

# DUVAL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS









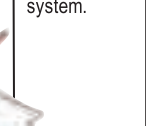
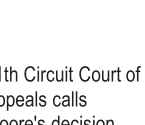
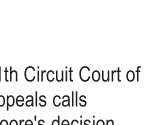
























## TIMELINE OF MAJOR EVENTS 1864 - 2005



THE FORUM ON QUALITY EDUCATION  
EMBRACING OUR FUTURE

DATE	SPRING 1864	1868	MARCH 1869	1877	1894	1898	1900	1901	1914	1942	1953	1954	1957	1959	1960	1962	AUGUST 1962	SEPTEMBER 1962	NOVEMBER 1963	DECEMBER 1963	SPRING 1964	DECEMBER 1964	1965	JANUARY 1967	1968	1969	JUNE 1971							
EVENTS	<p>J.M. Hawks opens first free public school in the state, attracting equal number of white and black students; all but three white students leave.</p>	<p>Stanton Normal Institute has 400 students and seven teachers.</p>	<p>Duval County's first Board of Public Instruction is appointed.</p>	<p>The first graduating class of Duval County High School numbers three. Duval High is the first high school in state with its own building and faculty.</p>	<p>James Weldon Johnson, who attended Stanton where his mother taught, takes over as principal of Stanton. (Johnson becomes famous for several things, including writing the Negro National Anthem.) There are 1,000 students and 25 teachers at the school.</p>	<p>Duval is the first Florida county to provide large-scale public school transportation.</p>	<p>Duval County spends \$12.04 per pupil for white students; \$5.47 per pupil for black students.</p>	<p>Duval County OKs \$1 million bond issue to fund major expansion plan, replacing wooden schools with brick buildings.</p>	<p>Duval County OKs \$1 million bond issue to fund major expansion plan, replacing wooden schools with brick buildings.</p>	<p>Following a suit by Mary White Blocker, an African American teacher, the court orders a single salary schedule be applied to all teachers, regardless of race. (Blocker, forced to retire after she filed suit, continued to receive her pay through the Duval County Negro Teachers Association for 23 years.)</p>	<p><b>BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION RULING</b></p>	<p>J. Irving Scott is named director of Negro education for the Duval County public school system. He served in that role until 1960.</p>	<p>State constitutional amendment makes appointed school superintendents permissible in Duval and three other counties. With Ish Brant just beginning a four-year term, the county makes no move to change its procedures or superintendent.</p>	<p>Times-Union reports that 47 schools lack proper safety features, resulting in \$35 million bond issue for capital improvements.</p>	<p>Discrimination suit is filed by NAACP in U.S. District Court on behalf of two black students refused admission to white schools in the county. Suit claims School Board operates racially segregated schools and that racial factors are used in determining placement. School officials later acknowledge that all 89 white and 24 black schools were totally segregated by students, teachers and administrators.</p>	<p>Due to poor conditions in schools and lack of financial support, the Chamber of Commerce initiates a citizens' School Bootstrap Committee, chaired by attorney Harry Kinkaid, to examine problems in the system.</p>	<p>U.S. District Court Judge Bryan Simpson says the school system violates Brown v. Board of Education, saying a dual, segregated system exists in Duval County. He orders the School Board to stop operating a compulsory biracial school system and to develop plans for the total elimination of a segregated school system.</p>	<p>School Board proposes a plan for neighborhood schools open to all students living nearby, integrating initially in the first and second grades, then one additional grade a year thereafter. Known as a Single System Geographic Plan to End Desegregation, the plan was to integrate all 12 grades by 1974.</p>	<p>The Bootstrap Committee issues its report, a call to action urging the community to mobilize to reform public schools. Report severely criticizes the curriculum, physical conditions, administration and finances of system, saying teachers and students are the primary victims. Teachers are poorly paid, resources limited, classrooms overcrowded. Dropout rate is high. School policies affected by 8 different elected boards with much conflict and overlap. The elected superintendent, only elected one among 20 largest systems in the nation, rarely makes unpopular decisions. System has severe lack of financial support. Report concludes taxpayers are not doing their share.</p>	<p>Southern Association of Colleges and Schools threatens to withdraw accreditation in a year because of instructional deficiencies. The public refuses to accept reevaluation of property or additional taxes to improve school funding. Duval County is spending \$299 per student; the state average spending per student is \$372.</p>	<p>George Peabody College of Teachers in Nashville is commissioned by School Board and superintendent to study Duval school finances, curriculum, teacher training and host of other issues.</p>	<p>After repeated warnings, 15 Duval County schools are discredited by SACS due to lack of financial support, including Fletcher, Forrest, Raines, Parker, Englewood, Ribault, Butler, Paxon, Lee, Stanton, Baldwin and Jackson. (40,000 people had signed petitions urging SACS to delay discreditation.)</p>	<p>To expedite integration, NAACP, supported by Interdenominational Ministers Alliance, institutes school boycott. 17,000 black youngsters skip school one day; the next day, 10,000 stay away.</p>	<p>Peabody report broadly criticizes school system. Cites a lack of materials, overcrowded classrooms, lack of supervisory skills, financial handicaps, failure to require teachers to hold valid certificates for subjects being taught. Concludes the prestige of public education in Duval County has deteriorated steadily for two generations.</p>	<p>Florida Legislature passes legislation calling for appointed superintendent in Duval County. Brant, however, has just been elected to a third four-year term, so the effective date for the change is delayed.</p>	<p>Judge Simpson rules the Single System Geographic Plan has failed to create a unitary school system and orders the establishment of a single system for all grades; decrees students can no longer transfer to schools of their choice.</p>	<p>Teachers statewide, including those in Duval County - black and white - walk off the job to protest the state Legislature's method of funding public education.</p>	<p><b>FAILURE</b> <b>CONSOLIDATION</b></p>	<p>School budget is \$68 million, compared with \$34 million in 1964.</p>	<p>Cecil Hardesty becomes the first appointed superintendent.</p>	<p>U.S. District Judge Gerald B. Tjoflat orders School Board to implement full desegregation through massive cross-town busing. Reluctant School Board complies by busing African-American 1st - 5th graders across town to suburban white schools, establishing 6th and 7th grade centers in inner city to bus white students, and making marginal changes in redistricting high schools. There are 113 totally segregated schools, 89 white and 24 black.</p>			
SUPERINTENDENT			A.J. RUSSELL									IVA T. SPRINKLE	ISH BRANT .....										..... ISH BRANT .....										CECIL HARDESTY.....	
PUBLIC SCHOOL ENROLLMENT				1873 1,252	1883 2,665	1894 5,046	1900 6,795	1910 9,861		1950 48,000		1955 66,542	1960 102,000		1960 102,000								1965 125,000			1970 114,045								
DUVAL COUNTY POPULATION							1900 39,733	1910 75,163		1950 304,029		1955 381,700	1960 455,411		1960 455,411								1965 508,900			1970 528,865								

