From the Superintendent

It is with pride that we present to you the 2010-2011 Annual Report. We are pleased to share the successes and accomplishments that our students, teachers, and staff have achieved during the 2010-2011 school year. This Annual Report provides you with a review outlining our accomplishments and serves as our report of progress and accountability to the community.

By every measure, this was a great year for students, teachers, and everyone on the Stephens County School System team. I want to publicly commend our students, teachers, paraprofessionals, administrators, support staff and Board of Education for some remarkable accomplishments. Despite a shortened school year, our students reached new heights. And, despite budget challenges, we are making history. Our classrooms are stronger than ever and our students are exceeding past performance.

I applaud our hardworking staff and dedicated teachers, as well as the contributions of our families in preparing students for learning. I continue to be impressed with both the level of focus on student achievement and the very high level of passion for all students achieving academic success.

Last year, our graduation rate rose to its highest level ever. At the end of the 2004 school year, our graduation rate was 61%. Today, seven years later, it is over 86%. The graduation rate is still not where we want it to be, but we are clearly headed in the right direction. Our CRCT scores show improvement in almost every area, and our students outperformed students throughout the state. Also, our writing scores show marked improvement and End of Course Test scores show improvement.

I am so proud of what we have accomplished this year. It takes all of us working together and our schools are committed to student success. We are blessed to have partners who provide a wealth of opportunities for our children. We have parents, advocates, and volunteers who selflessly give of their time, energy, and enthusiasm to support our schools. We have teachers who work relentlessly to motivate and inspire our students. And, we have administrators whose leadership and dedication continue to foster change.

Without a doubt, Stephens County School System is a great school system. All schools are accredited and our students outperform state averages. Thank you for putting your faith in me and my ability to keep the system moving forward and reaching new heights.

I am hopeful that the information you access here will help you stay informed about who we are, what we are doing and how we are Moving Forward to brighten our students’ futures. Great schools, great people and great connections are what will keep us moving forward.

Sue Whiten
Superintendent

Also Follow Us On:

www.stephens.k12.ga.us
facebook.com/scschoolsga
scschoolsga.tumblr.com
twitter.com/scschoolsga
scsuperblog.blogspot.com
The mission of the Stephens County Board of Education is to create and encourage an atmosphere of vision and cooperation with the single purpose of providing a complete and meaningful education for the children of Stephens County.

**Georgia School Boards Association**

**Board of Distinction**

The strength of the school system’s strategic plan is rooted in the academic priorities of the Board of Education. The strategic planning process began with a community engagement component that sought input from all stakeholder groups. Stephens County School System then led a diverse planning team through the development of a mission, vision, beliefs, and strategic goal areas. This final plan is available on the school system website. The plan provides clear direction to support the outstanding academic achievement of Stephens County School System’s students. With clear goals, the plan describes our priorities, and will be a strong foundation as we reflect on our progress and move forward together.

**Goals**

- **Goal I** - Improve Student Achievement
- **Goal II** - Increase Student and Stakeholder Involvement
- **Goal III** - Provide Safe and Timely Student Transportation
- **Goal IV** - Provide for the Changing Nutritional Needs of Students
- **Goal V** - Improve the Availability of Technology Resources
- **Goal VI** - Plan for a Qualified Workforce
- **Goal VII** - Maximize the Efficient Use of Funds
- **Goal VIII** - Improve Facilities

**Board Members**

- **Jerry Steele**
  - District 1 Post 2
  - Chair
- **Curtis Waters**
  - District 3 Post 2
  - Vice-Chair
- **Sandra Childs**
  - District 2 Post 1
- **David Fricks**
  - District 3 Post 1
- **Scott Morgan**
  - At Large
- **Elizabeth Pinkerton**
  - District 1 Post 1
- **Jeff Webb**
  - District 2 Post 2

