II, 71.3 percent were proficient in 2015-16, compared to 74.2 percent proficient in 2014-15. The state average was 58.8 percent for 2015-16, down from 59.6 percent the previous year. The results show 61.8 percent of county English II students

on pace for college, compared to 65.1 percent the previous year.

In biology, 77.5 percent of county students were proficient in 2015-16, up from 77.1 percent the previous year. This is above the state average of 55.5 percent for 2015-16, up from 53.6 percent. It shows 69.5 percent of county biology students on pace for college in 2015-16, compared to 70.6 percent the previous year.

Dr. Kreuser said they have begun analyzing the data to determine the contributing factors to the drop in high school end-of-course grades.

Academic growth

The report also measures the amount of academic growth from the beginning to the end of the school year.

Five of the 16 traditional county public schools exceeded expected growth, six schools met expected growth and five schools did not meet expected growth. Those schools are: Beaufort Elementary, Beaufort Middle, Harkers Island Elementary,

Morehead City Elementary and Newport Elementary schools.

The Tiller School met expected growth.

Dr. Kreuser said she planned to work with schools that did not meet growth standards.

“While we are disappointed in the decline in our accountability growth, we also recognize that our percentages in each category are very near the state averages. We set very high standards and expect to see higher than state averages in Carteret County public schools,” she said. “We have work to do. We will explore possible concern areas in each school and work diligently to improve.”

ACT results

The report also includes results on the ACT college readiness exam taken by last year’s juniors, who comprise the Class of 2017, which shows the percentage of students meeting the UNC system admissions requirement of a composite score of 17. For Carteret County, 79.3 percent of high school students taking the exam met the standards, down slightly from 80.4 percent the previous year. That compares to the state average of 59.9 percent for 2015-16, which is up from 59.7 percent the previous year.

The percentage of students at individual county high schools achieving the ACT benchmark in 2015-16 are: Croatan, 90.1 percent, up from 88 percent the previous year; East Carteret, 68.2 percent, up from 66.2 percent the previous year; and West Carteret, 75.9 percent, down from 81.5 percent the previous year.

Other information

Other results included in the state report include:

- ACT WorkKeys: Percent of graduates who are Career and Technical Education concentrators and earn a Silver Certificate or higher, which was 85.5 percent for the county, compared to 73.5 percent statewide.
- Students Passing Math III: The percentage of students successfully passing Math III in the county was greater than 95 percent, which is on pace with the state.

To access the 2015-16 READY Accountability report, go to www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/reporting.

Contact Cheryl Burke at 252-726-7081, ext. 255; email Cheryl@thenewstimes.com; or follow on Twitter @cherylcct.



YOU SPEND: \$0.
YOU SAVE: EVERYTHING.

Prostate cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death among men, but early detection saves lives. That’s why we’re offering prostate cancer screenings absolutely free this September 10th. If you are fifty or over, or further at risk (African American 40 or over, men with a family history of prostate cancer), be sure to get screened yearly. As a service to the community Onslow Memorial is offering free screenings during this special event, but they are by appointment only. Details and RSVP information below.

FREE PROSTATE SCREENING
Saturday, September 10, starting at 9AM
Onslow Diagnostics
200 Memorial Dr., Jacksonville, NC 28546
Call 910-577-2581 to make an appointment

For more information, visit Onslow.org/ProstateHealth



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