

SUMTER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

2680 West County Road 476

Bushnell, Florida 33513

352-793-2315

Press Release

From: Colleen Strickland, Specialist

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Subject: FCAT Writes Scores

Sumter County Schools are proud to announce the 2011 FCAT Writing test scores. Sumter's 10th graders were tied for the highest ranked mean prompt writing scores in the state. Eighty-two percent of tenth grade students scored 4.0 or above on the 2011 administration of FCAT Writes. Ninety-two percent of eighth grade students scored 4.0 or above and were tied for 3rd in the state. Fourth grade students were ranked 2nd in the state with 87% of students scoring level 4.0 or higher.

Since 2006 Sumter schools have implemented an intensive district-wide writing program with strategic professional development. Sumter has seen dramatic increases in the percent of students scoring 4.0 or above since the implementation of the Writer's in Control program. The success of student writing scores is directly related to the strategic strategies teachers use in the classroom to guide instruction and provide timely feedback to students. The district was above the state average for percent of students scoring level 4.0 or higher at all tested grades. Some of the greatest school gains are represented at Webster Elementary where the percent of students scoring 4.0 and above increased from 65% in 2010 to 92%, and at Lake Panasoffkee Elementary with an increase from 65% in 2010 to 91% in 2011. The Villages Charter Middle had an increase from 67% in 2010 to 92% in 2011.

School Superintendent Rick Shirley said, "We are all proud of the efforts of our students and staff—they make the difference." He also emphasized the number of perfect scores on the 6 point scale when compared to the state. The number of students achieving at the highest level in the state is pretty significant," he said. Sumter had 31 fourth grade students with perfect scores, 40 eighth graders with perfect scores and 43 tenth graders with perfect scores. Sumter is tied with one other district for the highest percent of students with a perfect score in 10th grade.

Congratulations to all of our students, teachers and school administrators!