**Administrative Staff**

- **Sandy Steele**
  - Assistant Superintendent
- **Sherrie Whiten**
  - Superintendent
- **Jason Kaup**
  - Assistant Superintendent
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Big A Elementary</th>
<th>Eastanollee Elementary</th>
<th>Liberty Elementary</th>
<th>Toccoa Elementary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SACS Accredited*</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Student Demographics</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Students</td>
<td>472</td>
<td>510</td>
<td>459</td>
<td>536</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty Rate</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>70%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average Daily Attendance</td>
<td>96.41%</td>
<td>95.16%</td>
<td>96.26%</td>
<td>96.26%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Absent over 15 Days</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Staff Demographics</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrators</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teachers</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>with Advanced Degrees</td>
<td>87.5%</td>
<td>73.9%</td>
<td>80.5%</td>
<td>76.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Experience</td>
<td>14.6</td>
<td>16.7</td>
<td>14.6</td>
<td>17.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Highly Qualified</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support Staff</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
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</table>
### 3rd Grade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Big A Elementary</th>
<th>Eastanollee Elementary</th>
<th>Liberty Elementary</th>
<th>Toccoa Elementary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>98.4</td>
<td>98.6</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELA</td>
<td>98.8</td>
<td>95.1</td>
<td>97.1</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>97.5</td>
<td>93.4</td>
<td>91.5</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>98.8</td>
<td>93.8</td>
<td>86.3</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>97.6</td>
<td>92.2</td>
<td>91.8</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
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</table>

### 4th Grade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Big A Elementary</th>
<th>Eastanollee Elementary</th>
<th>Liberty Elementary</th>
<th>Toccoa Elementary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>97.3</td>
<td>97.6</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELA</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>98.7</td>
<td>98.5</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>84.6</td>
<td>90.8</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>87.7</td>
<td>93.9</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>90.7</td>
<td>92.9</td>
<td>89.4</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 5th Grade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Big A Elementary</th>
<th>Eastanollee Elementary</th>
<th>Liberty Elementary</th>
<th>Toccoa Elementary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>97.2</td>
<td>94.9</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELA</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>95.6</td>
<td>97.4</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>91.8</td>
<td>95.7</td>
<td>93.3</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>89.3</td>
<td>94.4</td>
<td>85.9</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>82.5</td>
<td>87.3</td>
<td>85.9</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
It’s not enough to just meet the standards. Our goal is to provide the educational opportunities and quality of instruction that enable our students to EXCEED the standards.

CRCT Tests 2011: Stephens County vs. State of Georgia

% Meeting or Exceeding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Stephens County</th>
<th>State of Georgia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gr. 3</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>98.6%</td>
<td>90.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Math</td>
<td>81.2%</td>
<td>80.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>96.9%</td>
<td>97.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gr. 5</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>88.8%</td>
<td>86.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Math</td>
<td>76.6%</td>
<td>77.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>90.0%</td>
<td>90.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CRCT Tests 2011: Stephens County vs. State of Georgia

% Exceeding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Stephens County</th>
<th>State of Georgia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gr. 3</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>45.9%</td>
<td>42.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Math</td>
<td>40.8%</td>
<td>40.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>50.2%</td>
<td>50.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gr. 5</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>48.3%</td>
<td>48.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Math</td>
<td>48.8%</td>
<td>48.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>44.7%</td>
<td>44.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2011 Annual Report
progress /n.
1. a movement toward a goal or to a further or higher stage: the progress of a student toward a degree.
2. growth or development; continuous improvement: He shows progress in his muscular coordination.

End of Course Tests 2011: Stephens County vs. State of Georgia
% Meeting or Exceeding

Stephens County          State of Georgia
9th Gr. Literature       86.8          82.3
Physical Science         92.9          76.2
Math I                   76            76
Math II                  61.3          69.5
Economics                89.8          72.2

Graduation Rate
Stephens County

2006  63.1
2007  66.8
2008  72.3
2009  78.6
2010  83
2011  86.3
“What am I going to be when I grow up?”
That is a question all students eventually have to answer. Since the options for students are endless, it is vital that educators begin to assist them in finding those answers. Recognizing the importance of this, Georgia legislators responded by passing HB 400, better known as the Bridge Act (Building Resourceful Individuals to Develop Georgia’s Economy). This legislation is designed to help students and parents work together to enhance their child’s education to reach their goals and career aspirations.

In an effort to assist students in expanding their opportunities, Stephens County Middle School has developed an advisement program called Teachers as Advisors (TAA). Teachers work with a group of students from the time they enter sixth grade until they leave eighth grade to help them acquire the knowledge and skills to be successful.

Throughout their middle school years, students work through GaCollege411, a powerful website that helps Georgia students plan, apply, and pay for college. A large function of the advisement program will be for students to determine their likes and dislikes, strengths and weaknesses, and what’s important to them. Students will be provided advisement, career awareness, career interest inventories, and information to assist them, and their parents, in evaluating their academic skills and career interests.

