

# Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools

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## Vision and Mission Statement

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Adopted On May 3, 2006

### **Vision Statement**

From school to the world: **All** students prepared for  
productive futures

### **Mission Statement**

To ignite a passion for learning and teaching at high  
levels

## Guiding Principles

Guiding Principles are the shared values and management style of the organization. They articulate the ethical standards by which the organization makes decisions and conducts activities.

**GUIDING PRINCIPLE 1:** The school board provides guidance and support to schools by establishing clear goals, aligned policies, high standards, and effective systems of evaluation which produce accountability and results.

**GUIDING PRINCIPLE 2:** The academic achievement of students will be at a level that will enable them, upon graduation from high school, to enter college or the work force fully prepared to be successful—without need of remediation.

**GUIDING PRINCIPLE 3:** Education is a shared responsibility between home, school and community.

**GUIDING PRINCIPLE 4:** A safe, secure and orderly environment is essential for teaching and learning.

**GUIDING PRINCIPLE 5:** All children can learn and achieve at high levels but may learn at different rates or learning styles.

**GUIDING PRINCIPLE 6:** Fiscal responsibility and accountability must be maintained at all times.

**GUIDING PRINCIPLE 7:** Positive relationships are built through honesty and respect which enhance cooperation, safety and well-being of students, families and staff.

# SAVANNAH-CHATHAM COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## SYSTEM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

### Goal #1

#### TO IMPROVE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

##### **A. Reading on Grade Level**

Objective:

To increase the percentage of students who are reading on grade level by the end of grade 2 as measured by the District reading assessment.

##### **B. Georgia Criterion Referenced Competencies Test (CRCT)**

Objective:

To increase the percentage of students meeting or exceeding standard in the core content areas as measured by the Georgia CRCT examination administered in Grades 3, 5, and 8 (first time test takers only – retest scores are not included).

##### **C. Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS)**

Objective:

To increase the District average score in the core content areas as measured by the Iowa Test of Basic Skills, a norm-referenced examination administered in Grades 3, 5, and 8.

##### **D. Graduation Rate**

Objective:

To improve the District graduation rate as measured using the Georgia AYP calculation method.

##### **E. Georgia High School Graduation Test**

Objective:

To improve first time test takers success rate on the GHSGT as measured by the Georgia Department of Education.

##### **F. Advanced Placement Tests**

Objective:

To increase the percentage of students participating and achieving a score of 3 or higher on Advanced Placement Exams as determined by the College Board.

##### **G. International Baccalaureate (IB) Diplomas**

Objective:

To increase the percentage of students enrolled in the International Baccalaureate program being awarded the International Baccalaureate Diploma.

# SAVANNAH-CHATHAM COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## SYSTEM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

### H. Scholastic Aptitude Reasoning Test (SAT)

Objective:

To increase the District average on the Verbal and Mathematics portions of the SAT Reasoning Test, a nationally norm-referenced college entrance examination.

### I. ACT

Objective:

To increase the District average composite score on the ACT Test, a nationally norm-referenced college entrance examination.

## Goal #2

### TO ENSURE FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY AND EFFECTIVE RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP

#### A. ESPLOST Program

Objective:

ESPLOST projects are completed on-time and within budget and change orders are effectively controlled.

#### B. Financial Reporting

Objective:

To provide complete, accurate, and timely financial reporting for the Board and the public.

#### C. Use of Audits

Objective:

To use various internal and external audits and program reviews as tools for continuous improvement.

#### D. Stewardship of Human Resources

Objective:

To provide information on the effectiveness of the District's management of its Human Resources.

#### E. Stewardship of Facilities

Objective:

To improve the utilization of the District's facilities as measured by the percentage of capacity used and utilities cost per student.

**SAVANNAH-CHATHAM COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**SYSTEM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

**Goal #3**

**TO PROVIDE A SAFE AND SECURE ENVIRONMENT FOR STUDENTS  
AND EMPLOYEES**

**A. Truancy**

Objective:

To improve student attendance at all grade levels by reducing the Truancy Rate.

**B. School Discipline**

Objective:

To reduce the number of infractions that give rise to referrals for suspension and expulsion while ensuring that appropriate and consistent discipline is being administered in all of the District's educational settings.

**C. Emergency Preparedness**

Objective:

To ensure the preparedness of schools in the event of an emergency/crisis situation by conducting live and simulated exercises at all sites.

**D. Weapons and Drugs**

Objective:

To reduce the numbers of weapons and drugs on school campuses as measured by official police reports.

**F. Dropout Rate**

Objective:

To decrease the number of dropouts from the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System as measured by the Department of Education during the Fall FTE data collection.

