



To: All Media Outlets

From: Gainesville City School System

Subject: Georgia DOE Release of CCRPI Climate and Financial Efficiency Ratings

Date: January 27, 2017

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On Thursday, the Georgia DOE released the final components of the 2016 CCRPI. These included the School Climate and Financial Efficiency ratings.

The district's strategic improvement plan sets forth the goal of all schools having a four-star or higher climate rating. We are pleased to announce that the district has not only met this goal, but exceeded it. Four schools earned a five-star climate rating, and three schools received a four-star rating. The climate rating is derived from student, teacher, and parent survey feedback; student discipline data; and attendance of students and teachers. The district's focus on attendance, PBIS, and increasing family engagement and satisfaction all contributed to the exceptional ratings that were received. The scores are as follows:

Centennial Arts Academy - 5 stars  
Enota Multiple Intelligences Academy - 5 stars  
Fair Street International Academy - 4 stars  
Gainesville Exploration Academy - 5 stars  
New Holland Knowledge Academy - 5 stars  
Gainesville Middle School - 4 stars  
Gainesville High School - 4 stars

The district received a financial efficiency rating of 3 stars. The financial efficiency rating is determined by a three-year average of per pupil expenditures and College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) scores. The ratings are displayed as supplemental information to CCRPI scores. The district's financial resources continue to be focused on meeting the ever changing needs of our students, while ensuring that taxpayer dollars are used responsibly. The Gainesville City School System continues to receive clean annual audit reports and a bond rating of AA+; has increased the fund balance by over \$5.5 million in the last two budget cycles; and utilizes zero-based budgeting when identifying priorities for the schools and operationalizing the district strategic improvement plan.

According to the Department of Education, while the star rating provides additional information about the relationship between per pupil expenditures and student achievement, users should note its limitations. Although all districts follow the same

reporting guidelines, inconsistencies in the use of school codes have resulted in the districts reporting similar expenditures in different ways to the GaDOE. For example, a school district that reports teacher salary expenditures at the district level will result in very high district allocations relative to a district that reports teacher salary expenditures at the school level.