

Academically High-Performing School Districts 2008-09 Eligibility Status

Chapter 2007-194, Laws of Florida (Section 1003.621, F.S.)

Section 1003.621, F.S., states it is the intent of the Legislature to recognize and reward school districts that demonstrate the ability to consistently maintain or improve their high-performing status. School districts that satisfy the eligibility criteria and receive the academically high performing designation are provided flexibility in meeting specified requirements in statute and rules of the State Board of Education.

The 14 school districts listed in Table 1 have met the eligibility criteria specified in statute for designation as academically high performing school districts in 2008-09. Seven of the 14 school districts were initially designated Academically High Performing by the State Board of Education in 2006-07 and are maintaining their third year of designation. Two school districts were initially designated Academically High Performing in 2007-08 and are maintaining their second year of designation. Five school districts are being presented to the State Board for first-year designation.

School districts included on the list have, in the most recent year for which school grades are available, met the two academic criteria required by s. 1003.621, F.S.:

- Beginning with the 2004-2005 school year, earned a grade of “A” under s. 1008.34(7), F.S., for 2 consecutive years; and
- Has no district-operated school that earned a grade of “F” in the most recent grading period under s. 1008.34, F.S.

Each of the school districts has also met the additional requirements for designation as an academically high performing school district:

- Class size compliance – This column records whether the district complies with all class size requirements in s. 1, Art. IX of the State Constitution and s. 1003.03, F.S., in the most recent year for which class size was calculated. Eligibility is based on 2008-2009 class size data, including adjustments to compliance made as a result of the appeals process.
- Audit compliance – This column records whether the district has no material weaknesses or instances of material noncompliance noted in the most recent annual financial audit conducted pursuant to s. 218.39, F.S.

TABLE 1

Academically High-Performing School Districts 2008-09 Eligibility Status

SCHOOL DISTRICT	DESIGNATED ACADEMICALLY HIGH PERFORMING DISTRICT		DISTRICT GRADED "A" FOR TWO CONSECUTIVE YEARS		DISTRCT OPERATED "F" SCHOOLS IN MOST RECENT YEAR	COMPLIES WITH CLASS SIZE REQUIREMENTS	AUDIT FINDINGS	
	2006-07	2007-08	2006-07	2007-08	2007-08	2008-09	Finding	Year Ended
Alachua			A	A	0	Yes	No material noncompliance; no material weakness; unqualified audit opinion.	06/30/07
Calhoun	Yes	Yes	A	A	0	Yes	No material noncompliance; no material weakness; unqualified audit opinion.	06/30/08
Charlotte	Yes	Yes	A	A	0	Yes	Unqualified audit opinion; no material weakness; no material noncompliance.	06/30/07
Citrus			A	A	0	Yes	No material noncompliance; no material weakness; unqualified audit opinion.	06/30/07
Clay			A	A	0	Yes	No material noncompliance; no material weakness; unqualified audit opinion.	06/30/07
Gilchrist	Yes	Yes	A	A	0	Yes	No material noncompliance; no material weakness; unqualified audit opinion.	06/30/08
Leon			A	A	0	Yes	No material noncompliance; no material weakness; unqualified audit opinion.	06/30/07
Martin	Yes	Yes	A	A	0	Yes	No material noncompliance; no material weakness; unqualified audit opinion.	06/30/08
Nassau	Yes	Yes	A	A	0	Yes	No material noncompliance; no material weakness; unqualified audit opinion.	06/30/08
Okaloosa	Yes		A	A	0	Yes	No material noncompliance; no material weakness; unqualified audit opinion.	06/30/07
St. Johns	Yes	Yes	A	A	0	Yes	No material noncompliance; no material weakness; unqualified audit opinion.	06/30/07
Seminole		Yes	A	A	0	Yes	No material noncompliance; no material weakness; unqualified audit opinion.	06/30/08
Wakulla		Yes	A	A	0	Yes	No material noncompliance; no material weakness; unqualified audit opinion.	06/30/07
Walton	Yes	Yes	A	A	0	Yes	No material noncompliance; no material weakness; unqualified audit opinion.	06/30/07

***Grades:** Charter school student performance is used in calculating the district letter grade; however, since individual charter schools are not district operated, their grades are not used in criterion related to "F" schools.

****Class Size Compliance:** Data are post-appeals and reflect adjustments to compliance based on appeals.

*****Audit Findings:** An Academically High Performing School District is required to have no material weaknesses or instances of material noncompliance noted in its annual financial audit in the initial year and each subsequent year of eligibility. Because charter schools undergo separate audits under Section 218.39, F.S., the audit requirement only applies to the school district's audit.