In addition to implementing the TAA program, SCMS adjusted the daily schedule to include an Extended Learning Component. This time allows teachers the opportunity to work with students at an independent level. Teachers work with students who need additional support in math and/or language arts/reading to address specific gaps in learning; those students who are working on grade level in math and language arts are provided enrichment opportunities in science and social studies.

Once students begin high school, their course content becomes more specialized. The goal of SCMS is to ensure that students are academically ready to perform at the high school level and to inform them of their options as they embark on their career pathway.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>CONTENT MASTERY</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>» Percent of 6th grade students scoring at meets or exceeds in Reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>» Percent of 7th grade students scoring at meets or exceeds in Reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>» Percent of 8th grade students scoring at meets or exceeds in Reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>» Percent of 6th grade students scoring at meets or exceeds in ELA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>» Percent of 7th grade students scoring at meets or exceeds in ELA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>» Percent of 8th grade students scoring at meets or exceeds in ELA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>» Percent of 6th grade students scoring at meets or exceeds in Mathematics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>» Percent of 7th grade students scoring at meets or exceeds in Mathematics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>» Percent of 8th grade students scoring at meets or exceeds in Mathematics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>PREPARATION FOR HIGH SCHOOL</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>» Percent of students in grade eight earning credit in at least four courses in core content areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>» Percent of students in grade eight with a complete Individual Graduation Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>» Percent of students completing a Career Interest Inventory from a preferred Career Interest System within GaCollege411</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>» Percent of students completing three years of middle school credit in the fine arts and/or career exploratory courses</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Attention to students’ readiness for life after high school has never been more important. Whether students decide to enter the workplace directly after high school or to pursue further education, each one deserves an education that lays the groundwork for success in adulthood. In cooperation with the Georgia Appalachian Center for Higher Education, SCHS encourages students to start investigating college possibilities early in their high school career by helping them to create experiences that will enable them to be prepared for and have the choice to attend college or pursue other types of post-high school education.

Through a grant program, Stephens County High School students have an opportunity to tour at least one college in each of their four years of high school. Ninth grade students tour Toccoa Falls College, a local accredited Christian college offering over 40 undergraduate majors/tracks. Ninth grade students also participate in the Reality Store, a learning experience in which students plan a budget and pay bills through a series of classroom learning stations. The Reality Store is a place where students pay bills after planning their budget for a level of income based on a predetermined level of education. Tenth grade students have the opportunity to visit North Georgia Technical College and tour local industries. Eleventh grade students tour Emmanuel College, and twelfth graders visit Gainesville State College.

Knowing that a high school education is not enough to compete in today’s global economy, FACTS (Future Awareness for College and Career Transitioning Success) activities are aimed at dramatically increasing the number of young adults who complete high school and enter a post-secondary college or technical college after graduation, setting them up for success in the workplace and life.

**Post-High School Readiness**

- Percentage of CTAE students completing 3 or more Pathway Courses: 76%
- Percentage of Pathway Completers earning a CTAE Industry Recognized Credential: 50%
- Percent of students earning a Work Ready Certificate on the ACT Work Keys Assessment: 91%
- Percent of graduated students earning 2 or more high school credits in one world language: 76%
- Percent of graduated students qualifying for the Hope Scholarship: 44%
- Number of AP exams receiving scores of 3 or higher: 25.3%
- Percent of tested students scoring a minimum of 22 on the ACT: 33%
- Percent of tested students scoring a minimum of 1550 on the SAT: 30%

**Other Measures**

- Percent of sophomores participating in the PSAT administration: 58%
- Percent of graduated students completing SAT and/or ACT exams during their high school years: 65%
- Percent of graduated students enrolling in technical programs or colleges, in or out of state: 59%
- Percent of students scoring at exceeds on the Georgia High School Writing Test: 12.7%
- Percent of ninth-grade students scoring at exceeds on the Ninth Grade Literature End of Course Test: 43%
- Percent of ninth-grade students scoring at exceeds on the Ninth Grade Mathematics End of Course Test: 30%
- Attendance Rate: 94.14%
## Milestones

