

# Preparing the Next Generation Today

# Sumter Summary

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 2

NOVEMBER 2011

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## SUMTER SCHOOL DISTRICT RECEIVES \$1.3 MILLION IN FEDERAL GRANT FUNDING

The Sumter County School Board has been awarded the 3-year Advanced Placement Incentive Grant in the amount of 1.3 million dollars to implement "Project Screen IN." School Superintendent Rick Shirley said, "Sumter is one of only a few districts in Florida to be awarded this highly competitive national grant. This award is indicative of the great staff that works so hard on behalf of our students and community. In a tough economic time, this grant provides a tremendous opportunity to better prepare many of our students for college and career opportunities."

Sumter County Schools, in partnership with the College Board, will begin developing a district-wide culture of college readiness by supporting and preparing all students for the rigors of advanced coursework that will ultimately lead to success in college and career choices. Shirley said, "Students may choose many paths once leaving the K-12 system; however, Sumter students will not have their choices limited due to lack of access, preparation, or support." Due to the grant eligibility criteria targeting low income students, this program will serve South Sumter Middle, South Sumter High and Wildwood Middle High School students. A research-based rigorous curriculum, as well as an extensive support system will improve access to, and participation of students, in advanced placement courses.

With increased numbers of eligible students taking advanced placement tests successfully, more opportunities for earning college credit will be available. The extra resources provided by the grant will help guide decisions impacting course offerings, testing, and guidance encouraging students to take challenging Virtual and Advanced Placement courses. Although low income and minority students are part of the target group, the expanded offerings and services will be available for all students, grades 6-10. It will provide preparation, course offerings, and support for middle school students as they prepare for entrance into the high schools. *continued*

**Congratulations! Sumter has been awarded an "A" rating once again by Standard and Poor's.**

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- November 11–Holiday All
- November 16–Progress Reports
- November 21-25–Thanksgiving Holidays-All
- December 22–Early Dismissal for Students and Teachers, Second Nine-Weeks ends, First Semester Ends
- January 5–Winter Holiday Ends 250 day employees/Teachers Return
- January 6–Professional Day Teachers
- January 9–Winter Holiday Ends Students

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## BES Nominated for Distinguished Title I School Award

Bushnell Elementary School has been identified as a Florida Title I Distinguished School for the 2010-2011 school year! Superintendent Rick Shirley says, "According to the Department of Education, Florida has 1,853 Title I schools and only six are being awarded this recognition. What a great honor this is for the faculty, staff and community." The Chancellor of Public Schools commended Sumter for the strong commitment made by the district and school staff to have the highest quality of education for all students. Bushnell Elementary was nominated by the Florida Department of Education for demonstrating exceptional student performance for two or more consecutive years by exceeding its adequate yearly progress (AYP). The Florida Title I Distinguished Schools award recognizes Title I schools that have made the greatest progress in sustaining high levels of academic achievement and for closing the achievement gap for students in the No Child Left Behind subgroups. In addition to meeting Adequate Yearly Progress, Bushnell Elementary has been an 'A' school four consecutive years. The outstanding 2011 FCAT results demonstrate 90% of students meeting high standards in reading, 87% meeting high standards in math, and 93% meeting high standards in Writing. The State Board of Education will recognize Bushnell Elementary



*Students participating in science experiments.*

## Wildwood Elementary submitted by Principal, Dana Williams

Wildwood Elementary is very happy to report that we are an "A" rated school once again! The entire staff and student body were thrilled to begin the school year on such a positive note and we look forward to continued success this year.

Learning Focused Solutions is alive and kicking at WWES! Our teachers have jumped on board to create a Learning Focused campus, full of LEQ's, data-driven learning communities, successful collaborative pairs, and more rigorous coursework. All instructional staff members are working to increase vocabulary and are tying all content lessons to the Skill of the Month. Students can be seen working on reading signal words while on the playground and watching PowerPoint presentations full of content vocabulary during lunch.

As part of our ongoing goal to increase parental involvement, Wildwood Elementary offers several opportunities for families such as Family Math Night, Accelerated Reader Nights, Family Science Nights and conference nights.

## \$1.3 Million Grant Continued

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Within the scope of the project, the district will provide professional development on pre-Advanced Placement strategies at all levels with a particular focus on science, math, and English. Multiple support activities will include after-school tutorial and enrichment programming, summer “bridge” institutes, parental involvement events, student incentives, technology tools and learning communities for professional development and coaching. The project enhances the district’s strategic plan to increase academic rigor providing a more comprehensive K-12 college readiness culture in Sumter County Schools.

