



# COMMITTED TO STUDENT SUCCESS

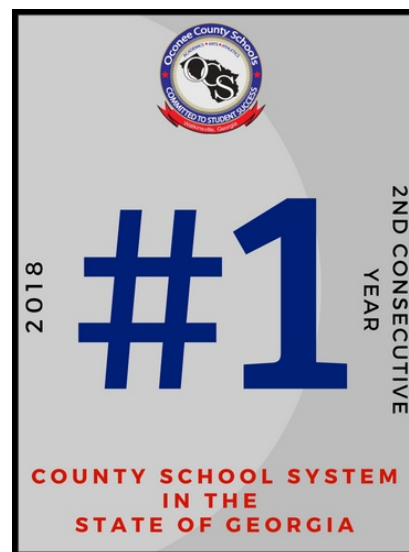


August 2018

## OCS named #1 county system in Georgia following Milestones release

Oconee County Schools has been ranked the #1 county school system in Georgia following the release of 2018 Milestones End of Grade and End of Course assessment data. On each assessment, OCS had an average well above that of the state of Georgia.

OCS was in the top 10 in the state on 22/23 assessments. The district was the #1 district in the state on the following assessments: 5th grade English/Language Arts and American Literature. The district was #2 in the state on the following assessments: 4th grade Math, U.S. History, and Economics.



[Click here for more information.](#)

---

## Students in grades 5-8 receive Chromebooks

OCS is excited to launch 1:1 technology this school year in grades 5-8, with expansion to the rest of the district next school year! In today's digital world, all students will greatly benefit from increased collaboration and creativity using digital tools. Students have received their devices, and we look forward to sharing the innovative ways students use

technology all year.

[Click here for more information.](#)



## Important Links

Below are some links that you may find helpful!  
To download the 2018-19 system calendar, click here:  
[www.oconeeschools.org/201819calendar](http://www.oconeeschools.org/201819calendar).  
To download breakfast and lunch menus, click here:  
[www.oconeeschools.org/menus](http://www.oconeeschools.org/menus).



### Rocky Branch Elementary named Georgia All-Star School

Rocky Branch Elementary School has been named an All-Star School by the Georgia Department of Education, an honor given to less than 5% of public schools in Georgia. Rocky Branch was honored as part of the “Georgia All-Stars 4 Learning” initiative for its very successful school focus on combining character education with STEAM – Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics – throughout the school.

[Click here for more information.](#)



### High Shoals Elementary receives School Bell Award from GAESP

High Shoals Elementary School was recently named as one of only ten elementary schools in Georgia to receive a School Bell Award from the Georgia Association of Elementary School Principals (GAESP). The school was honored for its highly successful schoolwide enrichment program, which has involved a strategic focus on supporting creativity and higher order thinking – that is: evaluating, creating, and analyzing.

[Click here for more information.](#)

## Welcome Letter from Superintendent Jason L. Branch

Welcome to another exciting school year in Oconee County Schools! As I enter my 7th year

leading one of the premier school districts in our state and nation, I continue to be amazed at the talent of our students, the support of our parents and community, and the knowledge and care of our world-class teachers and staff. Oconee County Schools is indeed a special place!

As we enter the fall of 2018, OCS does so with the highest SAT, ACT, and graduation rates in our system's history. Our student's academic achievement has earned Oconee County Schools the distinction of being ranked as one of the elite educational institutions in Georgia and our Board of Education's fiscal management made OCS the #1 system for financial efficiency in the state last year.



Oconee County is a special place and people want to be part of something special. With a student enrollment that has surpassed 8,000 young people, OCS is the fastest growing system in Northeast Georgia. This rapid growth has necessitated the opening of our 11th school, Dove Creek Elementary School, and a 20-classroom addition at Oconee County High School.

Yet, today's educational experience is not limited to the four walls of a classroom. Thus, to ensure our students are prepared to succeed in today's digital and global world, we are also launching a one to one technology initiative this year in grades 5-8 with the remainder of the district to be added in the 2019-20 school year. Each student will receive a laptop computer to utilize at school and home to aide in their learning. This advancement will pair nicely with the learning management system that also launches this year – allowing students to interact with digital content and instructional materials regardless of time and location.

To our school community and everyone who calls Oconee County home, please accept my sincere thanks for your support of our schools. I know you join me in looking forward to another year of offering our students a world-class education with a small town feel! See you in our schools!

Sincerely,  
Dr. Jason L. Branch

## Annual Report

### OCS releases 2017-18 Annual Report

Please check out the newly-released Annual Report for information on the district, each school, new initiatives, quick facts, and much more! Special thanks to the Annual

Report sponsors: Oconee State Bank, BankSouth, Georgia United Credit Union, and Peach State Federal Credit Union. Thanks to the incredible teachers, leaders, support staff, students, parents, Board members, and community members, we have much to celebrate here in Oconee County!



[Click here to view the Annual Report online.](#)

**Summer-August 2018  
Highlights**

**Over 86% of OCS students  
score 3 or higher on AP exams**



Please check out the short video below for highlights from graduation until the first week of school! It has been a great start to the 2018-19 school year, and highlights will be shared throughout school year.



Rocky Branch Elementary First Day of School

Advanced Placement results were recently released, and OCS increased its number of students who scored a 3 or higher on one exam to 86.28% as compared to 83.2% in 2017. OCS' percentages were significantly higher than the Georgia and global averages of 61%.

At the school level, 87.45% of North Oconee High students scored a 3 or higher on at least one AP exam, and 84.86% of Oconee County High students did the same. Kudos to both high schools for being at the top of the state and in the top 2% nationwide!

## Oconee County Schools

34 School Street, P.O. Box 146, Watkinsville, GA 30677

[www.oconeeschools.org](http://www.oconeeschools.org)

P: 706.769.5130

F: 706.769.3500

Follow Us!