### Enter 1st Grade: Ready to Read
- Student recognizes letter names and sounds and parts of words.
  **Benchmark: Guided Reading Level C**
  - 2010: 73%
  - 2011: 80%

### End of 3rd Grade: Reading to Learn
- Students are able to exceed the benchmark on the CRCT Reading Test.
  **Benchmark: Exceeds CRCT Reading**
  - 2010: 44%
  - 2011: 46%

### Middle Years: Ready for High School
- Student attendance is good.
- Student meets the benchmark on the 8th Grade Writing Assessment.
  **Benchmark: Average Daily Attendance**
  - 2010: 95%
  - 2011: 95.5%

  **Benchmark: 8th Grade Writing Assessment**
  - 2010: 78%
  - 2011: 89%

### Enter 10th Grade: On Track to Graduate
- Student completes 9th grade with all eight credits.
  **Benchmark: Credit Completion 9th Grade**
  - 2010: 71.4%
  - 2011: 78.8%

### 12th Grade: Graduating on Time
- Student graduates on time.
  **Benchmark: Graduation Rate**
  - 2010: 83%
  - 2011: 86.3%
In addition to traditional academic programs, Stephens County students have many opportunities to interact with business and industry partners of the community. These partnerships are a key component of the workforce development activities in which students participate. Through Career, Technical, and Agriculture Education (CTAE) courses as well as Work-Based Learning, and Work Ready assessments, our students are gaining valuable experience through various skill-based competitions, supervised work experiences, and skill assessments that allow our students to showcase their talents beyond the classroom.

In an era where technical knowledge and skills are needed to fill jobs that are available to students, the Stephens County High School CTAE department offers opportunities for students to pursue career pathways and achieve professional credentials throughout their high school experience. In addition to the high school diploma upon graduation, there are several credentialing opportunities available to students.

Additionally, students participating in the Work-Based Learning Program have opportunities to explore possible careers, enhance skill development, and apply academic proficiencies by working onsite with employers in our community. The Work-Based Learning Program emphasizes student career goals, related coursework, and structured work experience as a way to provide students with opportunities for instruction not only in academics, but also in occupational skills, career exploration, and guidance in identifying employment and educational goals. Students have the opportunity to connect what they learn in school with work-site application, enabling a smooth transition into the workforce and/or education beyond high school. Students in grades 11 and 12 who are on track for graduation are eligible for participation. Additional criteria for participation are good attendance and discipline records, a defined career goal, enrollment in a course in CTAE, and recommendations from teachers. We are proud of the work our students are doing, and our students are working in a wide variety of industries and fields throughout our community.

Participation in the Georgia Work Ready Assessment is a joint venture between Stephens County School System, Georgia Mountains Manufacturing Region, the Stephens County Development Authority, and local industry leaders. Georgia Work Ready uses assessment results to award certificates in four categories: Platinum, Gold, Silver, and Bronze. On the most recent administration of the assessment, 202 seniors attempted the assessment. Stephens County students performed very well with over 71% scoring at Silver or above.

Giving students opportunities to be successful in school, their community, and the workforce is a paramount task for Stephens County Schools.
Using funds generated from an Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (ESPLOST) approved by Stephens County voters, the school system has invested more than $44,000,000 since 1998 to replace two of its aging facilities and renovate the remaining five buildings. Since 1998, voters have overwhelmingly supported education special purpose local option sales tax referendums for new facilities, facility improvements, transportation, and technology. ESPLOST I provided much needed additions to all four elementary schools. The biggest project for ESPLOST II was the construction of SCMS and the renovation and construction of athletic facilities and vocational improvements. The new two story SCMS facility replaced a building originally built in 1958 and provides an attractive, modern learning atmosphere for the young people of Stephens County. The new SCHS, the marquee project for ESPLOST III, is in the final stages of completion. The new school is a state-of-the-art facility designed to handle the current enrollment and provide room for growth in the future. A fourth ESPLOST, if approved by voters, will be used to pay the remaining bond debt that funded the construction of the new high school.

