

Did You Know?

- Dr. Sam King has been named the 2011 Georgia Superintendent of the Year.
- RCPS has earned international accreditation by AdvancEd, the parent company for SACS CASI, which is the highest accreditation available to public schools.
- RCA Early Learning Center has earned accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) – the nation’s leading organization of early childhood professionals.
- RCPS and DeKalb Technical College have signed agreements for students to earn college credit while earning high school credit in Career, Technical, and Agriculture Education (CTAE) classes.
- Lorraine Elementary School was awarded the 2010 Gold for Highest Achievement and Flat Shoals Elementary was awarded the 2010 Gold for Greatest Gains by the Governor’s Office of Student Achievement.
- RCPS currently has its highest graduation rate of 84% in the era of accountability. There is a complex formula to determine the actual graduation rate; however, it reflects the percentage of entering 9th grade students who progress through high school and graduate within a specified time period. RCPS dropout rate is a low 2.7%.
- Heritage, Rockdale County and Salem high schools along with the Rockdale Career Academy, have been named 2010 Advanced Placement (AP) Honor Schools by the Governor’s Office of Student Achievement.
- RCPS has met or exceeded the state targets in all categories for Annual Measureable Achievement Objectives for Title 3 accountability pertaining to the performance of Limited English Proficient students. In the Progress category, the target was 49 percent and RCPS achieved 72.8 percent. In the Attainment category, the initial target was 6 percent and the achieved percentage was 18.9. In the final category, Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) was met.
- RCPS was recognized as a leader in the state for outstanding efforts to improve the performance of students with disabilities. Specifically, RCPS met state targets for graduates, for reducing the number of students who drop out of school, and for meeting or exceeding achievement standards for Reading/English Language Arts.
- Honey Creek Elementary was recognized as a 2009 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence by the U.S. Department of Education.
- Conyers Middle School has been chosen as a Breakthrough Middle School, is a Georgia Lighthouse School to Watch, and is a NASA Explorer School.
- RCPS recently received \$124,517 in grant money to be used to target academic assistance, transportation barriers, and parent involvement with homeless students. \$41,106 was awarded from the regular grant competition and \$83,411 came from the homeless stimulus money.
- RCPS has been selected to receive funding under the Safe Schools/Healthy Students Grants Program. This grant will be in the amount of \$4,580,960 over a four-year period. The project is named STARS (Support Team for All Rockdale Students) and is a community partnership which includes local law enforcement, juvenile justice, mental health clinicians, and early learning specialists.

- RCPS is implementing an Early Learning Initiative to provide educational opportunities for children ages 0-4 of moderate to low income families. This is a unique collaboration of non-profit organizations, private funding and the school system in an effort to ensure all children in Rockdale County start school ready to learn.
- A pre-school program began in 2009 at Rockdale Career Academy in conjunction with its accredited Early Childhood Education Program and the Early Learning Initiative.
- The school system is in the midst of developing its second five-year strategic plan through the utilization of stakeholders that represent a microcosm of the community.
- RCPS Board of Education holds the “Board of Distinction” classification via Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA) and Georgia School Superintendents Association (GSSA) and operates as a “standards driven” Board.
- System communication tools include (to name just a few): community forums, the Superintendent’s Advisory Council, Teacher Think Tanks, Principal Chats, meetings with student leadership groups, newsletters, web sites and Alert Now mass communication phone system.
- Safety-net programs are in place at each school and are aligned with state and national standards for struggling students. The safety nets are implemented during the regular school day, after school hours, on Saturdays and during intersession.
- Enrichment modules for high achieving students are offered during summer intersession and throughout the school year.
- Ninth Grade Academies at each high school are based on the “school within a school” smaller learning community concept to increase high school graduation rates and decrease dropout rates.
- An Academic Rigor Task Force has been developed to focus on increasing rigor for all students, K-12.
- There are opportunities for all students in the form of alternative school, credit recovery, expanded RCPS Virtual Learning, an Open Campus high school, Rockdale Career Academy (RCA), and the Rockdale Magnet School for Science and Technology (RMSST). Through partnerships with post-secondary institutions, a student may earn an associate’s degree or certification in one of the many programs of study available at RCA.
- The Rockdale Magnet School for Science and Technology has a unique partnership with Georgia Institute of Technology, a four-year research curriculum, and boasts many accolades for student achievement. The number of students eligible to attend RMSST increases each year and the program looks to expand as the campus of Rockdale County High School also expands.
- RCA Culinary Arts Program is industry certified by the American Culinary Federation and RCA Broadcast Video Production program is now the first high school program in Georgia to be given industry certification.
- RCPS has proactive prevention and intervention programs such as Fresh Start and CHOICES to build relationships and create solutions.
- RCPS had a professional Diversity Audit conducted during the 07-08 school year, began a Cultural Competence Initiative rollout in 08-09 and started an Equity Council made up of a variety of stakeholders.
- RCPS strongly encourages parent involvement through volunteerism, parent/teacher conferences, mentoring and strong parent/student/teacher/school communication.
- RCPS relies on community support through mentoring, apprenticeship and internship opportunities, the Academic Booster Club and the Partners In Education program.