**Goal #4**

**TO ENGAGE PARENTS AND OTHER COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS**

**A. Engaging our Students' Parents**

Objective:

To increase the level of parental involvement in the educational process as measured by the attainment of model Parent Teacher Association (PTA) status as determined by the Georgia PTA.

# SAVANNAH-CHATHAM COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## SYSTEM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

### **B. Engaging the Business Community**

Objective:

To increase the number of business partnerships.

### **C. Engaging our Neighborhoods & Communities**

Objective:

To develop direct contacts between school principals and the communities / neighborhoods they serve. This also includes our military community.

### **D. Engagement Through Mentoring & Tutoring**

Objective:

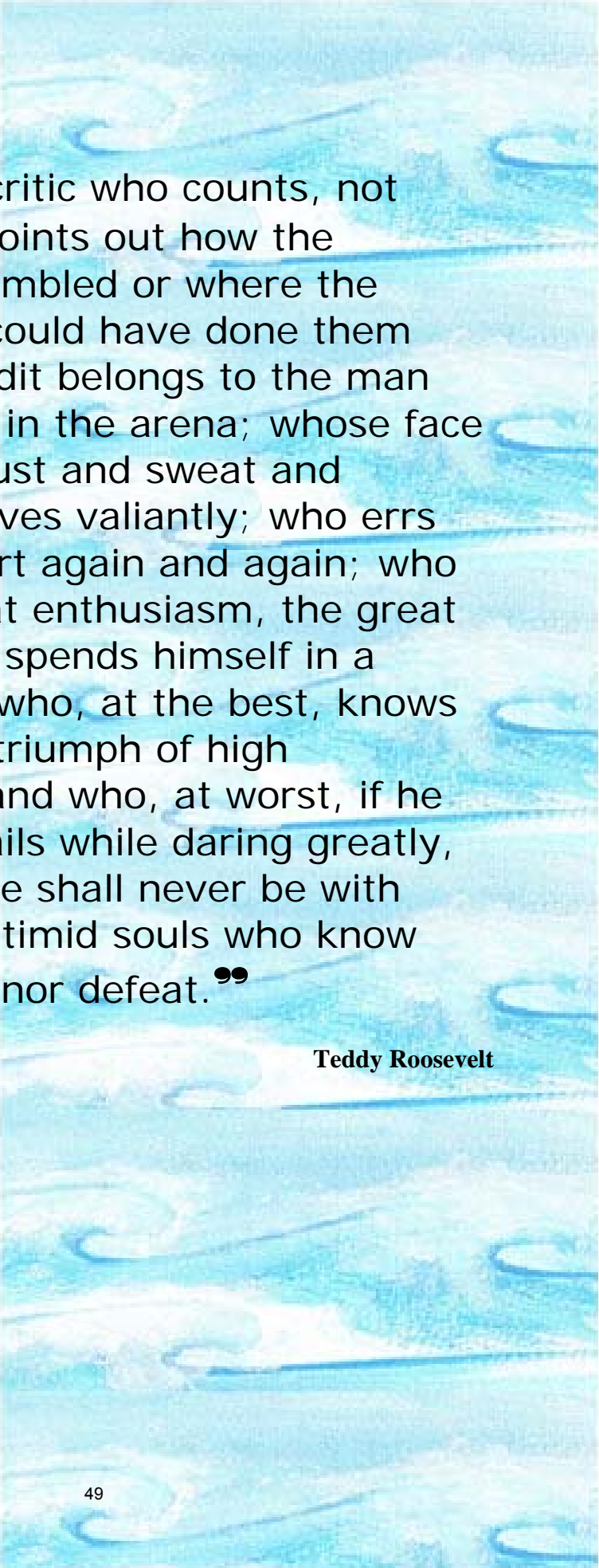
To increase the number of mentors and tutors available to our students.

### **E. Perceptions of the District**

Objective:

To improve the overall perception of the District by its many constituencies, to include students, parents, visitors, volunteers, mentors, and business partners as measured by an annual climate survey.





“It is not the critic who counts, not the man who points out how the strong man stumbled or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena; whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs and comes short again and again; who knows the great enthusiasm, the great devotions, and spends himself in a worthy cause; who, at the best, knows in the end the triumph of high achievement; and who, at worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat.”

**Teddy Roosevelt**

# Benchmarks

High expectations yield higher achievement. A clear understanding of what is expected for success can help each student achieve. Student achievement is why we are in business. With that in mind, the district has developed benchmarks and corresponding indicators of success for all Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools. We are doing this because we want our students to be able to compete in the world of work – locally, regionally and globally.

