



Communicator

September/October 2010

Grenada School District Substantially Outperforms State Academic Averages

The Grenada School District has received confirmed data from the Mississippi Department of Education stating that our students' academic scores are significantly higher than the State average. New accountability model scores are calculated with QDI (Quality of Distribution Index) data to determine student achievement. To determine the QDI scores, the number of students tested is compared with the percentage of students scoring in the levels of advanced, proficient, basic, and minimal. For every student who scored Minimal, 0 points are earned, Basic, 1 point is earned, Proficient, 2 points are earned, and Advanced, 3 points are earned. The District has scored a QDI of 166, 12 points above the State average of 154. The District QDI score represents a growth of 22 QDI points since 2008, a substantial increase in academic growth. The Upper Elementary School's QDI is 159, an increase of 24 points, the Middle School's QDI is 170, an increase of 10 points, and the Elementary School's QDI is 173, an increase of 15 points.

The State Department of Education applies descriptors to schools of Star School, High Performing, Successful, Academic Watch, At Risk of Failing, Low Performing, and Failing. These labels are determined by QDI scores and comparisons of schools' QDI growth from year to year. Therefore, growth of student achievement becomes an important determinant of a school's label. The amount of growth in student performance is important information because the data shows strengths and weaknesses of teaching strategies and displays patterns to our teachers and administrative team to enable appropriate adjustments. Teaching is therefore data-driven, enabling our teachers to evaluate strategies and adjust for optimum student achievement.

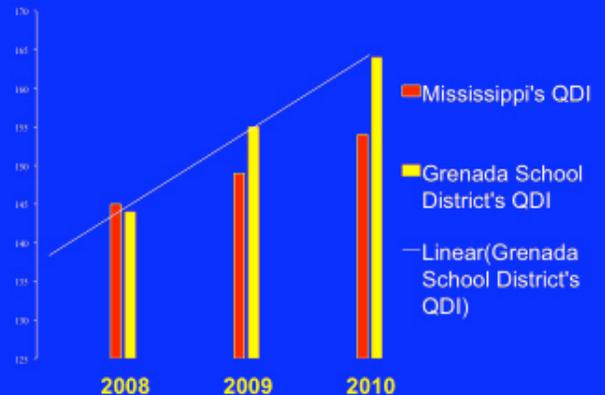
The Grenada School District is proud of the achievement and academic growth of our students. The Middle School has achieved the High Performing label, with only 20% of the State's schools achieving this label. The High School and Upper Elementary have been labeled Successful. Elementary schools do not receive a label because growth can't be measured since these students have not been tested over several

years. However, if elementary schools did receive labels, our Grenada Elementary's QDI of 173 would place them in the High Performing Category.

Celebration of Progress

- 15 Point gain at GES
- 22.5% increase Intellectually Gifted
- 10 point gain at GMS
- 24 point gain at GUES
- GHS 28 point gain in Algebra
- GHS 7 point gain in Language Arts

MDE Chart



Drop Out Prevention

- 10.6% decrease in Dropouts
- 13.1% Increase in Completion Rate
- 14.8% increase in Graduation Rate
- 254 students graduated in 2010 (compared to 184 in 2005)

Charts created by Dr. Becky Terry

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Our teaching staff is to be commended for our District's exceptional growth. Superintendent Dr. David Daigneault states, "Our students' outstanding performance has been achieved by the efforts of our educational team, including our principals, teachers, and support staff. Focus upon curriculum requirements, thinking skills, pacing guides, evaluation of data based on the common assessments, and integration of skills have paid large dividends for our District's achievement."

Our intellectually gifted students also made progress. In grades four through six, 22.5% of these students increased a level from last year's scores. The High School showed improved scores in Algebra and English II with an exceptional QDI in Algebra of 185. Dropout prevention is also showing marked success over a 4 year period with a 10.6% decrease in the number of dropouts, an increased completion rate of 13.1 %, a 14.8% increase in the graduation rate, and 254 students graduating in 2010 with only 184 graduating in 2005.

In 2008 with the first administering of the MCT2 and Subject Area test, the District scored below the state average in all but three grades. In 2010 our District outperformed the State's progress by twelve points!

Grenada intends to continue our progress with more emphasis upon data analysis. Additional data will be obtained through the use of formative 9-week district assessments, formative but cumulative semester exams, and evaluation in the third 9 weeks using the comprehensive practice tests developed by the State.

GSD Superintendent Elected to MASS Board

Dr. David Daigneault, Superintendent of the Grenada School District, was recently elected by his fellow Superintendents to serve on the Board of Directors for the Mississippi Association of School Superintendents for the 2010–2011 and 2011–2012 school years.

The Mississippi Association of School Superintendents (MASS) was organized in 1969. There are 152 school districts in Mississippi with 64 elected Superintendents and 88 appointed Superintendents, all of which are eligible for membership in MASS.

If a superintendent is a member of MASS, then all the other administrators in that school district automatically become members of the affiliate organization called the Alliance of Educational Leaders of Mississippi (The Alliance) at no additional costs. There are approximately 2400 administrators, in addition to Superintendents, throughout Mississippi.

MASS is celebrating forty-one years of being the Voice of Education in Mississippi. The continuous effort of working with legislators and state leaders has given MASS an opportunity to influence many legislative issues before they become law. The MASS/Alliance coalition, in cooperation with other professional educational organizations, continues to be a strong supporter for public education funding in the difficult times of the Legislative Budget process.

GSD AmeriCorps Expands

The number of AmeriCorps members serving the students of Grenada School District has increased from the original level of 15 to the current membership of 31 members. This increase in staff was made possible by grant funding of \$403,000 through the Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Service. Program Director Pamela Hubbard states, "The AmeriCorps Program has been an extremely successful tutoring initiative. AmeriCorps tutors students in grades K-8, and has identified significant student gains of at least 20% improvement in reading and/or math each year."

In addition to the primary goal of student tutoring, AmeriCorps members also participate in community service including library reading programs, the Food Pantry, and AmeriCorps National Service Days. AmeriCorps is also affiliated with VISTA volunteers. Grenada has been granted two VISTA members through the Mississippi Disaster Preparedness and Response VISTA project. Gerry Morris is currently serving as a VISTA with the GSD and Jan Willis has been assigned to coordinate the Grenada Food Pantry.