

THE DISPATCH

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Systems making positive progress

More students graduate in 4 years

BY DENEESHA EDWARDS
The Dispatch

More students in Davidson County are finishing high school in four years or less, according to cohort graduation rates released Thursday.

The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction started measuring the percentage of students who graduate four years after beginning high school in 2007.

This year all three school systems in Davidson County saw an increase in the number of students who entered high school in the 2008-09 school year and graduated with the Class of 2012, compared to students who were freshmen in the 2007-08 year and graduated in 2011.

Davidson County Schools' rate passed the state's percentage. The system reported a cohort graduation rate of 82 percent. Last year the system had an 80.6 percentage rate.

► MORE | 3A



Test results

SCHOOLS **PERF. COMP.%** **ABC STATUS** **AMO STATUS**

Davidson County Schools

SCHOOLS	PERF. COMP.%	ABC STATUS	AMO STATUS
Brier Creek Elementary	68.4	Pro/Exp	No
Central Davidson High	83.4	Dst/High	Yes
Central Davidson Middle	80.2	Dst/Exp	No
Churchland Elementary	75.4	Pro/Exp	No
Davidson County High	54.5	Exp	No
Davidson Early College	98.9	HE/High	Yes
Davis-Townsend Ele.	86	Dst/High	Yes
Denton Elementary	70.3	Pro/Exp	No
E. Lawson Brown Middle	83.4	Dst/Exp	Yes
East Davidson High	84.5	Dst/High	Yes
Fair Grove Elementary	79.2	Pro/High	No
Friedberg Elementary	90.6	HE/High	Yes
Friendship Elementary	83.9	Dst/High	Yes
Hasty Elementary	79.7	Pro/Exp	No
Ledford Middle	86.3	Dst/Exp	Yes
Ledford High	91.5	HE/High	Yes
Midway Elementary	88.3	NR	Yes
North Davidson High	87	Dst/High	Yes
North Davidson Middle	89.2	Dst/High	Yes
Northwest Elementary	80.8	Dst/High	No
Pilot Elementary	79.1	NR	No
Reeds Elementary	80	NR	No
Silver Valley Elementary	70.3	Pro/Exp	No
South Davidson High	80.7	Dst/High	Yes
South Davidson Middle	79	Pro/Exp	No
Southmont Elementary	77.9	NR	No
Southwood Elementary	79	Pro/Exp	No
Stoner-Thomas School	57	NS	Yes
Tyro Elementary	78.7	NR	No
Tyro Middle	84.2	Dst/High	Yes
Wallburg Elementary	87.7	Dst/High	Yes
Welcome Elementary	75.9	Pro/Exp	No
West Davidson High	82.7	Dst/High	Yes

Lexington City Schools

Charles England Elem.	72.1	Pro/Exp	No
Lexington Middle School	63.6	NR	No
Lexington Senior High	66.2	Pro/Exp	No
Pickett Primary	76.2	Pro/Exp	Yes
South Lexington	No %	Pro/Exp	No
South Lexington			
Development Center	25.6	NS	No
Southwest Elementary	78.1	Pro/High	Yes

Thomasville City Schools

Liberty Drive Elem.	62.4	Pro/Exp	No
Thomasville Primary	56.5	Pri/Exp	No
Thomasville Middle	57.5	Pri/Exp	No
Thomasville High	68.2	Pro/High	No

Dst/Exp = Made Expected Growth and Performance Composite at least 80%.
 Dst/High = Made High Growth and Performance Growth at least 80%.
 Exc/Exp = Made High Growth and Performance Composite at least 90%.
 NR = No Recognition (Did Not Make Growth) and had a Performance Composite at least 60%.
 Pro/Exp = Made Expected Growth and Performance Composite 60-69%.
 Pro/High = Made Expected Growth and Performance Composite 60-69%.
 Pri/Exp = Priority School and Performing Composite 50-59%.
 NS = No Status
 HE/Exc/High = Made High Growth, Performance Composite 90-100% and met all AMO targets.
 Exp-Expected Growth; High-High Growth; HE-Honor School of Excellence; Exc-School of Excellence; Dst-School of Distinction; Pro-School of Progress; Pri-Priority School; LP-Low Performing; NS-No Status

Majority of schools make expected growth

BY DENEESHA EDWARDS
The Dispatch

The state ABCs of Accountability report released Thursday indicated most schools in all three school systems in Davidson County made expected growth.

