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PERSON COUNTY SCHOOLS
PREPARING STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS IN A CHANGING WORLD

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Person County Schools Celebrates Significant Gains in Student Achievement and Continued Academic Growth

2025-26 results reflect the district's strongest overall proficiency gains in five years, significant gains in high school EOC performance, continued growth in mathematics, increased college and career readiness, and strong school-level growth and performance.

Person County Schools is celebrating significant academic gains reflected in the 2025-26 assessment and accountability results. The results demonstrate meaningful progress across the district, with particularly strong gains in reading, mathematics, and high school End-of-Course (EOC) assessments, as well as continued progress toward preparing students for success after high school.

Districtwide Achievement Shows Strongest Gain in Five Years

The district's overall proficiency composite increased from 49.7% in 2024-25 to 56.3% in 2025-26, a 6.6% increase. This represents the district's largest year-over-year increase in five years. Since 2021-22, Person County Schools has increased its overall proficiency composite by 7.4%.

High School EOC Performance Shows Significant Gains

One of the most notable areas of improvement was high school End-of-Course performance. Overall Grades 9-12 EOC proficiency increased from 36.7% to 51.4%, a 14.7% gain in one year.

The district also saw substantial increases in individual EOC assessments:

- Biology proficiency increased 25.2%, from 24.2% to 49.4%.
- Math 1 proficiency increased 22.3%, from 31.5% to 53.8%.
- English II proficiency increased 5.5%, from 46.2% to 51.7%.
- Math 3 proficiency increased 4.6%, from 45.8% to 50.4%.

The district's EOC College and Career Readiness results also show encouraging progress. The percentage of students achieving an Achievement Level of 4 or 5 on EOC assessments increased to 31.8% in 2025-26, the highest level achieved by Person County Schools in the past five years. This measure provides an additional indicator of students demonstrating strong academic performance and progress toward college and career readiness.

Person High School also experienced a substantial increase in its overall proficiency composite, rising 17.7%, from 32.9% to 50.6%. The school's Math 1 proficiency increased by 27.3%, while Biology proficiency increased by 25.5%.

College and Career Readiness Shows Continued Progress

Person County Schools also saw strong participation and progress in measures designed to assess students' college and career readiness. High school participation in reading, mathematics, and the ACT was 100%, providing a complete picture of student performance in these areas. The combined ACT/WorkKeys proficiency rate increased to 50.2%, a 6.5% increase from the previous year.

WorkKeys results provide another important indicator of students' readiness for the workplace. Of the 150 students who participated in the ACT WorkKeys assessment, 116 earned an ACT WorkKeys National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC). More than three-fourths of participating students earned this nationally recognized credential, demonstrating foundational workplace skills.

These results reflect the district's continued focus on providing students with multiple pathways to demonstrate readiness for college, career, and life after high school.

Reading Gains Highlight Elementary and Middle School Progress

Reading performance also showed meaningful improvement. Districtwide Grades 3-8 reading proficiency increased from 44.9% to 51.8%, a 6.9% gain.

A particularly significant accomplishment was seen in third-grade reading. Proficiency increased 17.9% from the previous year, reaching 59% proficiency in 2025-26. This marks the first time in the past five years that Person County Schools' third-grade reading proficiency has exceeded the statewide rate, with PCS at 59% compared with 55.3% statewide.

Sixth-grade reading also increased by more than 10%, while seventh-grade reading increased by 8.6%.

These gains represent important progress in foundational and middle-grades literacy and reflect the continued focus on literacy instruction and targeted student support.

Mathematics Remains a District Strength

Person County Schools continues to demonstrate strong performance in mathematics. Grades 3-8 mathematics proficiency increased from 57.5% to 60.3%, a 2.8% gain. The district's 2025-26 mathematics proficiency rate also exceeded the statewide rate of 59.6%.

The district's five-year mathematics trend demonstrates sustained improvement, increasing from 46.6% in 2021-22 to 60.3% in 2025-26, a 13.7% increase.

Third-grade mathematics proficiency reached 73.3%, while fourth-grade proficiency reached 64.5% and fifth-grade proficiency reached 65.0%.

Schools Across the District Are Contributing to the Progress

The districtwide results are supported by significant gains at individual schools. Woodland Elementary, for example, increased its overall proficiency composite by 9.9%, while its reading proficiency increased 12.5% and its mathematics proficiency increased 8.2%.

Other notable school-level gains include:

- Northern Middle School: 13.9% increase in sixth-grade reading.
- Southern Middle School: 15.9% increase in mathematics proficiency over the five-year period.
- South Elementary School: 21% increase in reading proficiency over the five-year period.
- Oak Lane Elementary School: Significant gains across multiple grade-level assessments.
- Person High School: 17.7% increase in its overall proficiency composite.

Strong Growth and School Performance Across the District

In addition to proficiency gains, Person County Schools saw encouraging results in school growth and accountability measures.

Eight of the district's 10 schools with a reported growth status met or exceeded growth expectations. Additionally, 9 of 11 schools increased their growth performance score, demonstrating improvement in the amount of academic growth occurring across the district. School performance grades also remained strong, with 10 of 11 schools, or 91%, receiving a Performance Grade of C or higher.

Together, these results demonstrate that the district's progress is not limited to proficiency alone. Schools are also making progress in helping students demonstrate academic growth and improving their overall school performance.

Graduation Remains an Important Measure of Success

Graduation remains an important measure of success for Person County Schools. The PCS26 Strategic Plan identifies a cohort graduation rate above 90% as one of the district's Indicators for Future Success.

The district has maintained a graduation rate of at least 90%, reflecting the collective work of students, teachers, counselors, administrators, families, and community partners to keep students on track for graduation and to prepare them for opportunities beyond high school.

Continued Growth Remains a Districtwide Focus

Person County Schools recognizes that academic improvement is an ongoing process. While the district celebrates substantial gains in 2025-26, educators and school leaders will continue to examine student performance data to identify ongoing needs and provide targeted support.

The progress reflected in this year's results is the result of the collective efforts of students, teachers, school leaders, support staff, families, and community partners.

"These results are a reflection of the hard work and commitment of our students and staff," said Dr. Rodney Peterson, Superintendent of Person County Schools. "We are proud of the significant gains our students have made, particularly in our high school EOC results, reading, and mathematics. At the same time, we know that our work does not stop with one year of growth. We will continue to use data to identify opportunities for improvement and provide the support our students need to be successful."

The 2025-26 results reflect Person County Schools' continued commitment to its PCS Strategic Plan and its mission "to prepare students for success in a changing world." The district's Academic Achievement priority emphasizes personalized learning, data-informed decision-making, targeted support through MTSS, rigorous standards-based instruction, and pathways that prepare students to graduate on time and be ready for work or college.

As the district moves forward, Person County Schools will continue building on this year's progress while working toward the outcomes established in PCS30: increasing the number of schools achieving a Performance Grade of C or higher, increasing the number of schools meeting or exceeding growth expectations, and increasing the number of students graduating from high school.