



FLORIDA SCHOOLS IMPROVED THEIR SCHOOL GRADE DURING THE 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR

~ Number of "F" schools cut in half since last year ~

Tallahassee, Fla., July 8, 2016 – Today, the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) released the 2015-2016 district and school grades, and the number of schools earning an "F" dropped by approximately 50 percent from 204 in 2014-2015 to 103 in 2015-2016. Additionally, 58 percent of schools that earned a "D" or "F" in 2014-2015 improved by at least one letter grade in 2015-2016. Overall, a total of 1,137 schools maintained an "A" grade or increased their grade in 2015-2016.

"Even as we have continued to raise the bar for student performance and implemented more rigorous standards by which schools are graded, Florida's educators and students have continued to excel," said Commissioner of Education Pam Stewart. "It is clear that our focus on Florida's most struggling students is paying off, especially in our 'D' and 'F' schools, 58 percent of which increased their grade in 2016. The great benefit of our state's accountability system is that it constantly shines a light on areas that need improvement. I applaud the schools which improved, and I encourage all schools to pursue excellence persistently." – *Commissioner Pam Stewart*

Highlights for Holmes County include:

- Two schools are graded "B" in 2016.
- There are no schools graded "D" or "F" in the district.
- Average graduation rate exceeds 80%
- Improved ten percentage points in Civics, with 69 percent of students scoring Level 3 or higher.
- Moved up seven percentage points in Grades 3-5 Mathematics combined (Florida Standards Assessment and End-of-Course assessments).
- Improved four percentage points in both Geometry and Biology 1
- Improved eleven percentage points in Grade 3 English Language Arts with 55 percent students scoring Level 3 of higher. **(25% increase over last year – 3rd highest in Florida)**

2016 School Grades

HOLMES DISTRICT SCHOOLS	C
BONIFAY MIDDLE SCHOOL	C
POPLAR SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL	C
BETHLEHEM HIGH SCHOOL	B
PONCE DE LEON HIGH SCHOOL	C
PONCE DE LEON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	C
BONIFAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	B
HOLMES COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL	C

"I am pleased with our results as our schools continue to steadily increase their academic performance. This is a combination of students working hard, talented teachers dedicated to them, supportive administrators committed to a standard of excellence, and involved parents. I have seen firsthand the tireless efforts teachers are putting forth to prepare our students to achieve at their highest levels."

"Florida has increased education standards and has a new assessment to measure these new standards. In addition, there is a new, more difficult school grading system. This is the first year the new grading system is in place under the new assessment or FSA. There have been no "D" or "F" schools in Holmes County for two consecutive years."

"Our schools are busy making adjustments this summer based on FSA data. I anticipate continued improvement because I believe in our students, parents, teachers, staff and administrators."



Eddie Dixon