## YEARS OF REPAIR: MEETING NEW DEMANDS

DATE	1974	DECEMBER 1975	APRIL 1977	1981	1985	JUNE 1986	DECEMBER 1986	MAY 1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	APRIL 1992	1993	1995	1996	1997	1998	AUGUST 1998	1999	2001	2002	FALL 2002	2003	2004	NOVEMBER 2004	JUNE 2005	SEPTEMBER 2005								
EVENTS	<p>Duval Teachers United created in a merger of Duval Teachers Association (affiliated with NEA) and Jacksonville Federation of Teachers (affiliated with AFT) and Florida State Teachers Association, an organization representing black teachers.</p> 	<p>NAACP asks Judge Tjoflat to hold School Board in contempt for failing to comply with 1971 court order.</p> 	<p>JCCI study on desegregation finds a gradual resegregating of the schools has taken place since the court order and that 6th &amp; 7th grade centers are not educationally sound. Study says schools need more involvement of citizens in definition and development of standards, goals and curriculum; School Board should review its policy regarding evaluation of supervisors and teachers to identify personnel who need to be counseled or terminated.</p> 	<p>School Board unanimously elects Wendell Holmes as its first black chairman.</p> 	<p>NAACP goes back to court claiming segregation has increased since the 1971 ruling. Judge Moore, however, closes the desegregation case, meaning the court will no longer monitor the School Board's efforts to achieve integration.</p> 	<p>Voters defeat by 689 votes a \$113 million school bond issue designed to finance a 13-year school construction program. Advocates blame failure by school officials to promote need community-wide and failure to emphasize improvements in the black community.</p> 	<p>School Board recommends another bond issue. Task force led by Charles E. Hughes Jr., president of Florida National Bank, and Ronnie Ferguson, president of the Jacksonville Urban League, holds public meetings and champions a \$195 million issue. Emphasis is on new schools in the south and southeast parts of county, but also a new northside high school and improvements to Raines and Ribault high schools.</p> 	<p>Voters approve \$199 million school bond issue by vote of 68,000 to 41,572.</p> 	<p>Judge Moore rules the school system has eliminated the vestiges of segregation and is operating a unitary school system.</p> 	<p>11th Circuit Court of Appeals calls Moore's decision "clearly erroneous," reverses the ruling and says the system should remain under court order.</p> 	<p>School Board approves year-round schooling as a means of improving learning and efficiency of operations.</p> 	<p>Mandarin Oaks Elementary, the first of the county's "mega-schools" opens with 1,000+ students.</p> 	<p>Willie Dennis, president of the local NAACP, reopens the federal desegregation lawsuit to force the School Board to renegotiate more equitable terms; School Board and NAACP reach agreement on a plan that stops forced busing and creates a system of magnet programs in an attempt to voluntarily desegregate the schools by drawing children out of single-race neighborhoods.</p> 	<p>Full Service Schools program begins, using schools to house community agencies to provide education, medical, social and other human services to children and their families.</p> 	<p>Six families backed by Planned Parenthood file suit challenging the school systems' abstinence-based sex education curriculum saying it is not a comprehensive sex education program. Suit cites inaccuracies and bias in curriculum. The School Board ultimately abandons the curriculum, adopting an abstinence-based curriculum that includes discussion of the use of contraceptives, reproductive health and AIDS. The lawsuit was rendered moot.</p> 	<p>JCCI study finds the school system lacks clear vision of high-quality public education, clear measures of educational outcomes and a process to improve quality.</p> 	<p>School Advisory Councils begin statewide, composed of principals and stakeholders.</p> 	<p>Federal lawsuit filed by three high school seniors and a parent, backed by ACLU, to prohibit student-led prayer during graduation. U.S. District Judge Terrell Hodges rules that the policy is unconstitutional. Decision is appealed to the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, but constitutionality is ultimately upheld.