



Dorchester County  
Public Schools  
Every Child A Success!

# SUPERINTENDENT'S PRESS RELEASE

Henry V. Wagner, Jr., Superintendent

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## Back To School Article

The **2011-2012 school year** promises to be a time of both expanded **opportunities** and enhanced **achievement** for our students. Never before have there been so many rigorous academic and technical programs from which to choose!

We in Dorchester County Public Schools have had a busy summer assessing the **progress** we made during the 2010-2011 school year, and setting our sights on **continuous improvement** for the coming year. In most schools, **higher percentages** of students displayed either proficient or advanced understanding of the concepts tested by the State in **reading, mathematics, and science**. We have also made marked progress with regard to **dropout prevention** and day-to-day **attendance**. Along with the overwhelming majority of school districts, we are coping with the extreme expectations of the **No Child Left Behind** law; for example, the performance of a handful of students (or even a single student) has made the difference in some of our schools not making **Adequate Yearly Progress**. Therefore, we gauge our progress in terms of the steady and **positive growth** we have seen over several years!

Some of the other interesting and positive things that have been happened since the children went home for summer include:

- **June 28 – PBIS Schools** (Positive Behavioral Intervention Schools) were recognized at **Wor-Wic Community College**. **Cambridge-South Dorchester High School, Maple Elementary School, and Sandy Hill Elementary School** received achievement awards as returning teams.
- **June 29 – Lt. Gov. Brown** visited the new **Dorchester Career and Technology Center (DCTC)**. The final installment of the **State share** of the funding was awarded symbolically in this celebration of the project's completion.
- **July 5 – DCPS Summer School** opened at **Mace's Lane Middle School**. The program experienced another substantial enrollment in **enrichment** courses in mathematics.
- **July 7 – Project 2016 Celebration Banquet**. This initiative, the creation of **Mr. Jon Harper** (Assistant Principal of **Choptank Elementary School**), seeks to keep **high-achieving minority**

**students** focused throughout their secondary school experience. Speaking to the group were **Dr. Michial Gill** of MSDE, **Interim State Superintendent Dr. Bernard Sadusky**, pharmacist **Dr. Richard Molock**, **Henry Funeral Home President Janelle Buck**, and students **SajHeed McNair** and **Jeremiah Maltez**.

- **July 11-13 – Educator Effectiveness Academies.** Funded through the federal **Race to the Top** program, the academies have focused on the new **Maryland Common Core State Curriculum Standards and Frameworks**, as well as the relationship between the State's vision of **Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)** education and the Common Core. All DCPS schools were well-represented in this professional development initiative.
- **July 18-19 - Aspiring Principals Institute.** Six DCPS present and aspiring administrators ably represented DCPS in this activity, jointly sponsored by **Maryland State Department of Education and the Eastern Shore of Maryland Education Consortium**.
- **July 25-26 and August 2-4 – Elementary and Secondary School Improvement Planning Retreats.** The school teams were reminded of the need to make their respective school improvement plans **living documents**, to be mindful of **systemic initiatives**, and to maintain **flexibility** as larger state and national issues are resolved.

And we are, of course, extremely excited about the opening of the new **Dorchester Career and Technology Center!** In addition to the existing programs (**Welding, Carpentry, Electricity, Masonry, HVAC, Collision Repair and Refinishing, Medium and Heavy Truck, Automotive Technician, Culinary Arts, Horticulture, Medical Services, and Criminal Justice/Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness**) we are offering **Computer Assisted Drafting and Design (CADD), Interactive Media Production, IT Networking (CISCO), Early Childhood Education, Cosmetology, and Fire Fighter/EMT.**

**We invite the general public to come and tour this magnificent facility on Thursday, August 25, from 4:00 to 7:00 PM, and on Saturday, September 10, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon. A formal dedication will be held at a later date.**

Finally, we are seeking to change the nature of our school system's relationship with the business community. On June 21, we conducted an event called **Dorchester's Future Is Now!** Over fifty leaders of the **Dorchester business community** collaborated with us in this historic initial meeting to forge a genuine **partnership** with DCPS. Specific **initiatives** will be announced in the near future.