

The ^{CCPS} BOARD REPORT

January 28, 2025

→ iReady scores show positive growth

As we track academic progress through iReady, our mid-year scores show marked improvement and steady growth from the baseline assessment in August. iReady is a universal screener that assesses K-8 students in reading and math, helping the district tailor instruction and track student progress.

See [Page 3](#) for highlights of our outstanding iReady results.

→ Facilities Plan approved

The Board approved the District Facility Plan, which concentrates on building and system upgrades and includes no major construction projects. Plans must be updated every four years. A 20-member Local Planning committee met during the fall to develop and finalize the plan, which has been approved by the state. DFPs charge districts with determining what facilities and upgrades they need to enhance educational opportunities. [View plan here.](#)

The Board hired Tim Eaton from KSBA to preside over the required public hearing, which will be held at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 20. The public hearing gives interested stakeholders a chance to provide comment on the plan.

→ Draft Budget presented

The draft 2025-2026 budget was presented as part of an extensive and informative presentation by Finance Director Aleisha Ellis. The discussion began with the understanding that funding is not finalized and the process is in its very early stages. A school district's budgeting approval process requires three stages and this is stage 1. "As we proceed through the process and get closer to starting next year, we'll have more data and more solid points that we can build this budget on," said Mrs. Ellis. [View draft budget here.](#)

→ NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

NOTABLE & QUOTABLE

You don't get to not be educated in Clark County. Sorry, maybe you're uncomfortable at first, but you'll grow to love it.

-Superintendent Dustin Howard proving that a double-negative in a sentence really works well sometimes.

School Board Recognition Month



As January is School Board Recognition Month, Superintendent Howard expressed appreciation to the members for their service. "On behalf of our staff and the Clark County community, I want to say thank you. I appreciate the time you spend reviewing agenda items for weeks at a time to make sure you're prepared, and then making decisions that are best for our school system, community, and our kids."



Clark County Board of Education - The Board Report - January 28, 2025

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→ Other Board actions...

- The Board approved the 2026-27 school calendar, which will be available on the website soon. The final calendars presented were the result of months of work by a Calendar Committee that included staff and public surveys. The Board has been approving calendars well in advance to increase convenience for families.
- Preschool construction liaison Paul Christy discussed preschool updates. Construction completion is on track with the Open House set for Feb. 18.
- An updated Wide Area Network Fiber Lease Agreement with Spectrum was approved that is less than the district is currently paying for the same amount of speed and bandwidth. The bid approved last month had to be reworked and rebid due to a technical issue, and Spectrum won the new bid.
- The Board gave final approval to more specific bullying reporting policies and procedures, resulting from recommendations made by the district's Anti-Bullying Task Force.
- The Board approved an agreement with the University of the Cumberland for an Option 9 partnership, adding a third university to our Option 9 cohorts. Option 9 allows classified staff to become certified teachers through an expedited pathway.
- Four RDC staff members will present at the National BARR conference in California in April. [View more about the BARR program here](#). RDC was chosen to present through a competitive selection process.
- Mr. Howard informed the Board that the district has been awarded a \$50,000 grant from Toyota for the elementary STEM program.
- The Board approved the Financial Report, authorized payment of salaries and bills, and approved numerous routine and consent agenda items. [View Agenda](#).

→ Audit shows sound financials

Auditor Tammy Patrick told the Board the 2023-24 Financial Audit was clean and showed a “sound financial picture for the end of the fiscal year.”

“I’m really glad to report that we had a really great audit,” she said. “It’s a year-long process for Superintendent Howard and Aleisha and her staff and for the board members as well. The environment and the tone at the top is what makes a good audit. You all are in tune with each other, so that’s always a good thing.”

→ Too Good for Drugs

Community Schools Director Christy Bush presented on the Too Good for Drugs program which is currently in two of our schools and will be expanded district-wide. It comes at no cost to the district. [Click here for information on the program](#).

The program equips students with essential life skills, focusing on five core social-emotional learning competencies, which are goal-setting, decision-making, communication, emotional management, and resisting peer pressure.

In addition to this program, Mr. Howard said the district has received a grant through the Clark County Health Department for a program that teaches students about the dangers of vaping.



→ iReady highlights...



Assistant Superintendent and CAO Kelly Fithen explained December iReady results with the Board, emphasizing the following highlights:

- The number of students testing at grade level or above has increased across the board, and the number of students testing below grade level has decreased.
- In reading, 32 percent of our K-8 students have already met their growth goals for the year, so we have begun targeting those students to achieve above grade level.
- About 76 percent of K-8 classes are all above 50 percent growth in reading, exceeding the December target of 50 percent. “We’re really making gains in reading, which has been a huge focus in our district, and we’re really starting to see the gains with regards to literacy,” said Mrs. Fithen.
- Gains in math were not as significant, but we are still seeing gains. The district average is about 53% toward the established growth goal. In addition, 27% of our students have already met their math growth goals for the year, so we’re working to move them above grade level.
- About 60% of K-8 classes are at or above 50 percent growth in math, which is our December target goal.

