

DISTRICT SNAPSHOT

Sarasota County is designated as an "A" district by the Florida Department of Education, with 95 percent of elementary schools and 84 percent of all schools receiving "A" or "B" grades in 2009.

The district is the largest employer in Sarasota County. It has one of the lowest ratios of administrators to staff in Florida.

It is among 15 percent of U.S. districts to receive the "What Parents Want" award.

NeXt Generation Learning, the district's strategic plan, engages today's students in interactive instruction to effectively prepare them for the future.

Staff

Instructional	2,755
Support Staff	2,258
Administrators	211
Total	5,224

Teachers with master's degree or higher: 63%
State's average: 39%

Enrollment

Elementary schools	18,593
Middle Schools	9,480
High Schools	13,428
Total*	41,501

*Includes charter, special and alternative schools (September 2009)

2009-2010 General Fund Budget

Total Appropriations: \$404,075,131
Appropriations by category:

- 60.85% SALARIES
- 19.05% BENEFITS
- 7.48% CHARTER AND CONTRACTED SCHOOLS
- 5.39% PURCHASED SERVICES
- 3.69% ENERGY SERVICES
- 2.71% MATERIALS & SUPPLIES
- 0.61% CAPITAL OUTLAY
- 0.24% OTHER



The percentages of operating revenues from major sources:

*Includes local property taxes and an additional voted local education millage.

- LOCAL 78.32%
- STATE 16.46%
- LOTTERY 0.21%
- FEDERAL 0.43%
- STIMULUS (FEDERAL NON-RECURRING) 4.06%

Funding distribution:

- SCHOOLS DIRECT 72.65%
- SCHOOL SUPPORT 19.60%
- DISTRICT SCHOOL SUPPORT 6.92%
- DISTRICT ADMIN 0.83%



STUDENTS AND SCHOOLS



Our Students

...rank near the top of the state on the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) and Florida Writing Assessment. Compared to statewide results, 2009 FCAT district reading proficiency rates were 6 to 12 points higher throughout all

grade levels tested. Proficiency rates in math were higher than state averages by 4 to 12 points.

...scored 23 points higher than the state average on the 2009 SAT test in reading, 26 points higher in mathematics and 21 points higher in writing. Sarasota students also scored higher than the national average on the 2009 SAT test by 19 points in reading, 9 points in math and 8 points in writing.

...regularly win state, national and international honors in science, math, music, journalism, video production, Odyssey of the Mind, athletics and more.

Our Schools

Pine View School for intellectually gifted students in grades two-12 consistently has one of the highest percentages of National Merit Scholarship finalists in Florida, was rated the sixth best high school in America by U.S. News & World Report in 2007 and is regularly ranked as the highest performing school in the state grading process.

Each middle school offers exploratory courses; students select a major area of interest in eighth grade to help them plan for high school and beyond.

All high schools are organized around Small Learning Communities that help students connect to a peer group with similar interests and career aspirations.

The school district offers a school choice program for students wishing to attend school outside their home attendance area.

Twenty district schools have received the state Five Star Award for exemplary community involvement programs.



For more information about Sarasota County Schools, contact:

Communications and Community Relations Department
Sarasota County Schools
1960 Landings Blvd.
Sarasota, Florida 34231
941-927-4009

Watch The Education Channel
Comcast 20, Verizon FIOS 33

No person shall be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity, or in any employment conditions or practices conducted by the Sarasota County School District on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, ethnic or national origin, genetic information, marital status, disability, if otherwise qualified, or on the basis of the use of a language other than English by Limited English Proficient students, except as provided by law. Any person who believes he or she has experienced any such prohibited discrimination may file a complaint with the district Equity Officer, Roy Sprinkle, by calling 941-927-9000, ext. 31213.

Cover artwork by David Pennini
Oak Park School, Grade 12



SPECIAL PROGRAMS

The district offers gifted resource programs in all schools, full-time gifted programs at several sites and a school for gifted children in grades two-12.

High school students may select from a wide range of honors, dual enrollment and advanced placement courses.

Students with mild to moderate disabilities are served at all schools. Programs for students with more severe disabilities are available at selected sites and at two special schools.

The district offers a number of magnet programs for students with special interests or skills, including a nationally acclaimed visual and performing arts high school and International Baccalaureate programs at all grade levels.

Career and Technical Education prepares students for higher education and the workforce. CTE programs are in place in all high schools and middle schools. High school students have the opportunity to earn industry certifications and licensures and the Florida Ready to Work credential. The Sarasota County Technical Institute and Suncoast Polytechnical High School are devoted entirely to CTE programs.



