Public Schools in Duval County

Timeline of **Major Events**

1864 - 2022





This timeline was originally commissioned by The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida in 2005, at the time of their launch of the Quality Education for All initiative. It was updated by the

Jacksonville Public Education Fund

in 2014 in commemoration of the

anniversary, and was updated in

Education Fund. To learn more, visit

2022 by the Jacksonville Public

Community Foundation's 50th

www.jaxpef.org.



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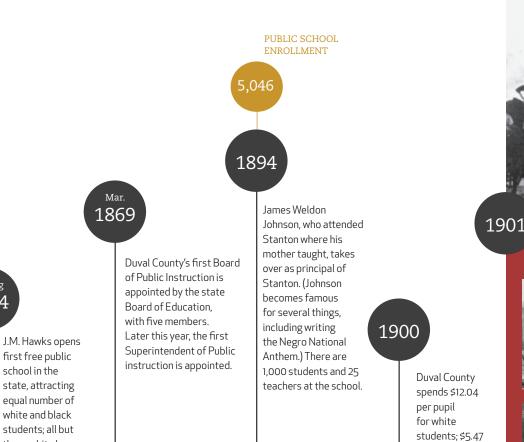
Ronnie Ferguson, President Jacksonville Housing Authority Preston H. Haskell, Chairman The Haskell Company

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Delores Barr Weaver The Weaver Family Foundation

Superintendent Ed Pratt-Dannals (ex-officio) Duval County Public Schools Honorable Tommy Hazouri (ex officio) Duval County School Board, Chairman Frederick H. Schultz (Honorary)





The Great Fire

director of Negro education for the Duval County public school system. He served in that role until 1960.

PUBLIC SCHOOL

ENROLLMENT

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 for selecting a superintendent.

reports that

47 schools

ack proper

safety features,

esulting in \$35

ssue for capital

omprehensive

ssessment

Test (FCAT) is

esignated as the

aluation tool

measure how

PUBLIC SCHOOL

students refused Board operates racially segregated schools and that racial factors are officials later acknowledge that all 89 white and 24

black schools were

totally segregated by

students, teachers

Discrimination suit is filed by NAACP in U.S. District Court on behalf of two black admission to white schools in the county. Suit claims School used in determining placement. School Kinkaid, to

the community to mobilize o reform public schools. Report severely criticizes the curriculum, physical conditions, administration and finances of system, saying teachers nd students are the primary schools and lack o victims. Teachers are poorly paid, financial support, esources limited, classrooms overcrowded. Dropout rate is of Commerce high. School policies affected initiates a citizens by 8 different elected boards School Bootstrap with much conflict and overlap. The elected superintendent, only elected one among 20 largest systems in the nation, rarely makes unpopular examine problem decisions. System has severe

The Bootstrap Committee issues

lack of financial support. Report

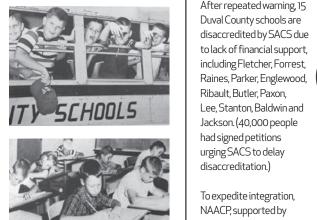
concludes taxpayers are not

doing their share.

its report, a call to action urging

YEARS OF TURMOIL: DISACCREDITATION & DESEGREGATION

and Schools



¹ Single System Geographic Plan as failed to create unitary school stem and orders Interdenominational e establishment a single system nstitutes school boycott. or all grades; 17,000 black youngsters

decrees students can no longer transfer to schools



30 percent black.

Duval County based on a ratio of 70 percent white and





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 acro town to suburban white sch establishing 6th and 7th grade centers in inner city to bus white students, and making marginal changes in redistricting high

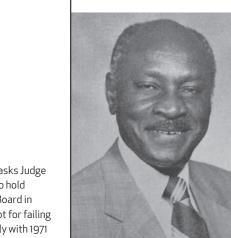
Last of disaccredited high

schools regains SACS

accreditation.

and 24 black.

