

## Press Release

**Date:** May 18, 2011  
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### **Re: SUMTER NAMED HIGH PERFORMING SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Sumter County is one of 13 school districts recognized by the state Board of Education as a 2011-12 Academically High Performing School District. The board announced the recognition, based on the latest school and district grades, class size requirements and demonstration of sound fiscal policies. Other districts receiving the recognition are Charlotte, Citrus, Clay, Gulf, Indian River, Lee, Martin, Nassau, Seminole, Wakulla and Walton, according to the release. Out of those 13 districts, only two (Sumter and Wakulla) are smaller districts with 12 maintaining this designation for at least two consecutive years. The recognition exempts the districts from a state law requiring the opening of schools no earlier than 14 days before Labor Day each year. Superintendent of Schools, Richard A. Shirley said, "Congratulations are in order for all students, staff, administrators, community and Board members. It is quite an honor to meet the rigorous criteria qualifying for an Academically High Performing District in Florida. The hard work of everyone involved is obviously paying off and our students and citizens are the biggest beneficiaries. Thank you for your dedication." More information about the 2011-12 Academically High Performing School Districts can be found at [http://www.fldoe.org/board/meetings/2011\\_05\\_17/acad.pdf](http://www.fldoe.org/board/meetings/2011_05_17/acad.pdf)