Syesha Mercado, *American Idol* season 7 Booker High School class of 2005

The Arts

Music and art instruction are offered at all grade levels.

Strong support from the county's vibrant and involved arts community provides a variety of opportunities for student art to be performed, appreciated and promoted.

The district offers visual and performing arts magnet schools at the middle and high school levels.

Sarasota County Schools have been recognized for outstanding arts education by the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and the National School Boards Association.

MORE REASONS WHY OUR SCHOOLS EXCEL

Visionary Leadership

The School Board of Sarasota County consists of five members elected district-wide who serve four-year terms. It has been recognized as a Master Board by the Florida School Boards Association, signifying completion of a rigorous program designed to enhance leadership and teamwork skills.

The School Board develops policy and appoints a superintendent to manage operations. Board meetings air live on The Education Channel Comcast 20, Verizon 33.

Every school has a School Advisory Council of parents, educators, business representatives and community leaders.

21st Century Technology

The district provides one computer for every three students.

The district has installed more than 3,200 fully interactive electronic presentation boards in all classrooms to ensure that every instructor and student has access to this multimedia teaching tool that helps engage 21st century learners.

The district's AngelWeb learning management system provides middle school and high school students with instant online access to class assignments and course materials.

Award-Winning Community

Sarasota County was honored as an All-America County by the National Civic League for outstanding collaboration between the school district and the community.

The city of Sarasota was named the best small city in the U.S. by *Money* magazine because of its quality of life and outstanding schools.

Active Volunteers

More than 16,000 students, parents, community members and business leaders participate in the PALS Partners in Education volunteer program. In 2008-09 PALS volunteers provided 182,000 hours of service, with an estimated value of \$3.7 million.

Creative Partnerships

The district and the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall participate together in the prestigious John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Partners in Education Program.

Sarasota students enjoy enhanced educational opportunities through local institutions with national stature, such as Mote Marine Laboratory, the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, Ringling College of Art and Design, the University of South Florida and G.WIZ, the hands-on science museum.

Business partners take an active role in helping prepare students for 21st century workplace skills through job shadowing and other cooperative programs.





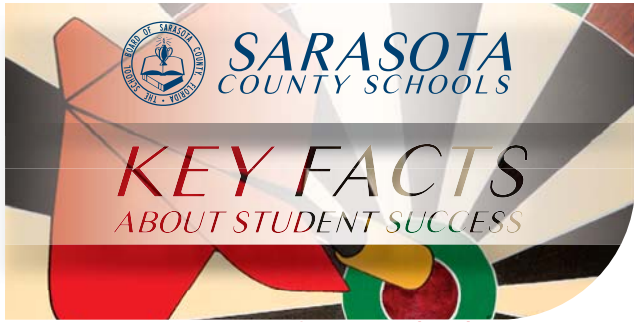
SARASOTA
COUNTY SCHOOLS

KEY FACTS
ABOUT SARASOTA SCHOOLS

www.SarasotaCountySchools.net

- 1 Sarasota County is designated an "A" district by the Florida Department of Education.
- 2 It is among 15 percent of U.S. districts to receive the "What Parents Want" award.
- 3 It has been recognized for outstanding arts education by the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.
- 4 The district's NeXt Generation Learning initiative engages students in interactive instruction.
- 5 School Board meetings are broadcast live on The Education Channel (Comcast 20, Verizon 33).

Artwork by Tatum Leitch, Booker High, Grade 12



www.SarasotaCountySchools.net

- 1 The graduation rate for Sarasota County students is at an all-time high of 86%; the drop-out rate is at an all-time low of 2% (2007-08).
- 2 Sarasota County regularly ranks among the top 10 districts statewide in FCAT reading, writing and math scores.
- 3 District SAT scores were higher than 2009 state averages by 26 points (math), 23 points (reading) and 21 points (writing) and higher than national averages by 9 points (math), 19 points (reading) and 8 points (writing).
- 4 The number of Florida Ready to Work credentials earned by students rose from 113 in 2007-08 to 533 in 2008-09.



SARASOTA
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KEY FACTS
ABOUT DISTRICT DOLLARS

www.SarasotaCountySchools.net

- 1 More than 99% of the district's \$400 million operating budget is used directly for schools or school support; less than 1% is used for district-level administration.
- 2 Revised plans and lower construction costs will save nearly \$87 million on six school projects from 2008 through 2013.
- 3 The district has saved an estimated \$5.2 million since an energy savings plan was implemented in 2007.
- 4 Reducing the number of bus stops and creating pocket pick-ups and express routes will save \$2 million annually.