Tioflat to hold School Board in schools. There are 113 totally segregated schools, 89 white



contempt for failing to comply with 1971

JCCI study on

School Board its first black



1869

SUPERINTENDENTS

A.J. Russell

1869-1870

W.L. Coan

1871-1873

W.H. Christy

Frederick Pasco

W.H. Babcock

Walter B. Clarkson

1907

SUPERINTENDENTS

1880-1888

THE FIRST CENTURY

of Education is established via public election. The irst graduating lass of Duval County High School Stanton Normal numbers three. Duval High is the first high school in state with its own building and faculty.

Duval is the first Florida county to provide large-scale public school transportation. PUBLIC SCHOOL

per pupil for

black students

OKs \$1 million suit by Mary White Blocker, an African American teacher, the schools with 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

Tallahassee Democrat Court Bans Segregation Public School Cases n Brown v. Board of Education, U.S. Supreme Court rules segregation in public schools is unconstitutional.

U.S. District Judge Bryan Simpson says the school system violates Brown v. Board of Education, saying a dual, segregated system exists in Duva 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

vo years after Ruby Bridges initially in the Known as a South, the Single System School Board

a year because first and second deficiencies. grades, then one additional grade refuses to accep a year thereafter. evaluation of additional taxes Geographic to improve proposes a plan Plan to End for neighborhood Segregation, Duval County is schools open the plan was to spending \$299 to all students integrate all 12 per student; the living nearby, grades by 1974.

superintendent to study Duval school finances, curriculum, teacher training and host of other

College of

Teachers in

Nashville is

commissioned by

School Board and

public education in Duval County has deteriorated steadily for two PUBLIC SCHOOL ENROLLMENT DUVAL COUNT POPULATION

∕linisters Alliance,

10,000 stay away.

skip school one day; the

Peabody report

broadly criticizes

school system.

Cites a lack

of materials,

overcrowded

classrooms, lack of

financial handicaps,

supervisory skills.

failure to require

teachers to hold

certificates for

subjects being

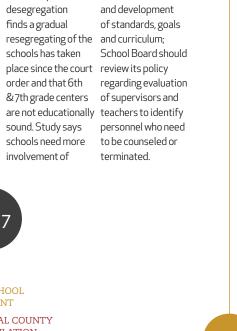
the prestige of

taught. Concludes



Jacksonville and Duval County merge





citizens in definition



Ribault achievement

Hiram H. Palmer

votes to ask U.S. District Moore II to lift the 1971 court order. NAACP goes back to court claiming

however,

closes the

integration.

School Board meetings and recommends champions a \$195 segregation has another bond increased since issue. Task force Emphasis is on the 1971 ruling. led by Charles new schools in Judge Moore, E. Hughes Jr., the south and southeast parts president of Florida National of county, but also desegregation Bank, and Ronnie a new Northside case, meaning Ferguson, high school and the court will no president of improvements longer monitor the Jacksonville to Raines and the School Urban League, Ribault high Board's efforts holds public to achieve

YEARS OF REPAIR

Judge Moore rules

the school system

nas eliminated

segregation and

the vestiges of

is operating a

unitary school

system.

approve \$199

bond issue

by vote of

68,000 to

Superintendent of Schools Nikolai Vitti

recommends, and Duval County School Board

Nathan Bedford Forest High School following

seeking the name change. This marks the first

effort to change the name of schools named

after confederate leaders. Forest is utimately

renamed Westside High School.

votes unanimously, to change the name of

a long campaign by community members

Voters defeat by

689 votes a \$113

million school bond

school construction

program. Advocates

blame failure by

school officials

to promote need

community-wide and

failure to emphasize

improvements in the

black community.

PUBLIC SCHOOL

Duval County posts

a graduation rate

representing a rapid

and steady increase

from 55.8 percen

five years prior.

of 72.1 percent,

POPULATION

issue designed to

finance a 13-year

11th Circuit Court as a means of of Appeals calls improving learning Moore's decision and efficiency of "clearly erroneous," operations. reverses the Mandarin Oaks ruling and says the system should Elementary, the first of the county's remain under court order. "mega-schools" opens with 1,000+ School Board students. approves yearround schooling

