

The Lowndes County School District (LCSD) had a record five schools earn a grade of A Thursday when the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) released accountability grades for the 2022-23 school year.

Caledonia High School (total score of 846), New Hope High (785), Caledonia Elementary School (540), Caledonia Middle School (477) and New Hope Elementary (456) helped the LCSD receive an overall grade of A. The LCSD had 699 total points and was one of 57 schools in the state to receive a grade of A.

Caledonia High, Caledonia Middle, Caledonia Elementary and New Hope Elementary repeated as A schools from 2021-22, while New Hope High joined their ranks after receiving a grade of B last year.

“Caledonia High School is an A school and rated the No. 15 high school in the state, according to the latest testing data,” CHS Principal Gregory Elliott said. “Recently, CHS was named a 2023 Blue Ribbon School and ranked as the 21st high school in Mississippi by U.S. News & World Report. Caledonia High School’s ratings are a testament to the hard work of our staff and students and their dedication to academic excellence. I’m so proud of our staff and students. This is an incredible accomplishment.”

Said Caledonia Middle School Principal Jeannie Jernigan, “Great students, great teachers, great staff, great parents, great community = Caledonia Middle School being an A-rated school. Caledonia Middle School is ranked in the top 6% of middle schools in Mississippi. Awesome work CMS! Keep up the good work and have fun while you’re doing it!”

“Caledonia Elementary School has had a long tradition of having top ratings in the state accountability,” CES Principal Roger Hill said. “The hard work and support of our staff, students, parents and community help us to continue this success year to year.”

Said New Hope Elementary Principal Angela Wilcox, “I am extremely proud of all the hard work our students and staff have put in at NHE. This is the result of their diligent effort to focus on the data in order to grow. As always, we continue to appreciate the support and encouragement we receive from our parents and community. When we all work together, great things happen for our students at NHE.”

“The leadership team at New Hope High is incredibly proud of our students and teachers,” New Hope High Principal Matt Smith said. “The hard work and dedication paid off, and we are excited for the students, teachers, parents and this community. New Hope High School is proud to be a part of the Lowndes County School District, where we challenge all students to attain their greatest potential!”

West Lowndes Elementary (397) and New Hope Middle (388) received grades of B, while West Lowndes High (546) received a grade of C.

“WLE students, staff and parents are proud of our grade of B,” WLE Principal Robert Sanders said. “We are continuing to strive toward the next level of accountability. We believe with some minor changes and adjustments we will continue to grow. Our main focus this year is increasing our proficiency levels in ELA and math.”

Said New Hope Middle Principal Eric Guerrero, “I am so proud of my staff and the hard work they exhibit daily. Their dedication to the students of NHMS continues to amaze me. We are very thankful for all the support we receive at the district level.”

“I am so proud of the dedication and commitment of our students and staff every day,” West Lowndes High Principal Antonio McGee said. “They have exhibited a willingness to reach our goals. Thanks to our amazing parents and district office for their support.”

The performance of all of the schools reflects LCSD’s commitment to a strategic plan that stresses yearly increases in student achievement,

with a focus on college and career readiness. The district seeks to fully engage parents, community and staff in educating our students.

“We are very proud of the achievements of all of our schools,” LCSD Superintendent Sam Allison said. “These accomplishments stand as a testament to the dedication and hard work of our students, teachers, administrators and the entire school community. As we celebrate these academic achievements, we remain dedicated to continuous improvements as we prepare our students for their next steps.”