

Highlights

We Are Rappahannock!

Special Bulletin- June 2022

Standards of Learning (SOLs)

Pre-pandemic SOL scores had been climbing since 2016 reported state data, with the only dip in recent years caused by disrupted education required by the state. Luckily, RCPS remained open to the maximum extent possible and minimized the impact on academic achievement. Preliminary data for end of year achievement are indicating a sharp increase in growth and achievement for RCPS students.

Data Alignment

RCPS is excited to announce that we will be welcoming back Karen Ellis to serve as an academic services coordinator in SY22-23. In this role Ellis will work to vertically align curriculum, ensure all growth and benchmark assessments are aligned with state curriculum, provide ongoing support, coaching, and professional development for staff, inform decisions of program adoption with research and data, and lead specialist data meetings for improving instruction.



**Karen Ellis to serve as
Academic Services
Coordinator**

Message from Dr. Grimsley

Dear RCPS Families,
We have received several questions following the release of Governor Youngkin's 90 day report on the state of education in Virginia. This bulletin has been created to highlight the areas that were mentioned in the report and share information as it specifically relates to Rappahannock County. As always, thank you to our RCPS families and community for your support and continued partnership as we work together to offer a premier public school education. Through innovation and promoting a culture of learning, we are committed to ensuring that EVERY student reaches their full potential, both as students and as life-ready graduates. We are Rappahannock and proud!

*At Your Service,
Shannon Grimsley*

Shannon Grimsley, Ed.D.

*RCPS Superintendent and
Cheerleader in Chief*



Reading Growth

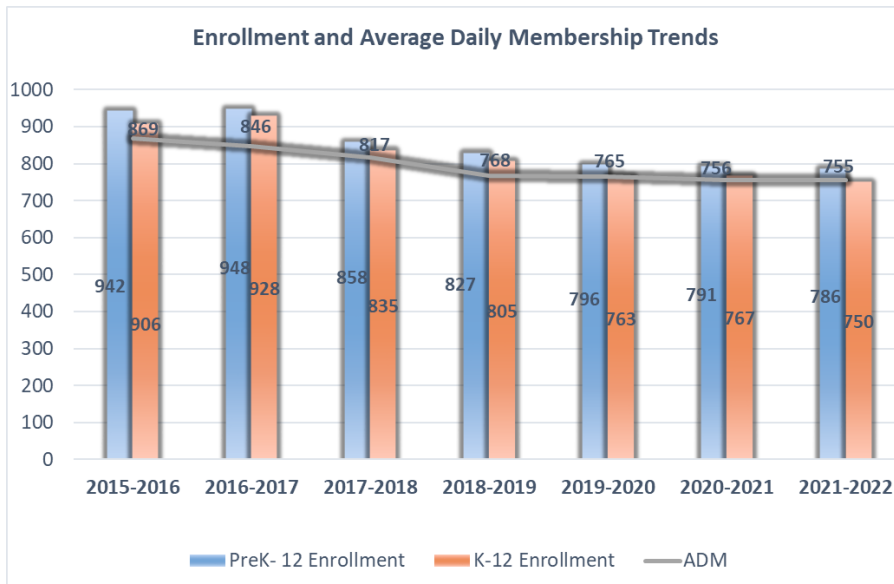
[The Virginia Literacy Act](#), signed by Governor Youngkin, emphasizes the importance of early student literacy by requiring evidence-based instructing and screening. Rappahannock County Elementary School, which has two reading specialists serving in administrative roles, was already ahead of this act by implementing the evidence-based programs prior to the enactment. The priority for SY21-22 was to begin to close the learning gaps from COVID-19. All RCES students had a goal to increase their instructional reading level by a year's growth as indicated in our School Improvement Plan. The implementation of the evidence-based programs mentioned below were to support this reading growth.

- *Implemented Orton Gillingham training for primary staff
- *Trained and implemented of the evidence-based LETRS Training
- *Implemented frequent progress reporting and individual plans based on individual running records monitored by teachers and reading specialists
- *Implemented monthly data network meetings to ensure growth of ALL students
- * Trained and implemented DRA (Developmental Reading Assessment) in grades 4th-7th
- *Progress Monitored Oral Reading Fluency for identified students in grades 4th-7th

Additionally, RCES hired an additional part-time staff member to serve as a PALS Tutor to work with students identified by the PALS assessment in grades K-3. PALS is a state-wide assessment given to all Pre-K-3rd grader students in the fall, mid-year, and winter.

Enrollment

Average Daily Membership and enrollment are stabilizing. See the chart to the left to view the enrollment and ADM trends from 2015- 2022 and a chart of projections through SY26-27.



School Year	Projected Enrollment	Projected ADM
2022-2023	785	755
2023-2024	786	758
2024-2025	790	760
2025-2026	793	764
2026-2027	798	767

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

NAEP testing is not mandatory for Virginia public schools. VDOE assigns which schools will undergo this testing. Rappahannock County Public Schools has not been selected to participate in the past five years.

In order to continuously improve, close achievement gaps, and graduate life-ready students to achieve the RCPS vision and mission, Comprehensive Planning Teams developed **The Road to Remarkable**, which will serve as our Comprehensive Plan 2022- 2027. This document will be released shortly.

Addressing Mental Health

RCPS has developed a **Mental Health Innovation Team** to address increasing mental health needs of students and staff as a result of the pandemic. This team is comprised of the following:

- Carol Johnson (Assistant Superintendent)
- Kathy Zehr Rhodes (School Psychologist)
- Kayla Robey (RCES Guidance Counselor in Training)
- Candy Lamma (Retired RCES Guidance Counselor)
- Dani Pond (RCHS Guidance Counselor)
- Erica Jennejahn (School Social Worker)- *Joining the team in August 2022*



Furthermore, we are offering school-based counseling and outpatient counseling services on site through **Health Connect America**.

Additionally, RCPS has established the **Valley Health Fit Kids Clinic**, which offers immediate point of care diagnostics to help working families stay healthy and keep kids in school.

Nurses Heather Campbell (left) & Robyn Murray