Willye Dennis,

NAACP, reopens

desegregation

terms: School

NAACP reach

plan that stops

and creates a

Board and

President

of the local

the federal

lawsuit to

force the

School Board

desegregate

he schools

by drawing

children out

Full Service

to provide

and other

system of magnet their families.

medical, social

human services

to children and

of single-race

Year-round curriculum begins in some schools; under modified calendar, students attend 60-day sessions separated by 15-day breaks during school year. 7th grade centers are eliminated; middle schools established for grades 6-8.

backed by

the school

urriculum.

saying it is not a

ex education

inaccuracies

program, cites

and bias in the

svstems'

Parenthood file

uit challenging

Planned

Jacksonville Community Council Inc. JCCI study finds composed of the school system principals and lacks clear vision stakeholders. of high-quality public education. Federal lawsuit filed by three clear measures of educational high school outcomes and seniors and a parent, backed by a process to improve quality. ACLU, to prohibit student-led praver School Advisory during graduation. Councils begin U.S. District

statewide,

The School

abandons the

adopting an

abstinence-

discussion

of the use of

reproductive

health and AIDS.

The lawsuit was

bstinence-based based curriculur

curriculum

Board ultimately

A Report to the Citizens of Jacksonville = Summer 1993 Judge Terrell

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

were little

weaknesses

mechanism for

action and failure

to involve the

the process.

school system in

ell students Hodges rules that the policy is eplacing appealed to the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, but ultimately upheld. or marked

AN ERA OF CHANGE: NEW CHALLENGES AND STRATEGIES

19-SEP 15 988 other students. Indeed, they have won their respect, they said the child and the

Public Education:

The Cost of Quality

to set directions for re learning the the school district, ills outlined the Sunshine expresses concern tate Standards, about overall quality of educatio in Duval County. Florida Writes, Recommends 155 Comprehensive new initiatives. Test of Basic Skills and others. The Superintendent CAT also is used Fryer brings o measure school standards-based chievement with education to Duval ormula that ewards schools for high achievements nprovements.

School Board

seeks to have

federal court

declare it fully

desegregated,

mostly black.

schools open.

prompting a three-finds general

week trial in which dissatisfaction

witnesses say two- with leadership in

nave reached racial part of parents,

palance goals, but teachers and

elementary schools administrators.

in core city remain It also finds race

First three charter success in

thirds of schools the schools on the

an education

hired by the

Times-Union,

remains a powerfu

predictor of

consulting firm

Commission on

and mayor as a

community effort

Education, appointed

by the School Board

After continued community complaints, yearround schooling is abolished and all schools open on a unified calendar.

J.S. District Judge

William Terrell

Hodges rules

public schools

are being run

without racial

discrimination

to the maximum

extent possible.

Jacksonville's

Foundation is

folded into the

non-profit Alliance

Education, which

brings together

business and

community

leaders to help

improve the local

education system.

for World Class

Duval Public

Education



PUBLIC SCHOOL

POPULATION

ENROLLMENT

Ouval Teachers United,

School Board, and

usiness community

stablished Creating

Public Schools to be

outstanding in many

performance improves at improvement. Makes 145 amendment limiting the

To address Duval County's aging

school buildings, the oldest in

Florida, and to make up for a

decade-long funding shortfall at

increase to raise nearly \$2 billion

to fund improved school facilities

in Duval over the next 15 years. The

vote follows a contentious debate

as to whether Jacksonville's City

Council would let the community

district's plan to focus on the age

and condition of school buildings.

through HB 7069 to require school

districts to share revenues with

charter schools ends the debate.

decide on the referendum, given the

the state level, 67% of Jacksonville

voters approve a half cent sales tax

low-performing schools. recommendations for number of students per

areas that need

Opportunities that

whose students'

Result in Excellence

ENROLLMENT

DUVAL COUNTY

POPULATION

(CORE) to offer financial respects, but also

Council of Great City improvement.

incentives to teachers finds key functional

education throughout

Florida voters also

approve constitutional



JCCI report

"Eliminating the

Achievement Gap"

ongoing dialogue with

citizens, inadequate

prepare children for

kindergarten, lack of

and inadequate

help for low-

teacher compensation

performing students.

