

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Date: July 2, 2026

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Lake Wales Charter Schools Celebrates 2025–2026 School Grades and Historic High School Achievement

LAKE WALES, FL – The Office of the Superintendent of Lake Wales Charter Schools (LWCS) proudly announces the release of the Florida Department of Education school report card grades for the 2025–2026 academic year. Marked by individual campus achievements and strong system-wide performance, the newly released data reflects the deep commitment, hard work, and resilience of LWCS students, educators, staff, and families.

Headline Achievement: Lake Wales High School Earns an "A"

Leading the charter system's celebration is Lake Wales High School, which officially moved from a grade of "B" in 2025 to a first-ever grade of "A" for 2026. With this achievement, Lake Wales High School stands as the highest-rated traditional high school (grades 9–12) out of 13 traditional high schools in Polk County, and holds the distinct honor of being the *only* traditional high school in the county to earn an "A" rating this year.

System-Wide Growth: LWCS Earns an Overall "B"

Demonstrating the power of the charter system, Lake Wales Charter Schools, as an entire system, would receive a grade of "B" if the charter system were graded separately from its sponsor district, Polk County Public Schools. This strong system-wide baseline reflects high standards of consistency and academic growth across the community.

The individual 2026 school grades across the LWCS system include:

- **Lake Wales High School:** A (Up from a 'B' in 2025)
- **Edward W. Bok Academy South:** B (Maintained)
- **Dale R. Fair Babson Park Elementary:** B (Maintained)
- **Hillcrest Elementary:** B (Maintained)
- **Edward W. Bok Academy North:** C (Maintained)
- **Janie Howard Wilson Elementary:** C (Maintained)
- **Polk Avenue Elementary:** C (Maintained)

"We are extremely proud of our high school students, staff, and families—it takes an entire community working together to achieve a school grade of 'A'," said Superintendent Julie Conrad. "These grades reflect the incredible dedication found on every single one of our campuses. As a system, our overall 'B' status proves that we are moving in the right direction, but we remain fiercely committed to lifting every school, supporting every educator, and ensuring an excellent educational experience for every child in the Greater Lake Wales community."

A Blueprint for the Future

The 2026 school grades establish a critical baseline for the Lake Wales Charter Schools Strategic Plan, which was officially approved by the Board of Trustees on June 22, 2026.

Moving forward, the system will leverage these results to fuel its four foundational pillars:

1. **Academics:** Focusing heavily on achieving a "high-performing" designation for the charter school system through rigorous curriculum, measurable academic growth, and system-level consistency.
2. **Safe and Healthy Schools:** Nurturing a positive, secure, and supportive climate at every campus site.
3. **Community Partnerships and Engagement:** Building transparent, honest communication and deep accountability with families and local stakeholders.
4. **Resources and Finance:** Aligning strategic funding and personnel to address community disparities and empower educators in the classroom.

By actively celebrating these milestone victories while confronting system challenges head-on, Lake Wales Charter Schools continues its transition from a system of charter schools to a high-performing charter school system.

About Lake Wales Charter Schools, Inc.

The mission of Lake Wales Charter Schools, Inc. is to bring the best of public education to our community by providing innovation and choice within a continuous pre-school through post-secondary curriculum so that each child recognizes the benefits of lifelong learning, constructive citizenship, and personal happiness. Lake Wales Charter Schools serves over 5000 students in grades PK–12 across seven campuses. Lake Wales Charter Schools, Inc. is an equal opportunity institution for education and employment. Please visit our website at <https://www.lwcharterschools.com/>.