## Entitlement Grants

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**Title I, Part A** federal funds are awarded to the district from the Florida Department of Education to support educational programs in Title I schools. Sumter’s designated Title I schools are Bushnell Elementary, Lake Panasoffkee Elementary, Webster Elementary, and Wildwood Elementary. Title I funds supplement the programs at these schools by providing additional staff, technology, instructional programs, parental involvement activities, professional development, and curriculum review and revision. If you have suggestions for use of Title I funds, improvement of the Title I programs, parent activities, or need information about Title I, you may call Helen Christian at 352-793-2315, extension 204 or email her at the district office: [Helen.Christian@sumter.k12.fl.us](mailto:Helen.Christian@sumter.k12.fl.us)

**Title II, Part A** federal grant funds are awarded by the Florida Department of Education to the Sumter School District to support the following:

- improving teacher quality and meeting the requirement to have all core subject area teachers highly qualified
- providing professional development that improves the knowledge and skills of all educators
- increasing student achievement and eliminating the achievement gap
- recruiting and retaining highly qualified teachers
- providing induction and mentoring programs for new teachers
- enabling teachers to involve parents in their child’s classroom
- reducing class size

For further information, please contact Daris Dew in the Human Resource Department, [Daris.Dew@sumter.k12.fl.us](mailto:Daris.Dew@sumter.k12.fl.us) or access the district web site <http://sumter.k12.fl.us> for additional references.

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## Superintendent, Richard A. Shirley

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**IDEA, Part B** funds supplementary special education and related services needed to make a free, appropriate public education available to all eligible children with one or more of thirteen specified disabilities. Please call Jytte Jensen at 352-793-2315, extension 259 or email at [Jytte.Jensen@sumter.k12.fl.us](mailto:Jytte.Jensen@sumter.k12.fl.us) for more information or to make suggestions concerning IDEA, Part B activities.

**IDEA, Part B, Preschool** funds supplementary special education and related services needed to make a free, appropriate public education available to children, ages three to five years, with disabilities. Please call Jytte Jensen at 352-793-2315 extension 259 or email at [Jytte.Jensen@sumter.k12.fl.us](mailto:Jytte.Jensen@sumter.k12.fl.us) for more information or to make suggestions concerning IDEA, Part B, Preschool activities.

**Title III, Part A** funds supplementary activities to assist English Language Learner (ELL) students in becoming proficient in English language acquisition and meeting state proficiency targets in reading, math and science. Please call Jytte Jensen at 352-793-2315, extension 259 or email at [Jytte.Jensen@sumter.k12.fl.us](mailto:Jytte.Jensen@sumter.k12.fl.us) for more information or to make suggestions concerning Title III activities. If you need assistance in Spanish, please call 352-793-6061.

**Title X, Part C, McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act**, is federal legislation dealing with the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness. Each school and the district has a Homeless Liaison whose responsibilities include identifying children who are homeless, making homeless families aware of their rights and removing barriers that may interrupt a child's enrollment in school. The school liaison assists the parent in deciding whether it is best for the child to attend the school of origin or the local school. For more information, please call the District Homeless Liaison, Jean Holstein, at 352-793-2315, extension 211 or email her at [Jean.Holstein@sumter.k12.fl.us](mailto:Jean.Holstein@sumter.k12.fl.us).

### **Title II, Part D Enhancing Education through Technology**

Sumter County Schools has been the recipient of funds through the *Enhancing Education through Technology* grant program. This fund, as the title notes, enhances the use of technology to improve student achievement. Title II part D is a part of the No Child Left Behind program from the United States Department of Education and is managed through the Florida Department of Education.

During 2010-2011 the district was a recipient of a competitive grant totaling almost \$750,000 for the purpose of enhancing science by infusing technological tools throughout science instruction. Additionally, the grant assisted the district to support computer based assessments. These funds were used to infuse instructional technology throughout the Sumter Professional Center for staff development purposes. Although Title II, Part D was discontinued at the federal level, the Sumter school district continues to use the enhancements afforded by these funds to continue impacting students positively. For additional information, please contact Jim Greene, Coordinator, at [Jimmy.Greene@sumter.k12.fl.us](mailto:Jimmy.Greene@sumter.k12.fl.us).