



EDUCATION AND TRAINING

With Workforce Initiatives as a key element in the Ocala/Marion County EDC’s Strategic Plan, partnering with educational institutions and training facilities is vital. The collaborative efforts in our community have been recognized for national honors by the National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) as a model program.

The Enterprise Center, located on the campus of College of Central Florida houses three agencies connecting resources to benefit the community: Ocala/Marion County Economic Development Corporation, Workforce Connection, and the College of Central Florida – Corporate Training.

A unique collaboration between business and education was cultivated through EDC efforts. The EDC played a role in launching the newest educational institution, Marion Technical Institute. MTI – Where Education Meets Experience - provides hands-on training and internship opportunities for high school students. The goal is to create a higher skilled workforce for our local employers.

The Florida System of School Improvement and Accountability

The Sunshine State Standards were developed to help raise the educational level of the Florida Public School System in order to meet the ongoing challenges of a dynamic world. To measure how well students are learning these standards, the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) and the Florida Writes! programs were developed. These two state test scoring systems are currently used to assess students and to measure how well schools meet or exceed these standards.

In 1999, The Florida Legislature adopted the A+ Plan: Grading Florida Public Schools as a method to benchmark academic results and address our students’ educational needs. Florida Writes! and FCAT test results are used as the basis for assigning a school grade to each one of Marion County’s public schools. Additional criteria include suspension, attendance and dropout rates.

K-12 Education

2009 FCAT Scores – Reading and Math – (Max score 500)				
Grade	Reading Mean Scale Scores		Math Mean Scale Score	
	Marion County	Florida	Marion County	Florida
3	313	313	337	337
4	324	324	330	330
5	311	311	335	335
6	313	313	316	316
7	318	318	314	314
8	312	312	322	322
9	316	316	313	313
10	305	305	327	327

Source: Florida Department of Education

2008 FCAT Writing			2009 FCAT Science (Max score 500)		
Grade	Marion	Florida	Grade	Marion	Florida
4	289	304	5	313	314
8	283	300	8	302	305
10	293	302	11	301	303

Source: Florida Department of Education

Grading Our Schools A+ Plan Grade Performance Distribution Marion County Public Schools (Includes Elementary, Middle and High Schools)	
2007-2008	2008-2009
A – 23	A – 28
B – 11	B – 6
C – 10	C – 9
D – 0	D – 1

Source: Florida Department of Education

Public Schools Statistics – March 2009				
	Number of Schools	Number of Students	Number of Teachers	Student/Teacher Ratio
Elementary	28	18,271	1,370	(K-2) 18:1 (3) 20:1 (4-5) 22:1
Middle	8	8,226	508	(6-8) 23:1
High	8	11,804	720	25:1 (Core Classes)
4-8	1	1,235	73	
6-12	1	159	27	
PreK-8	1	1,088	82	
Total	46	40,783	2,780	
These numbers do not include charter schools, special centers, or alternative schools.				

Source: Marion County Public Schools

	2008 SAT			2008 ACT
	Writing	Critical Reading	Math	Composite Scores
Marion County	484	506	504	19.4
Florida	481	496	497	19.8
Nation	494	502	515	21.1

2008 SAT by School				2008 ACT
	Writing	Critical Reading	Math	Composite Scores
Bellevue	483	505	520	20.4
Dunnellon	454	476	474	17.2
Forest	472	501	502	20.4
Lake Weir	460	472	484	17.9
North Marion	485	508	474	18.0
Vanguard	527	545	533	22.1
West Port	473	499	486	19.3

Source: Marion County Public Schools – 2009 scores will be released in September 2009

Post Secondary Education	
Schools	Enrollment
Central Florida Community College	6,386
Rasmussen College	1,420
The University Center at CFCC (Includes Barry University, Florida Southern College, FSU, Webster University, Saint Leo University, UCF, UF)	880
University of Central Florida – Orlando	48,699
University of Florida - Gainesville (Within 40 Miles)	51,913
Sante Fe Community College - Gainesville	16,588

Source: Central Florida Community College

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