When planning for the new SCHS began in 2001, community input helped form the design plan and suggestions from teachers were highly valued. From an academic standpoint, the building has cutting edge technology and many outstanding design features. In addition to core academic emphasis, there are new facilities for art, music, and performance, all critical components in 21st century schools. In this building, the arts are part of and not separate from other disciplines. There is a sense of openness and an appeal for learning, with classrooms fully equipped with interactive whiteboard technology. The building was designed with students in mind, and built with quality to last a lifetime. By investing in green technologies, the school system looks to significantly reduce the lifetime costs of operating this building. Knowing that green schools use an average of 33% less energy than conventionally designed schools, SCSS will be seeking LEED certification. LEED is a certification system for buildings that meet sustainable practices developed by the U.S. Green Building Council.

Bowen and Watson, recognized throughout Georgia for their commitment to excellence and a multitude of professional construction solutions, served as construction manager for this project. They have also served as construction manager for several other projects including Stephens County Middle School, Stephens Education Center renovations, and elementary school additions. Their expertise and reliability have been the cornerstone of a long partnership with Stephens County School System.

The bottom line for the new SCHS is improved instruction and enhanced academic opportunities for the students of Stephens County. Teachers will no longer have to work around the limitations of inadequate school facilities. The school has 65 classrooms of adequate size, innovative lab spaces, music and band rooms, infrastructure to support the latest technology, and improved features such as high performance lighting, polished concrete flooring system, and improved air quality.

This building is truly a gift to the community and offers our students the facilities, equipment, services, and educational opportunities unparalleled among high schools in the southeast.
The new high school project has added a dimension of environmental and energy conservation that Stephens County has not experienced on other projects in the school system’s history. This will be Stephens County School System’s first LEED certified building, and the first LEED certified building in Stephens County. LEED, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is a stringent process of verifying performance of energy systems, water efficiency, CO2 emissions, indoor air quality, stewardship of resources, and the incorporation of energy conservation into the curriculum in the building.

Jessica Simmons, SCHS Language Arts teacher, has created and implemented a project with students that highlights how schools can incorporate LEED ideals into daily student life. The “Preservation of the Reservation” project is an opportunity for a blended curriculum, allowing for application of the academic standards through hands-on activities and real-life situations. Students use their knowledge of effective writing and persuasion techniques to create a campaign that will gain support for project goals. This cross-curricular study focuses on three main environmental areas including school grounds, waste management, and energy. This is the second year that students have had an opportunity to work on this project and there have been significant contributions to the school and community. Over the past two years, students have established an effective recycling program, created an energy awareness campaign, and started a composting program at Stephens County High School. Future plans for this project include expanding the recycling program, continuing the energy awareness campaign and improvements to the school grounds. Stephens County School System appreciates the efforts of Mrs. Simmons and her students and expects that what students learn from this project will be passed on to future students at Stephens County High school with their impact reaching far beyond the school itself.

Since 1999, Stephens County School System has had a focused commitment to energy management and conservation. By partnering with Energy Education, Inc., a company that works with school systems to leverage existing assets to drive savings, Stephens County School System has realized a $4 million cost savings over the past 12 years. By using an energy manager, installing upgrades, and working with students and staff, we have decreased energy consumption while increasing square footage. In just the past 12 months, savings to the school system have been approximately $500,000.

In 2010 the elementary, middle school, and ed center buildings were all recognized as Energy Star buildings, rating in the top 12 percent of the EPA’s national performance rating system when compared to similar types of buildings. Energy Star rated buildings cost $0.40 per square foot less to operate than average performers, with the least efficient schools using three times more energy than the best energy performers. Having quality facilities, regular maintenance on equipment, and a focused effort on energy conservation allows Stephens County School System to realize significant cost savings while reinforcing the message to our students that we are good stewards of our natural resources and the environment.
Believing that the use of technology can assist students in realizing their full learning potential, classrooms in Stephens County are alive with the sights and sounds of digital learning. In order to advance life-long learning in a quality, technology-rich environment, it is the mission of Stephens County School System to provide the technology tools and resources that maximize student achievement and help students to become citizens in this 21st century global community.

**In the Classroom**

With help from federal grants and local ESPLOST funds, Stephens County School System has installed over 200 interactive whiteboards in classrooms. Paired with a laptop, teachers can more efficiently collaborate with other teachers during and after the normal school day. These combined resources allow teachers to teach students on a platform that the students are excited to use. Audio and video resources can not only be shown to entire classrooms at once, but students can then manipulate what is on the screen, allowing them to interact with content in new and exciting ways.