Recommendations

include increased

education, better

teacher compensat

and academic help

for all students not

performing at their

grade level.

funding for preschool

childcare facilities to

finds absence of

investment in public education and the creation of the Jacksonville No Child Left



improving public

to more than \$40

Duval County

schools receive

he best grades

rimarily on the

CATs taken in

grades 3 to 10:

1 As, 23 Bs, 43

S and 12 Ds. Six

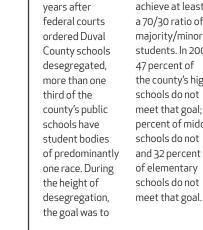
uval County

schools are named

among the top 100

schools in Florida.

ince 1999, based



The Jacksonville Public

Education Fund launches

Despite the

disruptions from the

global pandemic,

Duval County

Schools see an

increase in A, B, and

C-rated schools for

row, with 93% of the

schools receiving a (

grade or higher.

PUBLIC SCHOOL

ENROLLMENT

the third year in a

The need to invest in quality

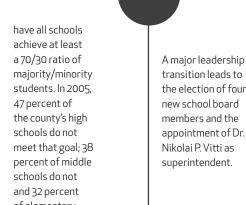
ONE by ONE, a capaign to teachers and leaders are

a collective vision for public among other priorities.

rally the community to set identified by the community

AN ERA OF CHANGE: NEW CHALLENGES AND STRATEGIES

Thirty-four



PUBLIC SCHOOL

POPULATION

ENROLLMENT

James Q. Palmer The community Foundation for Northeast Florida establishes the Quality Education for All Fund as an F.A. Hathaway almost \$40 million pool of private dollars invested in programs and initiatives to attract high quality teachers and leaders for Duval G. Elmer Wilbur County Public School. Jacksonville Public Education Fund administers the QEA Fund, a long-term deep investment in human capitalfocused school improvement R. B. Rutherford

QUALITY EDUCATION for ALL

efforts. Investments include

and performance incentives.

fellowships, leadership programs

The community and

five-year plan to reduce

the drop-out rate in Duval

County. Through several

targeted approaces,

community investment

in support systems, and

increase in the graduatio

success of the Learning

rate from 2005. The

to Finish partnership is

lauded as an example

of organizational

collaboration and

policy changes, Duval

County saw an 11%

district reflect on a

R. C. Marshall W. Daniel Boyd

Iva T. Sprinkle Ish Brant

Cecil Hardesty

John T. Gunning Herb A. Sang

Larry L. Zenke

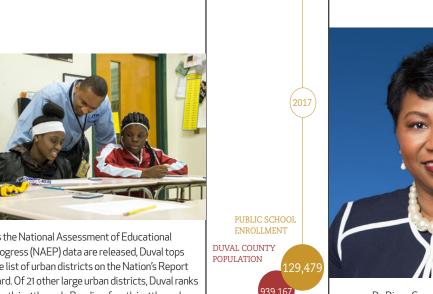
Honorable Henry Adams, Jr. United States District Judge

Gary Chartrand, Chairman & CEO

PUBLIC SCHOOL ENROLLMENT DUVAL COUNTY POPULATION

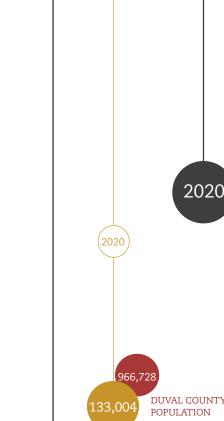


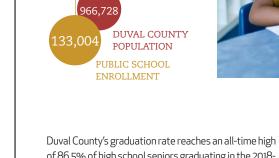
As the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) data are released, Duval tops the list of urban districts on the Nation's Report Card. Of 21 other large urban districts, Duval ranks fourth in 4th grade Reading, fourth in 4th grade Math, and second in 8th grade Reading, though seventh in 8th grade Math. Duval led the pack in its outcomes for students with disabilities - as first or second ranked on all assessments. Duval also ranked highly in African American and Hispanic student NAEP performance landing in the top four arge urban districts on most assessments.