</p> 	<p>Jacksonville Chamber launches "Academy for World Class Education" as a way to educate business leaders about the school system and prepare them to be partners and advocates. Program's weaknesses were little mechanism for action and failure to involve school system in process.</p> 	<p>Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) is designated as the evaluation tool to measure how well students are learning the skills outlined in the Sunshine State Standards, replacing Florida Writes, Comprehensive Test of Basic Skills and others. The FCAT also is used to measure school achievement with a formula that rewards schools for high achievement or marked improvements.</p> 	<p>School Board seeks to have federal court declare it fully desegregated, prompting a three-week trial in which witnesses say two-thirds of schools have reached racial balance goals, but elementary schools in core city remain mostly black.</p> 	<p>New Century Commission on Education, appointed by the School Board and mayor as a community effort to set directions for the school district, expresses concern about overall quality of education in Duval County. Recommends 155 new initiatives.</p> 	<p>Superintendent Fryer brings standards-based education to Duval County.</p> 	<p>After continued community complaints, year-round schooling is abolished and all schools open on a unified calendar.</p> 	<p>U.S. District Judge William Terrell Hodges rules public schools are being run without racial discrimination to the maximum extent possible.</p> 	<p>Jacksonville's Duval Public Education Foundation is folded into the non-profit Alliance for World Class Education, which brings together business and community leaders to help improve the local education system.</p> 	<p>JCCI report: "Beyond the Talk: Improving Race Relations" finds great differences in education results between blacks and whites, with disparities in graduation rates, dropout rates and test scores made worse by disparities in income.</p> 	<p>Alliance for World Class Education, with support of Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce, begins to target school board races in search of a broader range of candidates with strong ties to the business community and related backgrounds rather than the norm of retired teachers and PTA presidents.</p> 	<p>Passing FCAT becomes a requirement for graduation and a requirement for promotion for third-graders.</p> 	<p>First results from No Child Left Behind lead to 440 student transfers.</p> 	<p>JCCI report "Eliminating the Achievement Gap" finds absence of ongoing dialogue with citizens, inadequate childcare facilities to prepare children for kindergarten, lack of teacher compensation and too many failures of the FCAT with inadequate help for poor performing students. Recommendations include increased funding for pre-school education, better teacher compensation and academic help for all students not performing at their grade level.</p> 	<p>Florida voters approve a constitutional amendment requiring access to public pre-K education throughout Florida.</p> 	<p>Duval County schools receive the best grades since 1999, based primarily on the FCATs taken in grades 3 to 10: 71 A's, 23 B's, 43 C's and 12 D's. Six Duval County schools are named among the top 100 schools in Florida.</p> 	<p>The Community Foundation launches Quality Education for All initiative.</p> 	<p>Thirty-four years after federal courts ordered Duval County schools desegregated, more than one third of the county's public schools have student bodies of predominantly one race. During the height of desegregation, the goal was to have all schools achieve at least a 70/30 ratio of majority/minority students. In 2005, 47 percent of middle schools do not and 32 percent of elementary schools do not meet that goal.</p> 	
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PUBLIC SCHOOL ENROLLMENT	1975 102,828		1980 101,000		1985 101,000												1990 110,572		1995 123,470												2000 125,612		2004 127,729			
DUVAL COUNTY POPULATION	1975 568,000		1980 571,003		1985 619,100												1990 672,971		1995 718,400												2000 778,879		2004 821,338			

