

SUMTER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
2680 West County Road 476
Bushnell, Florida 33513
352-793-2315

Press Release

Date: September 2024
Contact: Jessica Christian, K-12 Curriculum Supervisor

Re: Sumter-Designated as Academically High Achieving by Florida Department of Education

Sumter County School District is proud to announce its remarkable achievement as one of the top school districts in Florida, ranking in the Top 10 of 67 counties in overall academic performance. The state has designated Sumter as one of only ten “Academically High Performing “ districts in Florida. This recognition underscores the historical commitment to excellence in education and the hard work and concerted efforts of its dedicated staff, students, and families and school board.

In addition to this prestigious ranking, Sumter County School District is home to two Schools of Excellence: Lake Panasoffkee Elementary School and The Villages Charter School. These schools have consistently demonstrated outstanding academic achievement and have been recognized for their innovative programs, exceptional instruction, and strong community involvement.

“Our students, teachers, and administrators have worked tirelessly to reach this level of excellence,” said Superintendent Richard A. Shirley. “This high ranking is a testament to our collaborative efforts and our commitment to providing a high-quality education for every student in our district. Our goal has always been to provide a quality education in a safe environment at a reasonable cost.”

The district’s achievement can be attributed to various initiatives, including enhanced curriculum offerings, robust support services, effective technology utilization and a focus on personalized learning. The dedication to fostering a supportive and engaging learning environment has proved effective, enabling students to excel academically and socially. Superintendent Shirley said, “The dedicated staff put us over the top as they are consummate professionals who truly care about our students. This achievement is a great honor for the district.”

The recognition of Sumter County School District not only reflects the district’s academic rigor but also highlights its mission to prepare students for success in a rapidly changing world. As part of this commitment, the district is continually exploring innovative teaching methods and technology integration to enhance learning experiences.

Sumter earned top 10 status by being ranked 5th overall in the state of Florida. Sumter County School District received a grade of an “A.”

For additional information about Sumter County Schools, please visit <https://www.sumter.k12.fl.us/>.