“Of course we always want to continue to push and excel beyond where we are, and we feel like we really are growing greatness in our students,” Mrs. Fithen said. “We’re super excited about where we’re headed.”

[Click to view presentation.](#)

→ Superintendent’s Report...

iReady scores

“I want to emphasize that we have met with all of our principals and had thorough discussions on how we’re going to do things differently and more efficiently moving forward. I believe if you just test and never respond to what you’re seeing, you’re going to get the same result. The outstanding iReady data should get a standing ovation, especially with the growth we’re getting in literacy because our staff is working tremendously hard. We’re also heavily monitoring our structures. Things we’re intentionally putting in place have expectations and I say that because we’re gonna do what’s best for kids.”

Coaching

“We’ve been coaching the heck out of our staff. Monitoring doesn’t mean just going over data. We’re going into classrooms to provide feedback and support to teachers. We are giving them proven strategies to better educate our kids. This week we are doing Kagan coaching in all of our buildings. It’s great watching our kids work collaboratively and displaying the skill sets that are part of our Portrait of a Learner, while also being engaged in the process. No one is laying their head down and checking out. We don’t allow that anymore.”


Shoutout

“Big shoutout to our principals for their diligence in rolling out the Hall’s Highlights for our Portrait Of A Learner. Thank you to Hall’s on the River for helping us reward our staff and students who meet the standards. We very much appreciate the support of so many community partners.”




→ School Instructional Spotlight...

SCHOOL INSTRUCTIONAL SPOTLIGHT




GEORGE ROGERS CLARK HIGH SCHOOL




PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITIES


- Increased collaboration through the implementation of highly effective Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)
 - Defined characteristics of a successful PLC
 - Refined PLC protocol sheet for data analysis
- Intended Effects:
 - Enhance instructional practices
 - Drive data-informed decisions
 - Immediate and positive impacts on student achievement
 - Creates sense of unity among teachers.



SCHOOL INSTRUCTIONAL SPOTLIGHT



GEORGE ROGERS CLARK HIGH SCHOOL




BIG ROCKS


INSTRUCTION	STRUCTURES	CULTURE
<p>PLCs: Established effective Professional Learning Communities to enhance collaboration, data-driven decision making, and continuous improvement in instructional practices.</p>	<p>Safety: Development and implementation of intentional safety structures ensuring building-wide safety daily. Continual improvement cycles established for continuity.</p> <p>MTSS: Development and implementation of Multi Tiered Systems of Support structures to provide targeted academic and behavioral supports for T2/T3 students.</p>	<p>Staff Culture: Boosting morale and fostering community through regular activities. Cardinals of the Week recognitions, celebrations, and open communication.</p> <p>Student Culture: Recognizing achievements, promoting positive behavior and attendance through competitions, supporting academics, showcasing talents, and rewarding efforts.</p>

→ School Instructional Spotlight...

SCHOOL INSTRUCTIONAL SPOTLIGHT



AREA TECHNOLOGY CENTER



BIG ROCKS

<p>HIRING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have hired a full time instructor for Carpentry (Fall) We are in the process of hiring for Auto Still currently looking for Industrial Maintenance. 	<p>STUDENT CULTURE/RECOGNITION</p> <p><i>We have been very intentional in recognizing students and building culture by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognitions for student birthdays Industry Certifications Student of the Month (by program) on digital display Sending personalized cards home during holiday break
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George Rogers Clark

Principal Luke Toy and all four assistant principals discussed the school’s emphasis on Professional Learning Communities, and the other Big Rocks – safety, MTSS, staff culture and student culture. “I am incredibly proud of the work that we’re all doing together, but I’m also incredibly proud of them as individuals because they take pride in what they’re doing,” Toy said. Highlights:

PLCs: “It is the greatest form of collaboration that we can have amongst our staff. It brings teachers out of their silos and into a community where they can talk about data and have intentional conversations about strategies that can help students make gains. “ -Diana Cline

Safety: “We are very happy about everything we have put in place at GRC to make sure our students, staff, and community feel safe at school. We are partnering with Mr. Snell’s district-wide safety committee so we can make it as safe as it possibly can be.” -Chad Luhman

MTSS: “We are implementing a variety of resources to support our students. Our main goal is to connect students to the appropriate intervention to help them succeed, because we believe all students can succeed. Our goal is to get every student who needs an intervention placed.” -Dr. Chelsey Highley

Culture: “We’ve been very intentional in trying to connect with our staff and also trying to connect our students to each other as well as students to staff. Based on the latest Upbeat survey, we are very excited to see that our school showed significant growth from a first-year administration last year. It’s very clear that we’re doing some of the right things and making great progress.” -Emily Cook



→ School Instructional Spotlight...

SCHOOL INSTRUCTIONAL SPOTLIGHT



AREA TECHNOLOGY CENTER



*Increase in students taking Dual Credit opportunities:
2023-2024: Total- 203 Students
2024-2025: Fall- 278 Students

*Students have already achieved an impressive milestone of 106 Industry Certifications, with many more on the horizon!

