

Fast Facts

Student Population: 7,200

Average January Temperature is 53 Degrees F

Average August Temperature is 81 Degrees F

Walton County's Land Area is 1,066 Sq. Miles

Population 52,270

Websites of Interest

Walton County School

www.walton.k12.fl.us

Walton County Chamber of Commerce

www.waltonareachamber.com

Florida Department Of Education

www.fl DOE.org

Walton County

www.co.walton.fl.us

Quick Telephone Numbers for Walton County School District

Main Number 850-892-1100

Exceptional Student Education 850-892-1161

Student Services 850-892-1171

Transportation 850-892-1141

Walton
COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

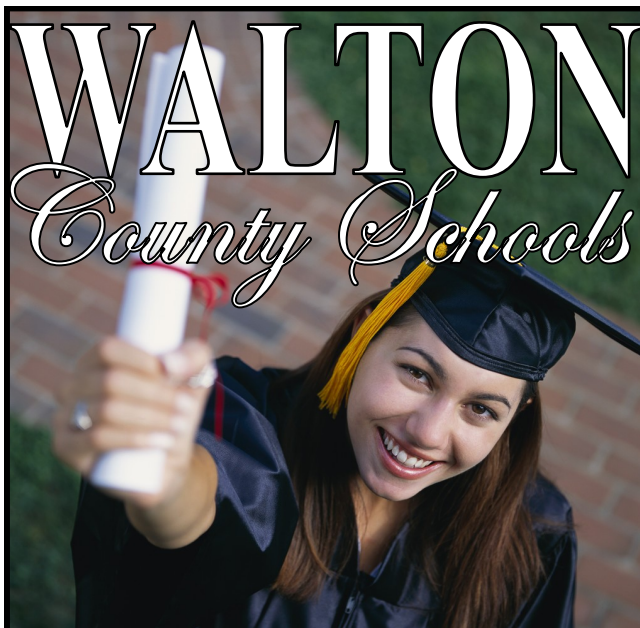
145 Park Street

DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435

(850) 892-1100 Telephone

(850)892-1195 Fax

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Walton County Schools

A Country Lifestyle in Paxton

Paxton is located along the Florida and Alabama state line and provides a small town country lifestyle.

Paxton School is a small unit school provides a continuum of educational services for approximately 630 students in grades K-12. Paxton offers career academies in The Academy of Information Technology and The Academy of Early Childhood.

Growing Community of Mossy Head

Located west of DeFuniak Springs and close to the Okaloosa County line, Mossy Head provides convenient access for families working in either Walton or Okaloosa County.

Mossy Head School, a new state of the art facility serving approximately 300 students in grades PK-5 students. Middle and high school students attend schools in DeFuniak Springs or Paxton, depending on resident's address.

Historical DeFuniak Springs

DeFuniak Springs is the county seat of Walton County and home of the school district office. Students in this community are served by two elementary schools, one middle school, one high school, one alternative charter school, and one career education center.

West DeFuniak Elementary serves approximately 605 students in grades K-5.

Maude Saunders Elementary also serves approximately 658 students in grades PK-5.

Walton Middle School serves approximately 635 students in grades 6-8.

Walton High School serves approximately 720 students in grades 9-12. The school offers career academies in The School of Building Construction Technologies and The School of Health Sciences.

Walton Career Development Center is a career education center offering The Academy of Information Technology for students in grades 9-12. The school serves approximately 110 students and provides post-secondary educational programs and adult education.

Walton Academy is an alternative charter school for

students in grades 6-12. The school's population is approximately 117. As a public charter school, Walton Academy provides an alternative learning environment for students.

Down by the Bay in Freeport

Freeport borders the Choctawhatchee Bay and is infused with many bayous and waterways. Students K-12 are served with one elementary, one middle, and one high school.

Freeport Elementary School serves approximately 570 students in grades PK-5.

Freeport Middle School serves approximately 280 students in grades 6-8.

Freeport High School serves approximately 359 students in grades 9-12. Freeport's Academy of Information Technology serves as the school's career academy.

Beach Life

The communities along the beautiful Gulf of Mexico are known as the "Beaches of South Walton." This area serves students with two elementary schools, one middle school, one high school, and a public charter middle school.

Bay Elementary School serves students K-5 and has an approximate population of 310 students.

Van R. Butler Elementary School is a PK-5 school and serves approximately 800 students. This thriving school maintains the small school atmosphere even though it is the largest school in the district.

Emerald Coast Middle School serves approximately 350 students in grades 6-8. The campus connects to Van R. Butler Elementary and is scheduled to move into a newly constructed school in the fall of 2011.

Seaside Neighborhood School is a public charter school serving approximately 110 students in grades 6-8. Admission is determined through a lottery process.

South Walton High School serves approximately 570 students in grades 9-12. The Institute of Medical Sciences serves as the school's career academy.

Walton County Schools

Walton County School District (WCSD) is committed to excellence in education. All WCSD public schools are accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI). The district is among the top performing school districts in the state.

WCSD has six elementary, three middle, three high schools, one K-12 school, two charter schools and a career development center school.