As students advance from grade to grade, their academic performance at key junctures will indicate our progress in reaching these benchmarks. State assessments at grades 3, 5, 6, 8 and 11 will be used for this purpose. Success in reaching the benchmarks is determined by performance on state tests. Student performance on these test will serve as a “snapshot” of each students readiness to successfully meet or exceed standards.

**High expectations yield higher achievement. With these benchmarks, we have taken the first step toward the creation of a learning environment dedicated to raising standards and producing results.**

The benchmarks and corresponding indicators of success reflect the state and national learning standards and will be supported by the district’s curriculum, instructional practices, assessments, and good management practices and leadership. To help students reach high levels of performance at all grade levels, we will continue to provide opportunities that will enable high-achieving students to excel, while helping other students to improve.

We have taken the first step in creating a learning environment dedicated to raising standards and producing results. More is on the way.

The following figures outline the district’s benchmarks and indicator of success based on measures of student performance.



# Savannah Chatham Public Schools District Standards and Assessments

## Georgia Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests (CRCT)

ACADEMIC AREA	Indicator of Success	Baseline	ANNUAL TARGET			
			Actual 2009	2010	2011	2012
<b>Reading</b>	Increase the percentage of students who meet or exceed the state standard in <b>Grade 3</b>	81%	83%	85%	86%	88%
	Increase the percentage of students who meet or exceed the state standard in <b>Grade 5</b>	83%	82%	86%	88%	88%
	Increase the percentage of students who meet or exceed the state standard in <b>Grade 8</b>	88%	88%	90%	91%	92%
<b>Math</b>	Increase the percentage of students who meet or exceed the state standard in <b>Grade 3</b>	59%	69%	67%	70%	73%
	Increase the percentage of students who meet or exceed the state standard in <b>Grade 5</b>	60%	72%	68%	71%	74%
	Increase the percentage of students who meet or exceed the state standard in <b>Grade 8</b>	47%	53%	57%	61%	65%
<b>English/Language Arts</b>	Increase the percentage of students who meet or exceed the state standard in <b>Grade 3</b>	82%	83%	85%	87%	88%
	Increase the percentage of students who meet or exceed the state standard in <b>Grade 5</b>	86%	88%	89%	90%	91%
	Increase the percentage of students who meet or exceed the state standard in <b>Grade 8</b>	85%	87%	88%	89%	90%

## Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS)

ACADEMIC AREA	Indicator of Success	Baseline	ANNUAL TARGET			
			Actual 2009	2010	2011	2012
<b>Reading</b>	To meet or exceed the National percentile standard in <b>Grade 3</b>	53%	44 <sup>th</sup>	50 <sup>th</sup>	50 <sup>th</sup>	50 <sup>th</sup>
	To meet or exceed the National percentile standard in <b>Grade 5</b>	52%	45 <sup>th</sup>	50 <sup>th</sup>	50 <sup>th</sup>	50 <sup>th</sup>
	To meet or exceed the National percentile standard in <b>Grade 8</b>	38%	35 <sup>th</sup>	50 <sup>th</sup>	50 <sup>th</sup>	50 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Math</b>	To meet or exceed the National percentile standard in <b>Grade 3</b>	50%	48 <sup>th</sup>	50 <sup>th</sup>	50 <sup>th</sup>	50 <sup>th</sup>
	To meet or exceed the National percentile standard in <b>Grade 5</b>	51%	46 <sup>th</sup>	50 <sup>th</sup>	50 <sup>th</sup>	50 <sup>th</sup>
	To meet or exceed the National percentile standard in <b>Grade 8</b>	58%	38 <sup>th</sup>	50 <sup>th</sup>	50 <sup>th</sup>	50 <sup>th</sup>
<b>English/Language Arts</b>	To meet or exceed the National percentile Standard in <b>Grade 3</b>	50%	48 <sup>th</sup>	50 <sup>th</sup>	50 <sup>th</sup>	50 <sup>th</sup>
	To meet or exceed the National percentile Standard in <b>Grade 5</b>	50%	50 <sup>th</sup>	50 <sup>th</sup>	50 <sup>th</sup>	50 <sup>th</sup>
	To meet or exceed the National percentile Standard in <b>Grade 8</b>	52%	42 <sup>th</sup>	50 <sup>th</sup>	50 <sup>th</sup>	50 <sup>th</sup>

## International Baccalaureate (IB) Diplomas

ACADEMIC AREA	Indicator of Success	Baseline	ANNUAL TARGET			
			Actual 2009	2010	2011	2012
Grade 12	Increase the success rate of high school seniors enrolled in the IB Program	26%	45%	48%	49%	50%

## GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION TESTS (GHSGT)

ACADEMIC AREA	Indicator of Success	Baseline	ANNUAL TARGET			
			Actual 2009	2010	2011	2012
Grade 11	Increase the percentage of first time test takers who meet or exceed the state standard	68%	71%	89%	90%	91%

## SCHOLASTIC APTITUDE TEST

ACADEMIC AREA	Indicator of Success	Baseline	ANNUAL TARGET			
			Actual 2009	2010	2011	2012
Combined	Meet or exceed the national average for 12 <sup>th</sup> grade students	914	918	932	942	950

## Advance Placement

ACADEMIC AREA	Indicator of Success	Baseline	ANNUAL TARGET			
			Actual 2009	2010	2011	2012
All high schools	Graduating seniors participation	14	16	18	19	20

The **CRCT** is designed to measure how well students acquire the skills and knowledge described in the Quality Core Curriculum (QCC). The assessments yield information on academic achievement at the student, class, school, system and state levels. This information is used to diagnose individual student strengths and weaknesses as related to the instruction of the QCC, and to gauge the quality of education throughout Georgia.

The **ITBS** is a norm-referenced test(NRT). Scores from a NRT are used to compare the performance of Georgia's students with the performance of students in a national sample, in the same grade who took the test at the same point in the school year. The performance of students in Georgia is compared to students in the norm group. The results of an NRT are used for evaluation, decision-making, and instructional improvement.

The State **Writing Assessment** Advisory Council assisted the Georgia Department of Education in developing the writing component of the student assessment program. The council, consisting of educators with expertise in the instruction of writing skills and writing assessment, is made up of a Grade 3 and 5 committee and a Grades 8 and 11 Committee. The goal of the Writing Assessment Advisory Council and the Department of Education was to create developmentally appropriate assessment procedures to enhance statewide instruction in the language arts. The statewide writing assessment serves the purpose of improving writing and writing instruction.

The **GHSGT** is a result of Georgia law (O. C. G. A. § 20-2-281) which requires that curriculum-based on assessments be administered in grade 11 for graduation purposes. The Department, together with Georgia educators, developed and administers the English/Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies Test in response to this law.

The **SAT** is administered by the College Board and is designed to measure verbal and quantitative reasoning skills, developed over many years of education, that are related to academic performance in college. SAT scores are statistically controlled to maintain the same meaning from year-to-year.

The **Advanced Placement (AP)** program is designed to provide college credit and appropriate placement to secondary school students who have successfully mastered college-level course work. The College Board sponsors the AP program with technical operational services provided by Educational Testing Services (ETS) in Princeton, New Jersey.

# BOARD OF EDUCATION – District Accountability System

## REPORTS AND PRESENTATION SUMMARY

Strategic Goals	<b>Goal 1: To Improve Academic Achievement</b>									<b>Goal 2: To Ensure Fiscal Responsibility and Effective Resource Stewardship</b>					<b>Goal 3: To Provide a Safe and Secure Environment for Students and Employees</b>					<b>Goal 4: To Engage Parents and Other Community Stakeholders</b>					
Objectives	1.A. Reading on Grade Level	1.B. CRCT	1.C. ITBS	1.D. Graduation Rate	1.E. GA HS Graduation Test	1.F. Advanced Placement Test	1.G. IB Diplomas	1.H. SAT	1.I. ACT	2.A. ESPLOST Program	2.B. Financial Reporting	2.C. Use of Audits	2.D. Stewardship of HR	2.E. Stewardship of Facilities	3.A. Truancy Rate	3.B. School Discipline Rate	3.C. Emergency Preparedness	3.D. Weapons and Drugs Rate	3.E. Dropout Rate	4.A. Engaging our Students' Parents	4.B. Engaging the Business Community	4.C. Engaging Neighborhood & Communities	4.D. Engaging Through Mentoring & Tutoring	4.E. Perception of the District	
July					P					RP	P	P			R	R	R	R					R		
August	R									RP	P	P			P	P	P			R					R
September	P	R						R	R	RP		P													P
October		P		R		R		P	P	RP		P						R							
November				P		P				RP	P	P													
December							R			RP	R	P													
January			R				P			RP	P	P	P	P	R			R	R						
February			P							RP	P	P			P	R	R								
March										RP		P				P	P								
April										RP		P						R						R	
May										RP	P	P								R					
June					R					RP		P													

**LEGEND:**

**R** = Report to the Board of Education

**P** = Presentation to the Board of Education

