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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DCSD Students Achieve Impressive Gains **District Growth Outpaces State Growth on Most** **2023 Georgia Milestones Exams**

(STONE MOUNTAIN, GA) – DeKalb County School District (*DCSD*) students demonstrated impressive growth in proficiency rates on the latest Georgia Milestones test results released last Friday. DCSD students exceeded prior year performance across several content areas and multiple grade levels on the End-of-Grade (*EOG*) and End-of-Course (*EOC*) assessments.

DCSD outpaced the state with more EOG and EOC assessments that made gains in *Proficient Learner* and *Distinguished Learner* over the prior year.

22 to 23 Assessment Comparison			Number of EOG and EOC Assessments Combined
Proficient Learner and Distinguished Learner	State	Increased Performance	8
	DCSD	Increased Performance	13
	State	No Change	5
	DCSD	No Change	1
	State	Decreased Performance	8
	DCSD	Decreased Performance	7

"The end-of-grade and end-course assessment results released today show progress in students meeting proficient and distinguished levels on our state assessment," said Superintendent Dr. Devon Q. Horton. "We are excited to see DCSD outpace the state with five more assessments increasing and one less decline over the 2022 baseline scores. Today, we thank our amazing educators for their hard work and dedication to the students and families of DeKalb County Schools."

On the English Language Arts EOG, five (5) of the six (6) grade levels (83.3%) showed improvement in students scoring Proficient and Distinguished learner over the prior year's assessment. The most notable improvement was in 3rd grade, with a 3.4% increase from 2022 to 2023. The only grade level demonstrating lower proficiency was 5th grade, with a slight decrease of 0.3%.

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Proficient and Distinguished Learner				
Grade Level	Content Area	2022 Percent	2023 Percent	Difference
3 rd Grade	English Language Arts	28.3%	31.7%	3.4%
4 th Grade	English Language Arts	27.9%	30.2%	2.3%
5 th Grade	English Language Arts	34.2%	33.9%	-0.3%
6 th Grade	English Language Arts	28.8%	31.1%	2.3%
7 th Grade	English Language Arts	26.8%	29.6%	2.8%
8 th Grade	English Language Arts	34.6%	35.7%	1.1%

Likewise, on the Mathematics EOG, five (5) of the six (6) grade levels (83.3%) demonstrated gains in proficiency, with significant improvement in 3rd grade (4.3%) and 4th grade (6.7%). Eighth grade was the only level with a decline in proficiency; the scores decreased by 2.8%.

Proficient and Distinguished Learner				
Grade Level	Content Area	2022 Percent	2023 Percent	Difference
3 rd Grade	Mathematics	29.5%	33.8%	4.3%
4 th Grade	Mathematics	27.2%	33.9%	6.7%
5 th Grade	Mathematics	24.3%	25.3%	1.0%
6 th Grade	Mathematics	17.5%	19.7%	2.2%
7 th Grade	Mathematics	19.1%	20.2%	1.1%
8 th Grade	Mathematics	26.2%	23.4%	-2.8%

On the Science and Social Studies EOGs, only 5th grade Science slightly increased over the prior year's administration. Eighth-grade Science and Social Studies declined by 3.5% and 0.7% over last year.

Proficient and Distinguished Learner				
Grade Level	Content Area	2022 Percent	2023 Percent	Difference
5 th Grade	Science	27.2%	27.9%	0.7%
8 th Grade	Science	23.6%	20.1%	-3.5%
8 th Grade	Social Studies	22.6%	21.9%	-0.7%

The combined winter and spring administrations of the end-of-course assessment showed mixed results. Only two (2) state assessments demonstrated growth in the percentage of students scoring proficient and above. Physical Science at the middle school level had a 2.0% increase, and Coordinate Algebra/Algebra had a 1.9% gain. Coordinate Algebra/Algebra at the middle school level and high school American Literature had the most significant decreases at 3.3 and 3.2, respectively. There was no change in the Biology score over the prior test administration, and United States History proficiency also decreased by 1.1%

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Proficient and Distinguished Learner Winter and Spring Combined				
Grade Level	Content Area	2022 Percent	2023 Percent	Difference
Middle	Physical Science	61.7%	63.7%	2.0%
Middle	Coordinate Algebra/Algebra	81.5%	78.2%	-3.3%
High	Coordinate Algebra/Algebra	15.3%	17.2%	1.9%
High	American Literature	34.1%	30.9%	-3.2%
High	Biology	32.6%	32.6%	0.0%
High	United States History	28.1%	27.0%	-1.1%

"While we celebrate the well-deserved increases, we are committed to moving the needle more significantly forward over the next few years. We must ensure our system continues to improve proficiency rates and our students leave the DeKalb County School District demonstrating college-and-career readiness," said Dr. Horton. " We are excited to launch multiple new initiatives this coming school year and look forward to partnering with our school communities and business partners as we join together to propel our system forward."

Some of the new District initiatives include:

- We launched new district core values, recognized by the acronym **H-PRIDE** which stands for Humanization, Professionalism, Respect, Integrity, Dignity, and Empathy. The core values are expected to be consistent and pervasive across the school system.
- We restructured DCSD to intensify servant leadership and provide more support directly to the schools.
- We are implementing more creative strategies to address teacher shortages to ensure every child can access a highly qualified teacher.
- We will increase progress monitoring of multiple data types throughout the school year by engaging in Reality Checks with immediate Actions Plans to address noted deficiencies.
- We are engaging our school communities and business leaders to become thought partners throughout our improvement process.
- We will be adopting our New Six Instructional Systems in January 2024.
- We will launch Academic Skills Centers in all Horizon schools.

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