



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 the 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 global economy . 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

2011 FCAT Scores – Reading and Math – (Max score 500)				
Grade	Reading Mean Scale Scores		Math Mean Scale Score	
	Marion County	Florida	Marion County	Florida
3	309	314	341	337
4	317	323	331	331
5	308	310	336	336
6	310	315	310	319
7	321	322	306	314
8	311	313	322	325
9	316	317	N/A	N/A
10	303	309	329	329

Source: Florida Department of Education

2011 FCAT Mean Science Scores (Max score 500)		
Grade	Marion County	Florida
5	318	322
8	311	315
11	301	307

Source: Florida Department of Education

Grading Our Schools A+ Plan Grade Performance Distribution Marion County Public Schools (Includes Elementary, Middle and High Schools)	
2009-2010	2010-2011
A – 20	A – 23
B – 16	B – 14
C – 9	C – 10
	D - 2

Source: Florida Department of Education

	2011 SAT			2011 ACT
	Writing	Critical Reading	Math	Composite Scores
Marion County	475	496	494	19.0
Florida	471	487	489	19.6
Nation	489	497	514	21.1

	2011 SAT by School			2011 ACT
	Writing	Critical Reading	Math	Composite Scores
Belleview	467	501	493	19.7
Dunnellon	468	494	491	18.5
Forest	475	497	496	20.1
Lake Weir	434	464	466	17.7
Marion Technical	368	387	443	18.1
North Marion	469	490	487	17.6
Vanguard	522	535	527	21.2
West Port	467	482	475	18.7

Source: Marion County Public Schools

Public Schools Statistics – December 2011				
	Number of Schools	Number of Students	Number of Teachers	Student/Teacher Ratio
Elementary	29	18,679	1,421	(K-2) 18:1 (3-5) 22:1
Middle	8	8,061	484	(6-8) 22:1
High	8	11,817	699	25:1 (Core Classes 9-12)
5-8	1	796	57	
6-12	1	155	27	
PreK-8	1	1,077	78	
Total	48	40,585	2,766	
These numbers do not include charter schools, special centers, or alternative schools.				

Source: Marion County Public Schools

Post Secondary Education	
Schools	Enrollment
College of Central Florida	19,318
Rasmussen College	1,200
The University Center at CF (Includes Barry University, Florida Southern College, FSU, Webster University, Saint Leo University, UCF, UF)	903
University of Central Florida – Orlando	56,337
University of Florida - Gainesville (Within 40 Miles)	49,827
Sante Fe College - Gainesville	17,630

Source: Ocala/Marion County EDC

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