



## THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY

**Gregory K. Adkins, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent

### MEMORANDUM

June 4, 2020

TO: School District of Lee County Families

SUBJECT: End of Year Memo

Dear School District of Lee County Families,

As we end the 2019-2020 school year, we celebrate our incredible accomplishments despite the unprecedented challenges we have faced. We began the year with the challenge of Hurricane Dorian, and we end the year facing the effects of COVID-19. Through it all, our staff, students, families, and community, never lost focus of the importance of every day learning. Let's look back and celebrate some of our amazing successes that have taken place this school year.

Last week, I had the opportunity to share many of those accomplishments with thousands of members of our community through this year's State of our Schools address. For the first time in its 29 years, the event was held virtually with a broadcast online via Youtube and Facebook. While it was disappointing not to be able to speak in person to community leaders and District business partners, we were pleased to be able to share our message with so many more people via our online platforms. I encourage you to view the full program [here](#).

Some of the most prominent accomplishments include our graduation rates, which *again* are the highest in District history, increasing from 82.8% in 2018 to 83.7% in 2019. More than \$64 million in scholarships were awarded among those graduates. Students earned 532 perfect scores on the state mandated FSA test. That is 69 more than last year and 151 more than the previous year.

East Lee County High School increased its grade from a "D" to a "C" which means it comes out of Differentiated Accountability (DA) status at the state level. According to the results, 60% of traditional Lee County public schools, not including charters, earned an "A" or "B", an increase of 8% over last year. During the last four years, the District has gone from twelve DA schools to zero and the School District of Lee County is the *only* District of the top ten largest in Florida that does not have a "D" or "F" school.

Four of our schools are now recognized as PBIS Model Schools for increasing quality of life and decreasing problem behavior. Fourteen schools won the Five Star School Award for their commitment to incorporating family and community members into the school environment to enhance student learning.

We were able to make many modernization and technology updates across our schools thanks to revenue from our Change for Change ½ Penny Sales Tax. We broke ground on our newest school, Gateway High School, that will welcome its first

class this fall in modular buildings off-site. We encourage you to view the dashboard of ongoing projects funded by this sales tax at [https://www.leeschools.net/our\\_district/change\\_for\\_change/projected\\_projects](https://www.leeschools.net/our_district/change_for_change/projected_projects).

These are just a few of the amazing accomplishments that took place this year. But, what I am most proud of is the way our teachers and staff responded to the challenges presented by COVID-19, and I'm even more proud of how we worked together with our families and community to continue to serve our students and provide them with the tools and support to help them continue to be successful.

To ensure instructional continuity as we transitioned to distance learning, we provided professional development to our teachers, created numerous resources for our families, and provided thousands of Chromebooks, hot spots, and learning packets to our students. We are proud that nearly 100% of our students successfully participated in Distance Learning.

We recognize that many of our students rely on the meals they receive while at school and we worked to ensure meals are available during our closures. Nearly half of our schools served as meal distribution sites providing breakfast and lunch daily. In addition, we had 10 bus routes delivering to more than 30 locations to reach our most needy families. We are proud to have served more than one million meals during our school closures.

As we worked to support our school community, we also did our part to support our community at large, providing much needed supplies to medical facilities, and partnering with local organizations to provide additional meals for our families. Many of our COVID-19 response efforts are highlighted in the following [PSA](#).

In the next few weeks, we will be celebrating our graduating seniors via virtual graduation ceremonies, and are also planning in-person ceremonies in July, should CDC safety guidelines allow. Our seniors will be remembered and celebrated for their grit, determination, and resilience in the face of a historic pandemic.

Now that the school year has come to an end, many are asking about plans for the Fall. As we look ahead to next school year, we are preparing several contingency plans so that we can provide the highest quality education to our students in preparation for safely reopening our schools. We continue to work with the Florida Department of Education and the Florida Department of Health to ensure that whatever steps we take, we are following the guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control for the health and well-being of our students and staff. To assist with this important mission, we have convened a PreK-12 Education Pandemic Response Task Force made up of medical professionals, business leaders, community leaders, law enforcement, the Teachers Association of Lee County, the Support Personnel Association of Lee County, principals, parents and students. We value your input as we plan for next year, and currently have a survey open asking for feedback from our families. Be sure to participate by clicking [School Reintroduction Survey](#).

Please be sure you are signed up to receive messages via our information systems, School Messenger, and make sure to follow our social media channels and visit our website, [leeschools.net](https://www.leeschools.net), for the latest information. Thank you so much for your patience, understanding, and partnership during this unprecedented time.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Greg Adkins  
Superintendent

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