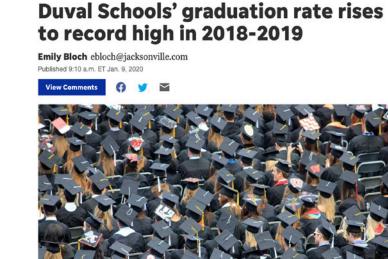
Dr. Diana Greene begins her tenure as Duval County Public Schools Superintendent. She is the first woman and first Black person to hold that position. Dr. Patricia Willis, another African American woman who earlier served as Deputy Superintendent, served as interim Superintendent after Nikolai Vitti stepped down as DCPS uperintendent while the School Board mplemented its process to identify Dr. Greene as the permanent district leader.



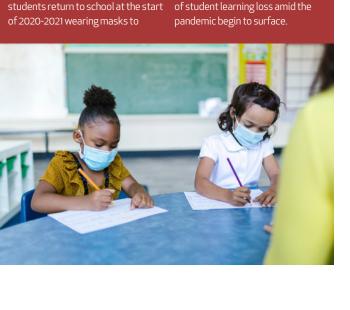


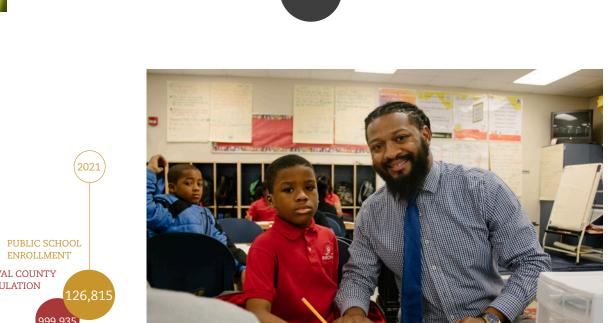


of 86.5% of high school seniors graduating in the 2018 2019 school year. Graduation rates would climb again in 2019-2020, continuing a 10-year-trend, but the later increase was in part attributed to waiving some state assessments due to the novel coronavirus, COVID-19.











Alliance for World

Class Education,

from Jacksonville

Commerce, begins

search of a broader

range of candidates

with strong ties into

the community and

related backgrounds

rather than the norm

of retired teachers

PTA presidents.

to target school

board races in

with support

Chamber of





Partners focused on providing

children and youth join forces to

launch the READ JAX campaign

to address long-term literacy

proficiency challenges with a

focus on improving results for

an important response to the

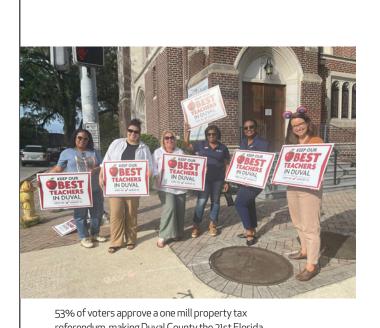
learning loss that occurred as a

result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

students by 3rd grade. This is also

support for Duval County's

Jacksonville Public Education Fund, Duval County Public Schools and the University of North Florida partner with other local organizations to launch a coordinated strategy, 1000 by 2025 initiative, to build ore diverse teacher pipeline for ksonville's future. The initiative focuses n increasing the number of Latino and Black male teachers serving Duval County students to improve representation among educators.



referendum, making Duval County the 21st Florida district to pass a millage referendum for education. Against the backdrop of a significant teacher shortage and growing instructional vacancies, the additional property tax will allow the district to provide teachers, particularly veteran teachers, with additional compensation and upgrade equipment and uniforms in the arts as well as fields, bleachers, and playgrounds in athletics. Charter schools will get a proportionate share based upon enrollement, as required by the state.



1997 SUPERINTENDENTS

Donald Van Fleet John C. Fryer, Jr.

Nancy Snyder Joseph Wise

Ed Pratt-Dannals Nikolai Vitti

> Patricia Willis Diana Greene

We have seen progress. in education in Duval County over the past decade, including increased graduation rates, better school scores, and increased compensation for teachers. With the community's continued support of public education we will make even more progress towards an educational system where all students can succeed. 🖊 **Judge Brian Davis** JPEF Board of Directors 2009-2022