High Academic Expectations

WCSD holds high expectations for all students and staff. As a result, the WCSD has earned and maintained an 'A' school district rating as assigned by the Florida Department of Education. Additionally, the district has been designated by the State Board of Education as an academically High Performing School District for five consecutive years.

A Progressive and Innovative School District

In 1996, WCSD sponsored one of Florida's first charter schools. Currently, choice options include virtual instruction and home school education opportunities. Schools in Walton County have an abundance of technology resources to enhance instruction. Approximately 175 district classrooms are equipped with 21st Century technologies. Grants have provided opportunities for one-to-one computing at some grade levels. The district has a 3:1 ratio of students to computers empowering students with hands-on learning.

WCSD has an articulation agreement with Northwest Florida State College to provide dual-enrollment courses for eligible high school students. Students completing these courses earn high school and college credits simultaneously. Dual Enrollment is free to eligible high school students and textbooks are provided by the district.

WCSD has partnered with the E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center at the Nokuse Plantation, a 48,000 acre private conservation preserve in Freeport, to bring learning to life through hands-on learning opportunities and field studies conducted alongside professional scientists. WCSD has partnered with Nokuse to redesign curriculum and integrate field studies into life and earth science for students in grades four, seven and designated high school courses.

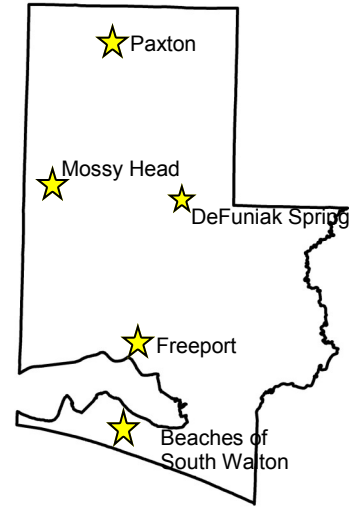
Cultural programming is an important part of instruction. WCSD transports students to a wide variety of venues scheduled in the Florida panhandle area and in Alabama. Many students attend the Alabama Shakespearean Theater, theatrical programming at NWFSC, as well as other performances in the panhandle region. Schools also participate in the Florida Chautauqua cultural arts program each year through extensive project-based learning activities focused on the selected theme.

Small School Environments

Walton County is one of the largest counties in the state reaching from the Alabama state line to the Gulf of Mexico. Although large geographically, our population sparsity provides the opportunity to maintain an adherence to a 'small community' school environment where every student is known by name. Our public school enrollment ranges from 114-800 students.

State of the Art Facilities

WCSD has some of the newest schools in the Florida Panhandle. In 2008, Mossy Head School opened the doors of a new K-5 facility. In 2009, Walton High School moved into a new facility, which has been nominated for numerous design and architectural awards. In 2011, Emerald Coast Middle School will relocate to a new state of the art facility. All new facilities are designed to include 21st Century technology tools. All other district schools have been retrofitted and 21st Century instructional technology has been installed in most classrooms.



Career Academies

Each high school in Walton County hosts a career academy to link the academic classroom to the world of work. Students who complete a course sequence will graduate with a standard high school diploma and industry certifications. Upon graduation these career focused academies allow students to directly enter the workforce or articulate into a two-year or four-year college or university. Post-secondary education is a target objective for many students graduating from WCSD.

The University of West Florida (UWF) has partnered with WCSD to enhance the benefits of the academy model for high school graduates. Students can receive college credit for required career courses

when enrolling in a post-secondary feeder program at UWF.

Athletic Programs

Schools in Walton County offer a variety of extra-curricular, competitive sports programs for boys and girls. Football, soccer, basketball, baseball, tennis, and golf are offered throughout schools in the county. Opportunities are available in both middle and high schools. Middle school programs serve as feeder programs for the high school athletic programs.

Virtual Instruction

Virtual instruction is available to students in grades K-12. At the high school level, virtual courses enhance the school's curriculum through opportunities for advanced placement and/or foreign language courses.

Exceptional Student Education

Programs for students with disabilities are available in all district schools. Appropriate instruction is provided according to the needs identified in a student's Individualized Educational Plan (IEP). Recently, the WCSD was recognized as one of the top districts in increasing

achievement for students with disabilities.

Physical Education, Art, and Music

While the decreasing state budget has caused many school districts to rethink the importance of art, music and physical education programs, the WCSD has continued to provide regular instruction in these areas. The district recognizes the value of these programs for our students.

Elementary Education

Elementary schools focus on the needs of individual students with a heavy emphasis placed on reading instruction. The Small Group Reading model meets the needs of all readers and allows them to progress at their own individual pace. The curriculum is also rich in math, science, social studies, physical education and the arts. Schools are committed to early identification of academic and/or behavioral needs to ensure student success.

Florida's Voluntary Pre-K (VPK) Program

WCSD participates as a service provider for voluntary pre-Kindergarten program. Free summer and limited school year programs are available to eligible four year olds.

On behalf of the Walton County School District, I welcome you to visit our school district website and schools. There is something for everyone in Walton County.



Supt. Carlene Anderson