The annual report measures the percentage of students' test scores that are at or above grade level and whether each school has met academic growth expectations from one year to the next.

For the first time this year schools are measured under the Annual Measurable Objective instead of Adequate Yearly Progress like previous reports. With AMO schools are not measured under an "all or nothing" method anymore. The difference identifies specific proficiency targets for each student subgroup compared to one proficiency target that all subgroups must meet.

Davidson County Schools had 27 of 32 schools meet expected growth. Of those 27, 15 schools

► MAJORITY | 2A

Store manager from Lexington is robbery victim

BY DARRICK IGNASIAK
The Dispatch

A store manager who resides in Lexington was the victim of an armed robbery in Winston-Salem on Tuesday.

Officials with the Winston-Salem Police Department said Thursday that Todd Gower, 44, the manager of Gold Express at 1412-A S. Hawthorne Road, has been released from Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center in Winston-Salem. Gower received a gunshot wound to the head after three men armed with long guns and handguns entered his store Tuesday morning, according to a WSPD news release.

Officers with the WSPD responded to a reported armed

robbery at the Gold Express about 10:02 a.m. Tuesday, said Capt. Connie Southern with the WSPD Criminal Investigations Division. Upon arrival, they found Gower with a gunshot wound to the head.

Southern said the three suspects after shooting Gower robbed the business of an undetermined amount of cash and jewelry. That's when they fled the scene in a silver-colored Chevrolet Malibu, which was later observed by patrol officers who were responding to the robbery.

Southern said after a short pursuit the vehicle drove into a parking deck at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center, where all three suspects ran from the

► W-S STORE | 6A



DONNIE ROBERTS/THE DISPATCH

I see myself

Maria Hilliard, 5, watches herself on a computer screen as she makes faces while using a computer Thursday morning during the annual summer camp operated by the Davidson County Parks and Recreation Department and ARC of Davidson County held at Davis-Townsend Elementary School. See story on page 3A.



A man driving this Mitsubishi Eclipse died after a T-bone accident on N.C. Highway 150 South in Churchland on Thursday.

DARRICK IGNASIAK/THE DISPATCH

Man dies after T-bone wreck

BY DARRICK IGNASIAK
The Dispatch

CHURCHLAND | A Lexington man has died after a two-vehicle accident on N.C. Highway 150 South on Thursday.

About 11 a.m., troopers with the N.C. Highway Patrol were dispatched to the accident in the 10000 block of N.C. Highway 150 South. The accident occurred three-tenths of a mile south of Wilson Road and 10.8 miles southwest of Lexington.

Trooper R.T. Simmons, the investigating trooper, said Steven Allen Brooks, 37, of Calvin Sowers Road, driving a Mitsubishi Eclipse, was traveling south, ran off the right shoulder of the

road, lost control, slid across the center line and onto the left shoulder. A Toyota Yaris, driven by Samuel Tyler Bright, 21, of Lake Drive, No. 8, traveling north ran off the road to avoid the Eclipse. However, the vehicles made impact, causing a T-bone collision.

According to the Highway Patrol, Bright suffered minor injuries and refused medical treatment on the scene. Trooper S.M. Comer said paramedics administered CPR to Brooks while en route to Wake Forest Baptist Health — Lexington Medical Center.

Pam Kearns, a spokeswoman with the N.C. Highway Patrol, said Brooks died from his injuries Thursday.

► MAN | 8A

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