## AN ERA OF CHANGE: NEW CHALLENGES & STRATEGIES

THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
IN JACKSONVILLE

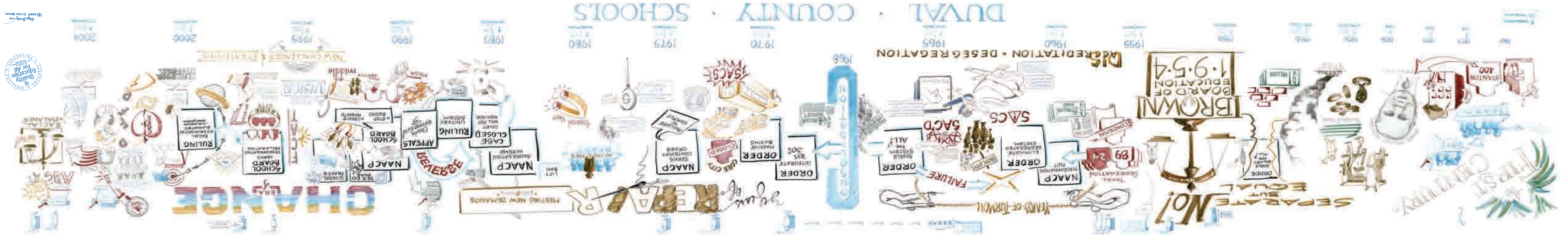
This document was made possible by the generous support of The Community Foundation in Jacksonville, which underwrote the research and production as part of its *Quality Education for All Initiative*.

