

**SUMTER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
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**Press Release**

**From: Colleen Strickland**

**Date: February 22, 2016**

**Subject: Sumter is in the top 130 Districts in the Nation**

**For Immediate Release: February 22, 2016**  
**Sumter County School District Placed on the College Board's Gaston Caperton**  
**Opportunity Honor Roll for Expanding Access to College**

***130 Successful School Districts Across the U.S. Are Honored by College Board***

Sumter County, Florida — The Sumter County School District is one of only 130 school districts in the United States being recognized for creating expanded educational opportunities for traditionally underrepresented students. The districts featured on the Honor Roll have the distinction of expanding access to higher education by providing students with rigorous academic offerings and innovative college-preparation programs.

School Superintendent Richard Shirley said, "Congratulations are in order to our students, parents and dedicated staff for this great national distinction from College Board. Being one of only 130 districts in the entire nation speaks well of the progress we've made with unrepresented groups and others in our continual drive for excellence. Support from our local school board for expanding successful programs to help kids, especially those most needy, has been tremendous. Extra help from volunteers like Tutors for Kids, programs like AVID, The Santoro Project and others have been extremely helpful as well. We try to do all that while being wise stewards of our local revenue."

The few districts on the Honor Roll demonstrated significant and consistent growth in the number of underrepresented students and students from lower-income backgrounds participating in AP®, taking the SAT®, and applying to four or more colleges.

"The Gaston Caperton Opportunity Honor Roll recognizes educators and administrators who excel in delivering opportunity to students," said David Coleman, president and CEO of the College Board. "By increasing access to stimulating courses and college opportunity, they have created a culture of success that will continue to grow and benefit students."

There is no application process for the award. To be included on the Gaston Caperton Opportunity Honor Roll, the Sumter County School Board had to have:

- Increased the total number of underrepresented students who took the SAT
- Increased the total number of underrepresented students who took an AP course and exam
- Increased the total number of underrepresented students who were on track for college, as demonstrated by scoring 1550+ on the SAT
- Increased the total number of underrepresented students who scored a 3 or higher on an AP Exam
- Increased the total number of underrepresented students who sent their SAT scores to at least four colleges

Districts on the Gaston Caperton Opportunity Honor Roll show how exemplary classroom instruction, challenging courses, and daily hard work and practice make all the difference in the lives of students.

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### **About Sumter County School District School District**

In Sumter County we believe we are preparing the next generation today, by being committed to providing a rigorous and relevant standards-based education in an environment where students feel safe. The Sumter school district is ranked 17<sup>th</sup> in the state on student performance in the 2015 school year and one of only twenty-two “A” districts in the state. The district is comprised of 4 public elementary schools, 1 public middle school, 1 public high school, 1 combination public middle high school and a highly successful charter school.

### **About the College Board**

The College Board is a mission-driven not-for-profit organization that connects students to college success and opportunity. Founded in 1900, the College Board was created to expand access to higher education. Today, the membership association is made up of over 6,000 of the world’s leading educational institutions and is dedicated to promoting excellence and equity in education. Each year, the College Board helps more than seven million students prepare for a successful transition to college through programs and services in college readiness and college success — including the SAT<sup>®</sup> and the Advanced Placement Program<sup>®</sup>. The organization also serves the education community through research and advocacy on behalf of students, educators, and schools.