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Newsline

A weekly news source from the Douglas County School District

Douglas County students outpace state on CSAP

Douglas County School District students continue to outpace state performance in every grade and on every subject tested by the Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP). Recently released scores show stability or gains across the board in reading and writing, according to a recent analysis. Math scores were more variable with a notable increase at grade 10, slight increases in grades five and seven and small declines in grades six, eight and nine.

Reading scores range from 77 percent to 86 percent proficient and advanced.

New superintendent Jim Christensen said that he was pleased overall with the performance of the district. "We are breaking apart the data to learn more about what is working well across the content areas and where we need to focus our efforts for continued improvement," said Christensen. "We were especially pleased at the performance of our tenth graders, who increased their proficient and advanced levels by nine percent in reading, eight percent in writing and six percent in math."

ACT scores crept up slightly, with the district average at 20.7 on the ACT composite. All 11th graders in Douglas County took the college entrance test.

Results of the 2003 CSAP 3rd grade reading tests were released earlier this year. Eighty-six percent of Douglas County students scored proficient or advanced.

"Clearly Douglas County's teachers, administrators and students are working hard and it shows," said Christensen. "We will always focus on achievement and improvement, but we should also take time to celebrate our successes."

Douglas County is examining CSAP performance of students enrolled in special education classes compared to achievement of their Individual Education Plans. "We are providing students with more specific goals, which are more likely to be attained," said Instructional Support Services Regional Director Pat Longo. "We have increased our accountability by reporting to the Board of Education on progress and alignment of our efforts to district standards over time."

In addition to special groups of students and gender performance, the district is tracking the performance of groups of students on the same test as they advance through the system. "As more content areas and grades are tested, this provides us with an avenue for tracking performance over time," said Assessment Director Nancee Sprigg.

The scores released Wednesday represent the results of 23 tests given during March and April and include students who entered Colorado public schools after October 1, English language learners who met specific time requirements in English language acquisition programs, and special education students. The tests were administered over several days for an average of nine hours total.