Quality Education for *All* is a 10-year, multi-faceted initiative that seeks to improve the performance of all public school students in Duval County, with particular attention to the gaps in achievement between poor and non-poor students, and minority and majority students.

Its early work has focused on building knowledge through research and community learning, direct investment in innovative programs within the Duval County Public Schools and advocating for public policies and investments that will support quality public education.

Visit The Community Foundation at [www.jaxcf.org](http://www.jaxcf.org).





**FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT**  
Dear Jacksonville Community:

Although it's been about 45 years since 35th President John F. Kennedy included this excerpt in an education address to Congress, our growth as a nation remains linked to the quality of our public education system. The city of Jacksonville is no exception. Our progress as a city can be no swifter than our progress in education. As one of the 20th largest school districts in the nation, Duval County public schools have made significant gains over the years, but there is a new opportunity today for even faster and greater school improvement, and for the rebuilding of school and community culture in ways that contribute to the maximum development of every student's capacity.

Returning to Jacksonville to lead a public school system that served me during a decade of my childhood has been both exciting and humbling. Since my arrival in November 2005, it has become increasingly clear to me that Jacksonville is thriving and growing in unimaginable ways due to highly capable business and civic leadership. I have seen much evidence of exciting improvements and growth throughout our city, and in our schools. In fact, I have seen some of the best teaching practices and collaborative community partnerships of my career. I have also seen some things that concern me. It is clear that our city faces numerous challenges

including inadequate state funding for education, community violence, taut race relations, and adult illiteracy. Will we ever receive adequate funding for our public schools or will Florida and Jacksonville remain near the bottom of our nation's list on per-student expenditures? Will Jacksonville become known as a city of love or the state's leader in homicides and violence? Will we allow further erosion of our democracy because we have continued to allow too many students, often from low socioeconomic homes, to leave school frustrated with the opportunities we have failed to provide for their futures? Will we remain complacent with so many students dropping out of school only to expand their chances of becoming poor, homeless or criminals?

Schools and communities aren't separate. As communities strengthen, so do schools. As schools strengthen, so do communities. Whether an individual's support of school and community improvement is driven by an interest in Jacksonville hosting another event like Super Bowl XXXIX or attracting more environmentally responsible businesses to our city, we must all work together to seek enhanced investments, improvements, and involvement in each one of our schools. It is paramount that we ensure all children are sufficiently educated to reach their dreams and

enter meaningful and productive adulthoods. To achieve what is crucial, we must develop skilled and deliberate community-wide partnerships, investments in public education, and great discipline. Public education in Duval County can be one big hindrance or one big propeller in moving this city forward.

The Duval County School Board members and I are committed to making our schools stellar – the best not just in Florida, but also throughout the United States. To do so, we are committed to providing a high-quality education and opportunities that enable all students to reach their dreams and goals. We realize that for us to achieve this mission, we must demand a great deal from our students; rely on a great deal from our parents; invest a great deal in our teachers; and expect a great deal from our community. We need voices of candor, and hands of involvement including support, resources, and partnerships to make Duval County Public Schools a world-class system. With it, our success will be remarkable, because "our progress as a nation can be no swifter than our progress in education."

Sincerely,  
Joseph Wise  
*Superintendent of Schools*

“OUR PROGRESS AS A NATION  
CAN BE NO SWIFTER THAN OUR  
PROGRESS IN EDUCATION.

OUR REQUIREMENTS FOR WORLD LEADERSHIP,  
OUR HOPES FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH,  
AND THE DEMANDS OF CITIZENSHIP ITSELF  
IN AN ERA SUCH AS THIS ALL REQUIRE THE  
MAXIMUM DEVELOPMENT OF EVERY  
YOUNG AMERICAN’S CAPACITY.

THE HUMAN MIND IS OUR FUNDAMENTAL RESOURCE.”

—John F. Kennedy

**DUVAL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



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1864 - 2005

THE FORUM ON QUALITY EDUCATION  
EMBRACING OUR FUTURE