

Ga. Dept. Education Report

Terrell High School Ranks In Top 20% 'Performing School'

Terrell County High School has once again received some good news from the Georgia Department of Education (GDOE) regarding academic success at the local school.

A recent report from the GDOE shows that Terrell High School ranks in the top 20 per cent as a "Performing School."

The GDOE conducted a Georgia Assessment of Professional School Standards (GAPSS) evaluation at Terrell High School on March 31 and April 1.

Terrell School Superintendent Robert Aaron and Terrell High School Principal Douglas Bell both said they were pleased with the recent evaluation results.

According to Principal Bell, "This evaluation measures the school's effectiveness and level of implementation of curriculum, assessment, instruction, planning and organization, family and community engagement, professional learning, leadership and school culture.

"Results of that evaluation showed that Terrell High School currently ranks in the top 20 per cent of performing schools in the State of Georgia, Mike O'Neal, who is the chairperson for Georgia Assessment of Professional Standards at the Georgia Department of Education, reported," Principal Bell said.

"Additionally, Terrell High School recorded a score of 92.50, which is now the highest score recorded for a public school in the State of Georgia," Mr. Bell said. "It was noted



**SUPERINTENDENT
ROBERT AARON**

that previously, the highest score ever recorded on a GAPSS evaluation was 90, and that school is located in Savannah."

Continuing, Mr. Bell reported that the GAPSS team was very complimentary of staff at the local school, including the leadership, teachers, students and custodians. The buildings are well maintained and the school environment is safe and orderly, Mr. O'Neal noted.

According to Mr. Bell, "The administration, teachers and students are all focused on school improvement. I credit this accelerated level of achievement to building professional learning communities within the school, retaining highly qualified teachers, analyzing data and adjusting instruction to meet the needs of students, adding rigor to the planning and delivery of instruction, developing a sys-



**TERRELL HIGH PRINCIPAL
DOUGLAS BELL**

tem for effectively monitoring students' progress and providing interventions to remediate and accelerate students' learning."

Continuing, Mr. Bell said, "The next steps are to build upon the existing technology at the school to create a distance learning capabilities to enhance the course offerings at TCHS and partner with community colleges to offer honor classes. Terrell High School remains committed to meeting the needs of the students," Principal Bell added.

Listed below are commendations for the areas that were assessed:

Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction

* A data room has been established and is used to display and monitor:

- * progress toward graduation for each student

- * EOCT historical data
- * CCRPI historical scores
- * graduation data
- * student and teacher attendance
- * discipline data. A-1; A-3

* Terrell County High School is commended for increasing the results on seven of the eight EOCT from 2013 to 2014.

- * 9th Literature 80 to 89
- * America Literature 77 to 92
- * Physical Science 69 to 87
- * Biology 73 to 75
- * Coordinate Algebra 16 to 24
- * U.S. History 53 to 63
- * Economics 59 to 90
- I-3; L-2

* Terrell County High School is commended for providing students with timely and systematic interventions to support their learning needs. Examples include:

- * Flexible Learning Program
- * Increased Learning Time
- * after-school tutorial
- * support classes
- * credit recovery
- * Care Team
- * summer school
- I-9

Planning and Organization

* The building is well-maintained and clean and positively affects student, staff and parent perceptions of the learning environment as safe and inviting. PO-1

* School administrators facilitate the development and sustained implementation of policies, practices and proce-

dures that ensure a safe, orderly, and inviting learning environment for students, staff, and community. This was validated by classroom observations (100% standard classroom practice and pervasive practice). PO-3; SC-1

Family and Community Engagement

* GAPSS Team observations and interviews support that the school exhibits a welcoming environment for students, parents, and other visitors. FCE-1

Professional Learning

* Common planning time for teachers in the same department is built in to the daily schedule and is used for collaborative planning and professional learning. PL-3

Leadership

* The leadership team meets regularly, has strong teacher and other non-administrative staff representation, and uses norms and protocols to engage in their work. The team gathers, analyzes, and uses a variety of data to solve problems and make decisions. L-3

* Administrators lead the comprehensive, ongoing data analysis efforts of the school to improve student performance and organizational effectiveness. L-7

School Culture

* The administrative team maintains high visibility in classrooms, hallways, and the cafeteria. SC-1

* Teachers and administrators cultivate a culture of trust and respect for students that ensures positive interactions and reinforces a sense of community. This was substantiated through interviews and classroom observations (100% positive student-student interactions and 100% positive adult-student interactions). SC-2

* Terrell County High School is commended for the school's current 2014 CCRPI score (80.1) which is in the top 20% of all high schools. In addition, the school exceeded the overall state average on Graduation Rate, Progress (Student Growth Percentiles), Achievement Gap, and Challenge Points. SC-3.

* The Terrell County High School Care Team, comprised of administrators who are each responsible for a grade-level, focuses on early identification of those students who are at-risk of not graduating and, then, provides support to enhance each identified student's performance. SC-4

"We are proud of the hard work of our school staff and students," Mr. Bell said. "We will continue to make every effort to meet the educational needs of our students."

Superintendent Aaron said, "I would like to commend Principal Bell and the entire staff at the high school for the hard work and dedication they do each and every year. They have done a great job and are to be commended," Superintendent Aaron added.