

AN OVERVIEW OF UNION COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

GROWTH

- 6th largest school system in the state
- Student enrollment increased 57% over the past ten years bringing 14,679 new students (2002-2003 enrollment 25,680; 2011-12 enrollment 40,359)
- 2011-12 enrollment shows an increase of 1.2% from the previous year or over 459 additional students.
- 4,456 employees

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY

- Total of 23 new schools in a 9-year period (2000-2009) along with numerous additions and renovations at existing schools.

SCHOOL BONDS

- From 1998 until 2006, six bond referendums totaling \$501.7 million were approved by the citizens of Union County

It is becoming increasingly difficult for Union County to pay for school construction when the county finances are primarily drawn from property taxes. Union County currently is about 85% residential or property taxes and about 15% commercial and industrial. A healthy property tax mix is 60% residential, 40% commercial and industrial.

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

2010-11 Testing Information

- Union County ranks number one among the state's 15 largest school districts in the percentage of schools that met the federal No Child Left Behind, Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) goals
- 21 Honor Schools of Excellence (90 to 100% at or above grade level and met AYP)
- 1 School of Excellence (90 to 100% at or above grade level and did not make AYP)
- 16 Schools of Distinction (80 to 89% at or above grade level)
- 10 Schools of Progress (60 to 79% at or above grade level)
- 2 No Recognition School (did not make expected growth)
- 1 Priority School (at least 50%, but not more than 60% at or above grade level)
- 0 Low Performing Schools
- 2011 SAT scores exceeded national average (UCPS-1027, State-1001; Nation-1011).
- \$75.7 million in scholarships awarded to 2011 graduates.
- UCPS ranked 5 out of 115 school systems in the state with a 89.1 percent graduation rate.