



Media Release

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MANATEE DISTRICT CONTINUES CLIMB IN ACADEMIC RANKINGS WITH RELEASE OF SCHOOL AND DISTRICT GRADES

(Bradenton, FL – July 7, 2022) Even in the midst of a pandemic, the School District of Manatee County continued its climb up the academic rankings of the state’s school districts, according to school and district grades released today by the Florida Department of Education. The Manatee District now ranks 25th amongst Florida’s 67 school districts – its highest ranking ever.

School district rankings are based on total points earned by all students taking the state’s accountability testing. In 2018, the School District of Manatee County ranked 33rd amongst the state’s 67 districts. In 2019 – the last year of testing prior to the incursion of the COVID-19 pandemic – the Manatee District ranked 28th in the state, its previously highest ranking. State accountability tests were not given in 2020, and school grades were optional for school districts in 2021.

The results released today revealed that school grades in Manatee County have held relatively steady during the last three years of the pandemic.

The Manatee District had 15 A schools among its traditional, non-charter public schools in 2022 – the same amount of A schools as in 2019. The district also had 10 B schools this past school year, 22 C schools and two D schools. The school district’s overall grade was a high B.

“I think the results we are seeing today are a strong reflection of the persistence and resilience of our students, teachers and instructional staff,” said Superintendent Cynthia Saunders. “We have been through unprecedented times together in the last several years, so to receive evidence of academic improvement in spite of the obstacles is a victory for all of us.”

Three Manatee District schools improved their grades since 2019, including Freedom and Tara Elementary schools, which both went from a B in 2019 to an A in 2022, and Kinnan Elementary, which went from a C to a B.