



## Update from the Superintendent

To: Parents and Guardians  
From: Mark McQueen, Superintendent  
Date: October 25, 2024

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Our academic gains in Bay District Schools continue to reflect our unwavering commitment to excellence in education. The data speaks volumes about the progress we are making across the district. I couldn't be more proud of the hard work of our BDS Team of Teams, especially our teachers, who stand at the very tip of the spear in our mission to elevate academic achievement. We are truly seeing the fruits of our labor as we strive for excellence in all areas of learning.

The academic growth of our students is remarkable. Schools like Hutchison Beach Elementary stand out when we look at achievements from last school year. Our Beach Dolphins achieved impressive improvements with a 64 percent proficiency rate in third-grade English Language Arts, and a stellar 71 percent of their students made learning gains in ELA. This success is mirrored in schools like Callaway Elementary, where English Language Arts learning gains of the lowest quartile have skyrocketed to an impressive 68 percent. These are the kinds of improvements that demonstrate our district's firm commitment to lifting all students and closing achievement gaps. We're currently disaggregating testing data from the state's first accountability window, and we know these results will indicate great successes and pave the way for more extraordinary gains.

What's even more encouraging is the progress in mathematics. At Callaway Elementary, for example, we are celebrating a tremendous Mathematics proficiency rate of 67 percent. This significant leap puts Callaway among our top-performing schools, particularly in this critical subject area. Across the district, our teachers work tirelessly to ensure our students build strong foundations in math and reading—crucial to long-term academic success.

In our middle schools, the success continues. Surfside Middle School, for instance, has shown solid growth. More than 70 percent of their students in the lowest quartile have made learning gains in Mathematics, with the school's overall grade going from a "B" to an "A." Our middle school educators are dedicated to preparing students for the rigors of high school and beyond. Surfside's improvements reflect the incredible efforts districtwide to support students during this crucial stage of their academic journey.

Turning our attention to high school, we're seeing great gains across the board. At Bay High School, for example, we're celebrating significant strides in English Language Arts proficiency, which stands at 65 percent. Our high school educators drive real, measurable success, with students excelling in various subjects. What's particularly exciting is to see the incredible learning gains at all of our high schools by those students who are in the lowest quartile, our students who have struggled for quite some time. These gains are a testament to the unwavering dedication of our high school staff, who are going above and beyond to help every student reach their potential. Our laser-like focus on academics is paying off in powerful ways.

In addition to academic success, our Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs prepare students for college and careers. Last year, students in grades 6-12 passed 2,987 industry certification exams, projected to earn the district \$1.2 million in CAPE funding. These funds will go directly to support our CTE programs, ensuring we continue to offer students the skills and certifications they need to succeed in the workforce. For the first time ever, 17 elementary students passed a CTE digital tools exam, and our Engineering program had its highest success rate yet with 104 certifications earned. These achievements clearly indicate the growing importance of CTE education in shaping our students' futures.

Our strides in academic achievement result from the collective efforts of our families and the wider community. I want to personally thank our parents, guardians, and all community members for their unwavering support. Your partnership is not just important; it's integral to the success of our students. Together, we are creating an environment where every child has the opportunity to succeed, and each one of you should feel proud of what we have achieved together.

As we continue our journey to put the "A" back in Bay, it is vital that we recognize the collective efforts of everyone involved. From our administrative staff to our incredible teachers and support teams, we are working together to create lasting change. The road hasn't always been easy, but the data shows that our efforts, and more specifically your efforts, are paying off in powerful ways. This is a team success, and each one of you should feel proud of what we have achieved together.

Together, we are putting the "A" back in Bay by fostering a culture of excellence that will continue to propel us toward more tremendous academic success.