

County School System test scores disappoint officials

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partial proficiency while pro- ficient learners demonstrate proficiency for the grade level and course.

Distinguished learners demonstrate advanced proficiency.

Over the coming days the district's new strategic plan will be completed and will focus on increased learning at all levels. The district will also provide teachers with additional professional development to ensure that standards are being taught in a manner that increases student understanding.

Building principals along with their academic coaches met last week to dig deeper into the data and identify the root causes of the lower performance.

Among the items they identified was district-directed professional development for teachers.

"Our calendar for the 2016-17 school year reflects our concern for targeted professional development," Mr. Smith added. "Five professional learning days are already established in that school calendar."

As for the new strategic plan, there will be some re-direction of resources-personnel, financial and time- as GSCS leaders focus on better ways to prepare students.

"As I recently read "if anything is going to change, something must change," said Mr. Smith. "I believe this."

The End-of-Course test scores for Griffin-Spalding County were also released by the Georgia Department of Education.

Middle and high schools use the end-of-course test to measure literature, mathematics, science and social studies student learning.

"Generally speaking, the

results of these tests are not good and are disappointing when compared to the state averages which are themselves disappointing. However, this new benchmark will show us where and what we need to improve in our instructional program," said Superintendent Jim Smith. "We are not looking through the data to find excuses. We are looking through the data to find clues leading to a better correlation between instructional practices and the expectations being assessed."

School leadership teams have been combing through the data for the past several days looking for areas where we need to build capacity for performance and improving tasks including problem-solving and critical thinking skills that are highlighted in the tests.

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Library Service to technology devices system in state

contact points for e and by ensuring at every library in trained to make te referrals, Walker S hopes to raise s of GLASS to the oyed by other uch as GALILEO nual Summer program, that are l and coordinated te but that serve every commu-

to Pat Herndon, GLASS, GPLS will ch system one agniLinkS video two Mobilux ch portable mag- vices and one Voice "reading

magnifiers are ameras that computer and pages of items ow its lens to d image onto nter monitor, explained. "The can be adjusted

scanned with audio output saved to a flash drive, can convert and store up to 100 pages of audio that can be listened to as a single stream.

"GPLS was also able to purchase an accessible computer keyboard for every branch library in Georgia," Herndon said. "These keyboards have large-print, high-contrast, black-on-yellow type designed to give users with low vision an easier and more accurate way to type."

The equipment was will be distributed to Georgia's public library systems in November, Herndon said. Walker noted that one of the stated goals of GPLS's Five Year Plan for the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Grants to States Program is that Georgia's public libraries will provide accessible equipment and software to make all the resources and programs meet or exceed ADA standards. "This equipment purchase,

Griffin-Spalding Development Authority Director Chuck Copeland recognized as 2015 GEDA Volunteer of the Year

SUBMITTED :::

Charles "Chuck" Copeland, Chairman of the Griffin-Spalding Development Authority was named the 2015 Volunteer of the Year by the Georgia Economic Developers Association (GEDA).

Working tirelessly for economic development efforts for many years, Copeland is being recognized for his outstanding service to the citizens of Spalding County.

Selected by GEDA's Board of Directors, here are some of the highlights from Copeland's nomination:

Since 2008 he has assisted with \$353,013,000 in new capital investment and 1,087 new jobs created by both new and existing industries

Under his leadership, the authority won GEDA's 2011 Deal of the Year Award for an expansion of Caterpillar

Copeland assisted on a joint project with the University of Georgia to create a Food Technology Center on the UGA Campus in Spalding County

He championed the passing of a 2008 SPLOST (special-purpose local-option sales tax) to create the Lakes at Green Valley, which has become the first mixed use "eco" mixed-use park in Georgia

Under his leadership, the community had its first intergovernmental retreat including the city, county, development authority, school system, and local colleges

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IGEDA Recognizes Out-

standing Volunteer at Awards Ceremony

Mr. Copeland was present at GEDA's November luncheon in Atlanta to receive the Volunteer of the Year award. More than 250 economic developers from around the state attended the luncheon to honor Mr. Copeland and others.

The Georgia Economic Developers Association is a nonprofit association of professionals, volunteers and supporters. The association provides networking and professional development opportunities for its members, and supports public policies that promote quality job creation and sustainable economic development throughout the state. For more information, visit www.geda.org.