**And Beyond**

Stephens County School System’s district website and school websites are updated on a regular basis. The district website provides links to departments, program information, and links to schools. Upcoming events, calendars, as well as up-to-date information for parents can be found on our websites. The school system has also entered the world of social media, using Facebook and Twitter to keep stakeholders informed and to increase communication efforts.

**Behind the Scenes**

Seven of the eight existing telephone systems were upgraded to Voice over IP, allowing schools to eliminate a large number of leased telephone lines. The new telephone system allows the schools to have 4-digit dialing to each of the other schools, as well as provide voicemail to staff members.

A new system-wide wireless network was also installed at all campuses, allowing faculty members to move freely from building to building while still having access to network resources.

Taking advantage of free resources, Stephens County School System is now utilizing Google Apps for Education for all electronic communication needs. The Google Apps system also allows staff and students to create and edit documents on-line while collaborating in real-time, helping Stephens County to build stronger communities and schools.

With Infinite Campus, a web-based student information system, parents and students have 24-hour access to information including attendance, test scores, and grades. This allows parents, teachers, counselors, and administrators to work proactively toward student success. This information system also serves as a district-wide data warehouse allowing student data to be entered once and used across the entire district, supporting data-driven decision making.
In times of economic hardship, moving toward the future with new and creative ideas will be vital to sustaining a thriving school system. While the economic downturn has affected how we budget and spend, Stephens County School System has found ways to adapt to the continued loss of funding while maintaining the level of instruction and service that is expected from our community. Through careful budgeting and conservative fiscal management, the school system was able to add back five (5) instructional days to the 2011-2012 school calendar; days that are critical to student success, advancing students in their educational journey. The school system is also moving forward to ensure teachers and district staff have days available and designated for professional learning opportunities and classroom planning, both vital to the enhancement of teaching and learning. While we have all adapted to doing more with less, these small changes demonstrate that we are committed to moving forward and investing in the educational success of our students.

INVESTING IN EDUCATION = FUTURE SUCCESS

While sources of funding available to the school system have continued to decline over the past several years, the expenditure information below demonstrates the system’s devotion to students and their total classroom experience. To adjust to the decreases in funding, the system has found innovative ways to save and cut in less critical areas while continuing to increase resources for teachers and learning.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fiscal Year 2008</th>
<th>Fiscal Year 2009</th>
<th>Fiscal Year 2010</th>
<th>Fiscal Year 2011</th>
<th>Fiscal Year 2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Classrooms &amp; Instruction</td>
<td>$32,358,981</td>
<td>73.87%</td>
<td>$32,309,258</td>
<td>74.75%</td>
<td>$31,806,588</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support Services</td>
<td>$5,203,795</td>
<td>11.88%</td>
<td>$4,408,236</td>
<td>10.20%</td>
<td>$4,268,080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>$3,615,311</td>
<td>8.25%</td>
<td>$3,677,300</td>
<td>8.51%</td>
<td>$3,550,197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance &amp; Operation</td>
<td>$2,628,953</td>
<td>6.00%</td>
<td>$2,825,810</td>
<td>6.54%</td>
<td>$2,617,275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenditures</td>
<td>$43,807,040</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>$43,220,604</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>$42,726,421</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Expecting more difficult financial decisions ahead, Stephens County School System will continue to move forward to do what is necessary to ensure student success. Regardless of the financial outlook, Stephens County School System has continued to meet and exceed state standards, achieve Adequate Yearly Progress, and rank among the top of the thirteen school systems within the Pioneer RESA district. We remain optimistic about the continued progress we are making to improve student achievement. Like any successful organization, Stephens County School System knows solid foundations are essential for further growth and advancement. If we continue to focus our financial resources on the foundation of our students and highly qualified staff, the school system will successfully weather future unknowns and continue to move forward in our journey to providing an excellent education to all students in Stephens County.
Partners in Education is sponsored by the Toccoa Stephens County Chamber of Commerce and Stephens County School System. The Partners in Education program has offered support to Stephens County Schools for over ten years. Businesses, churches, and civic organizations have partnered with schools or the school system to enhance education. Each partnership is unique and is based on the needs of the school and the resources of the business or community partner. These partnerships strengthen our schools, improve student achievement and enhance the community's economic growth. Stephens County School System appreciates the contributions of the community businesses and organizations that help make our schools a better place to learn and work.

