



# GOOSE CREEK

## CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

### GCCISD proud of student achievement on state tests

The results of the most recent state-mandated exams show that Goose Creek CISD students outshined their counterparts across Texas, surpassing state averages in many cases.

This past spring, the new state standardized test, the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) was administered to students in grades 3 through 8, and the ninth grade students, as well as the eighth grade students taking Algebra I, took the STAAR End of Course (EOC) exams, which starting next school year, will account for 15 percent of the students' final grade in each course.

As for the 10th-graders and 11th-graders, it was back to the old TAKS test. Students in the Class of 2013 and the Class of 2014 must pass the 11th grade exit level TAKS to meet their graduation requirements.

And when comparing the passing rates in 2011 to the ones in 2012, the Class of 2013 has made significant gains across the board in math, English, social studies, and science for the past two years.

In English/language arts, the passing rate for Goose Creek's 2012 11th grade students is 91 percent compared to 89 percent when they were 10th-graders in 2011.

Furthermore, each subpopulation of students (all students, African-American, Hispanic, white, economically disadvantaged, special education, and limited English speakers) showed dramatic gains in achievement as well.

As for the 2012 10th grade class, those students' scores continue to trend upward in science and social studies while holding steady in English and math.

STAAR results on the five rigorous key end-of-course tests showed that Goose Creek students scored higher than the state in Algebra 1, Geometry, and Biology.

For the ninth grade Algebra 1 EOC, the passing rate for Goose Creek is 85 percent, whereas the state-passing rate is 83 percent.

Meanwhile, for Biology, it is 88 percent compared to the state's 87 percent; and for Geometry, it is 99 percent compared to the state's 98 percent.

As for grades 3 through 8 STAAR, the district has only received raw scores.

STAAR testing is annual performance testing to see what percentage of students are at proficiency and advanced status in the core content areas.

Theoretically, the testing scores are used to evaluate student-learning levels and to help schools work to attain higher proficiency.

Students in sixth through eighth grades scored above state scores in all tests based on the state formula for scoring raw data.

Goose Creek CISD eighth-graders scored 91 in reading compared to 89 for the state; 79 in math compared to 78 statewide; 83 in science compared to 78; and 97 in science which equaled the state.

Seventh-graders scored 88 in reading compared to 87 in the state; 88 percent passing here compared to 82 statewide; and 97 in writing compared to the state's 96 percent.

On the sixth grade-reading exam, the passing rate for Goose Creek is 85 percent, equaling the state score while in math 85 percent of students passed compared to 82 for the state.

In fifth grade science, the passing rate for Goose Creek is 89 percent, whereas the state-passing rate is 87 percent.

Students in third and fourth grade scored a point or two below the state averages in reading, math, and writing.

"Student achievement is always a top priority, so we are pleased when our test scores rise. The improvement is really attributed to the hard work of the principals, the teachers, and the students," said Diana Maldonado, executive director of curriculum and instruction. "We expect our test scores to rise even more next year. We have a plan and all of our schools are working hard. We're up to the challenge."

Next school year, only the 11th-graders will take the TAKS, while students in grades 3 through 10 will take the STAAR; and then the next school year, the TAKS will phase out completely and be replaced by the STAAR.

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