

Have You Heard?

The Red Clay Consolidated School District maintained performance in state tests last year while also remaining at the top in SAT test results among Delaware's comprehensive school districts.

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The Delaware Department of Education (DDOE) released results on Aug. 1, 2018 from the Smarter English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics assessments given in grades 3 to 8 and the SAT administered in high school.

DDOE began administering SMARTER as its state test in the spring of 2015. In the spring of 2016, the SAT became the state accountability test for grade 11.

Overall, Red Clay maintained performance on Smarter with 49% of students in grades 3-8 meeting or exceeding standards in ELA and 38% in mathematics. Since last year, the district saw the most improvements in elementary grades 3 and 4 in both math and ELA.

Schools reporting two-digit gains in both subjects since 2015 - when Smarter was first given - are Baltz and Marbrook elementary schools and Conrad Schools of Science.

"Marbrook is very fortunate to have a community of parents and teachers who work together to prioritize student success," said Marbrook Principal Melissa Phillips. "Marbrook teachers regularly check on student progress in a targeted way so they can meet the needs of the individual child."

Since the Smarter test was first given in 2015, the district has seen the most improvements in grades 4 and 5 mathematics.

With the support of the community on the 2015 Operating Referendum, Red Clay was able to purchase new elementary math materials. Students began the use of Math Expressions, a National Science Foundation curriculum, in the 2015 - 2016 school year. Red Clay Math Supervisor Jodi Albers said that new materials could account for improvements.

"We know curriculum is a key factor to student success," said Albers. "Thanks to the 2015 referendum we implemented a comprehensive, high-quality elementary mathematics curriculum in all classrooms. Beginning in June of 2015, teachers participated in professional learning focused on a balance of conceptual understanding, procedural skills and fluency, and real-world application in the mathematics classroom."

Red Clay is implementing a new mathematics curriculum in middle school and hopes to see those scores rise in the future.

"We are encouraged to see some improvement in our schools where we have focused extra support," said Deputy Superintendent Dr. Hugh Broomall. "We look forward to continuing the supports and expediting the improvement process."

While still working on improving the percentage of student proficient, Alexis I. Middle School has shown noticeable gains since 2015. Warner Elementary School has seen gains in ELA.

On the SAT tests, Red Clay continues to outperform the state. The district leads the state in total average score among comprehensive school districts and tops other districts in Reading. It also has an impressive mathematics total average score. The state reports proficiency rates based on students' scores. Red Clay has the highest proficiency rate in mathematics (40%) among comprehensive districts and is in the top three for Reading proficiency (61%) and Essay (47%).

Red Clay has four high schools in the top 10 for Reading and Math proficiency scores. These schools are the Charter School of Wilmington, Cab Calloway School of the Arts, Conrad Schools of Science and Delaware Military Academy.

Individual student scores will be mailed to families beginning this week, according to DDOE.