

Report to the Parents  
2011-2012  
Progress of Lamar High School

April 2012

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It is hard to believe that another school year is almost at an end, and it is time to update you on the progress and successes of our students and school.

The mission of Lamar High School is to prepare all students to become competent, responsible and productive individuals by providing challenging, educational, and extra-curricular opportunities in a positive, safe environment supported by the entire community. Lamar High School qualified again for Title 1 funding because approximately 86% of our students receive free or reduced lunch.

Lamar High School has had a very good year academically. On the 2011 State Report Card, Lamar High School received an Excellent Absolute Rating and a Good Improvement Rating. Lamar High School was awarded Palmetto Gold for decreasing the achievement gap between genders and races. Lamar High School was recognized by the Education Oversight Committee for being 5<sup>th</sup> in the state on African American achievement. Fifty-five percent of African American students at Lamar High School met the state academic standards. All other schools in the top five were magnet schools. These recognitions are a reflection of the hard work of our students and faculty.

Lamar High School students continue to score above average on HSAP, when compared to schools like ours across the state. Our passing rate on the first attempt on HSAP was 68.9%. Our graduation rate is 94.5%. Lamar High School had the 9<sup>th</sup> highest graduation rate out of the 213 high schools in the state. These rates indicate the amount of dedication and commitment that the Lamar High School faculty, staff, administration and community have for providing our students with a quality education. Lamar High School faculty, staff, and administration review current data and make plans to insure that the individual needs of our students are met each year.

Lamar High School has focused on the following goals:

- Increasing student performance on HSAP and EOCEP
- Increasing the graduation rate
- Improving communication with parents
- Integrating Explicit Direct Instruction (EDI) to improve classroom performance

- Improving the special education resource students’ performance on HSAP, EOCEP, and their graduation rate

Progress in these goals:

- Offered double blocked year long courses in ELA and math for students identified by PASS scores as “Not Met” for EOCEP and HSAP
- Maintained small ELA class size through the employment of a Title 1 ELA teacher
- Provided after school tutorial to improve student achievement
- Participated in EDI staff development
- Improved parent communication through Open House, Parent Workshops, PTSA, Academic Awards Programs, Athletic Awards Programs, newsletters, and use of SchoolConnects
- Improved the HSAP and EOCEP scores and graduation rate of special education resource students by providing double block year long courses in ELA and math

We believe that the faculty, staff, and administration are extremely dedicated to meeting the needs of our students. We believe that through this dedication and staff development, Lamar High School will continue to make strides toward improving student achievement; insuring our students leave Lamar High School to become productive members of our society. We further believe that members of our community are proud of the successes that Lamar High School has achieved in recent years. We will continue to work in such a way that our faculty, staff, students, and community will be proud of Lamar High School.

I look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Kathy B. Gainey  
Principal  
Lamar High School

School Improvement Council Members 2011-2012:

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| Carlos Burgess, Assistant Principal, Ex-Officio | Susan Lear, Title 1 Coordinator, Chairperson |
| John Davis, Guidance Counselor                  | Shaquetta Martin, Student                    |
| Kathy Gainey, Principal, Ex-Officio             | Tasha Martin, Teacher                        |
| Deidra Goodson, Parent                          | Harriet McCray, UPWARD Bound                 |
| Dedra Hart, Teacher                             | Alan Poole, Teacher                          |
| Kimberly Hayes, Teacher                         | Tywanda Robinson, Teacher                    |
| Adonikam Hudson, Student                        | Janet Stoda, Community Member                |
| Tara Hunt, Parent                               | Shot Windham, Community Member               |