Big A Elementary
- Bulldogs Xpress Lube
- Domino's Pizza
- Hayes Automotive Group
- Inflatable-A-Fun
- Northeast Georgia Bank
- Sonic Drive-In
- Stephens-Franklin Teachers Federal Credit Union
- The Home Depot
- Wendy's

Eastanollee Elementary
- Acre Oil
- Agri Auction of GA
- Arrowood Contracting
- Bar-B-Q Shack
- Carter's Royal Dispose All
- Central CNC, LLC
- Crawford Engineering Services, Inc
- Crown Resources
- Dodd Construction
- Eaton Corporation
- Hart E.M.C.
- James Whiten Livestock
- Jerry White's Pharmacy
- Martin Lions Club
- Mountain Air
- North GA Credit Union
- Northeast Georgia Bank
- Renae Fowler Hair Design
- Roesch Construction
- Sage Automotive Interiors

Liberty Elementary
- 1st Franklin Financial Corp
- Café Kava, LLC
- Commercial Printing Company
- DOCO Regional Federal Credit Union
- Domino's Pizza
- Ebenezer Baptist Church
- First United Methodist Church
- Glad Tidings Assembly of God
- Highpoint Community Worship Center
- New Hope Baptist Church
- North Georgia Credit Union
- Talan Properties, LLC
- Toccoa Kiwanis Club
- Toccoa Woman's Club

System Partners
- Bowen and Watson, Inc.
- Global Partitions
- Northland Cable
- Stephens County Sheriff's Office

Toccoa Elementary
- Arby's
- David Benfield, CPA
- Elks Lodge
- First Citizens Bank
- Hardee's
- McDonald's
- Pruitt Corporation
- Stephens-Franklin Teachers Federal Credit Union
- Tates Creek Baptist Church
- The Toccoa Record
- Threads
- Toccoa National Guard
- Woodmen of the World

Stephens County Middle School
- Boys & Girls Club of Toccoa
- Martin Lions Club
- McDonald's
- Morgan Concrete Company
- North Georgia Credit Union
- Regions Bank
- Stephens Federal Bank
- Stephens-Franklin Teachers Federal Credit Union
- Toccoa Clinic Medical Associates
- Toccoa Falls College
- Walmart
- Wendy's

Stephens County High School
- 1st Franklin Financial Corp
- Aaron's
- Acre Oil
- American Pest Control
- Applebee's
- Arby's
- Arrowood Contractors
- Bar-B-Q Shack
- Bowen and Watson
- Brenda's Boutique
- Brother John's Sub & Sandwich Shop
- Bulldogs Xpress Lube
- Café Kava, LLC
- Community Bank and Trust
- Constitutional Officers and Elected Officials
- Cups and Cones

Crossroads
- 1st Franklin Financial Corp
- Morgan Concrete Company
- Stephens Federal Bank

Energy Star Partner
- Toccoa-Stephens County Chamber of Commerce
- Foodbank of Northeast Georgia
- Toccoa Police Department
- Lecroy Office Products

Department of Economic Development
- Dodd Construction
- Dr's Vasco and Beth Lowery
- Ebenezer Baptist Church
- Ed Murdock
- First Baptist Church
- First Citizens Bank
- Franklin Insurance
- GEM Southeast, Inc
- Georgia Department of Labor
- Georgia Mountain Manufacturing
- Habersham Hills Theatre
- Hanson Aggregates
- Hardee's
- Hayes Automotive Group
- Hill's Exxon
- Lecroy Office Supplies
- Little Caesars
- McDonald's of Toccoa
- Meadows Surgical Arts
- Med Access of Toccoa
- Mill Creek Veterinary Hospital
- Morgan Concrete Company
- North Georgia Credit Union
- North Georgia Technical College
- Northland Cable
- Perk Up Café
- Physical Therapy Specialist
- Quincy's Family Steak House
- Rose Lane Bowling
- Sanders Drugs
- Sonic Drive-In
- Space Walk of Toccoa
- State Senator Jim Butterworth
- Stephens County Hospital
- Stephens County Literacy Foundation
- Stephens Federal Bank
- Sugar Creek Trucking
- Terry and Kay Reed
- Thomason Construction
- Threads Sports, Inc
- Toccoa Falls College
- Toccoa Machine Products
- Toccoa-Stephens County Chamber of Commerce
- Troup's Studio and Hallmark
- Wilbros
- WNEG