*We have been highly intentional in tracking progress and supporting students to achieve success, even in classes with long-term substitute teachers.



→ District Instructional Spotlight...

DISTRICT INSTRUCTIONAL SPOTLIGHT




EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN CLARK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS






- 1131 Students
- EC Instructional Specialist
- 3 School Psychologist
- 3 Diagnosticians
- 7 Facilitators
- 67 Teachers
- 60 Assistants
- 9 Speech Language Pathologists
- 3 Occupational Therapist
- Physical Therapist

DISTRICT INSTRUCTIONAL SPOTLIGHT



EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN CLARK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Station Model

1

General Education Teacher
Core Lesson

Classroom Rotation:
H, L, M

2

Special Education Teacher
Prerequisite Skill Extension

Classroom Rotation:
L, M, H
Conferencing (Reading)

3

IA or Independent: Flipbook Technology Spiral Review

Classroom Rotation:
M, H, L

Co Teaching Styles:

- Station Teaching
- Parallel and Team Teaching

Benefits for All Students:

- Increased teacher-to-student ratio
- Opportunities for differentiated instruction
- Shared responsibility for planning and assessment
- Promotes inclusive education practices
- Professional growth through collaboration
- Specially Designed Instruction (SDI)
- Lesson Planning
- Intentional PLCs

Progress Across the District:

- I-Ready Data Window 1 and Window 2
- KSA 22-23 vs KSA 23-24

Area Technology Center

Principal Coy Hall highlighted several areas of growth including:

- A significant jump in dual credit students
- 106 industry certs achieved so far this year and that number grows each week
- Students who earn industry certifications are recognized on the digital displays in the ATC, and Students of the Month in each program area also are honored.

“Every year that I’ve been here I’ve been able to increase the opportunities for students and get more dual credit classes added to the schedule, and I’m really proud of that,” Mr. Hall said.

Dept. of Exceptional Children

The Exceptional Children’s Department provides a wide range of services to 1,131 students.

- Station teaching and co-teaching across the district has greatly benefited students, optimizing the student-teacher ratio and providing more opportunities for differentiated instruction.
- EC is steadily closing achievement gaps in classrooms as a whole, and is continuing to focus on individual students’ specific deficits and needs.
- The EC middle school subgroup is no longer in state-designated TSI (Targeted Support and Improvement).
- Justice EC moved from 11 percent proficient/distinguished to 19 percent, and decreased novice by 6 percent in math and 14 percent in reading.

“We couldn’t do the work without the support of our principals and their teachers doing what’s best for kids,” said Director Abby McCormick. “We’re here to do whatever it takes to help them.”





Board Recognitions

Your Greatness Shows...

The Board recognized several GRC agriculture pathway students for multiple achievements.

GRC's outstanding FFA chapter earned its second straight 3-Star Rating, the highest rating a chapter can receive. Those present to accept the honor on behalf of FFA were advisor Terra Pigg, and students Kody Hatton, Hagan Walters, and Preston Blackburn.



GRC December graduate Reese Patrick was honored for her many accolades as a standout four-year soccer player. Reese earned a 4.0 GPA while being named First Team All-State as well as being selected for the National All-Region Team.

This is in addition to her multiple soccer honors throughout high school. Reese is already enrolled at Eastern Kentucky University where she is continuing her soccer and academic career on scholarship.



Congratulations to our state champion horse judging team of Alison Asherwood, Taylor Cavill (not pictured), Cole Horn, and Olivia Warner.

Four veterinary science students successfully completed three canine medicine practicums and a rigorous math exam and placed in the top 20 at the state competition. Congratulations to Lillian Hall, Ethan Tuttle, Layla Snell, and Abby Horn.



The Board Room was packed as Community Schools Director Christy Bush read off the many recognitions. Superintendent Dustin Howard and the Board of Education begin each meeting recognizing student achievements. Mrs. Bush coordinates this portion of the Board meetings.



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Board Recognitions

Your Greatness Shows...

Students who will perform as part of All-State music and choir ensembles at the Kentucky Music Educators Conference in early February were honored. The Board also honored the teachers who have guided these students.

Congratulations to the following:

Children's Choir: Harper Cecil, Leorah Hopper, Autumn Johnston, McKenna Winburn

Junior High Choir: Chloe Fuson, Allison Moore, Ella Pace

Band: Tristen Ervin, Olivia Root

Orchestra: Ella Evans

Choir: Ryder Abner, Phoenix Berryman, Trent Elam, Wyatt Jackson, Carter Johnston, Raegan McCormick, Josh Muse, Heiraelle Osborne

Teachers: Matthew Leedy, AJ Cook, Collin Berner, Vanessa Hall, Holly Bennett, Calvin Schmieg



Ms. Hall, Mr. Cook, Mr. Berner



Olivia



Ella



McKenna and Leora



Heiraelle, Wyatt, and Raegan



Allison and Chloe



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