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For Immediate Release

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Cobb ITBS Scores Up For Three Consecutive Years, Continue To Top National Averages

Cobb County students again topped national averages on the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS) and posted increases in percentile rank scores for the third straight year (see Table I). The ITBS is administered in September to students in grades 3, 5 and 7 and provides a measuring stick for how Cobb County students compare to other students across the country taking the same test. Third graders had an average composite score of 70th percentile, which means Cobb third graders scored equal to or better than 70 percent of all other third graders nationwide. Composite scores for fifth graders ranked in the 68th percentile, and seventh graders scored in the 64th percentile.

These composite percentile scores represent a one-percent increase at every grade level over 2010 scores.

Administration of the ITBS allows the district to compare the performance of its students to that of other students across the nation who took the same test at the same time of year. ITBS results are particularly helpful in identifying reading or math skills where students may need additional instruction; by administering the test in the fall, teachers have time to work with students before spring CRCT testing begins.

Core subjects tested by the ITBS include Reading, Language Arts, and Math. In Cobb County, third graders performed best in Math where they scored in the 69th percentile. Although not a part of the core total, third grade students scored in the 70th percentile in Science, and in the 68th percentile in Social Studies. Scores in the core subject areas for Cobb fifth graders were at the 63rd percentile in Reading, the 69th percentile in Language Arts, and the 70th percentile in Math. Seventh grade students scored at the 58th percentile in Reading, the 59th percentile in Language Arts, and the 63rd percentile in Math.

The percentile scores in Math increased at all three grade levels over 2010. The 2011 scores show no declines in any core subject at any grade level.

"The ITBS scores are a good indication that our students are receiving competitive instruction by national comparison," said Superintendent Dr. Michael Hinojosa. "The gains in Math, Language Arts and Science are especially encouraging as these academic areas play an increasing role in school performance measures."

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The ITBS is a norm-referenced test that ranks student performance according to percentiles. For example, a student in the 75th percentile scored equal to or better than 75 percent of all students across the nation who participated in the ITBS at the same grade level. Also reported are grade equivalents, or GE scores. The numbers in the GE score that come before the decimal represent the grade level of the student's performance, while the digits that follow the decimal represent the month within the grade. A GE score of 5.2 means the student's performance was similar to that expected of a fifth grader taking the same test during the second month of school.

Student scores are reported for the system in Table I. Individual school scores are reported in Tables IIa-IIc.

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COBB COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
TESTING BRIEF
Iowa Tests of Basic Skills
Fall 2011

Georgia law (O.C.G.A., Section 20-2-281) mandates that each local school system may elect to administer, with state funding, nationally norm-referenced instruments in reading, mathematics, science, or social studies in grade three, four, or five and in grade six, seven, or eight, subject to available appropriations, with assistance to such school systems by the State Board of Education with regard to administration guidance, scoring, and reporting of such assessments. The purpose of the norm-referenced test (NRT) is to obtain information about how the performance of Georgia's students compare with that of students in a national sample, an external reference group. The results of an NRT are used for evaluation, decision-making, and instructional improvement.

The Department of Education has contracted with Riverside Publishing Company to provide the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills, Form A (ITBS/A) for students in one grade within grade bands 3-5 and one grade within grade bands 6-8 at no cost to local systems. The ITBS was administered in district schools in early October for grades 3, 5 and 7.

The ITBS ranks student performance according to percentiles, or how they compare with peers nationwide. For example, a student in the 75th percentile on the ITBS scored equal to or better than 75% of all students across the nation who participated in the ITBS at that same grade level.

At the district level, the Composite score which includes student performance in Reading, Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies and Sources of Information, has consistently increased by one percent at each grade level over the past three years. Seventy-two percent of schools in the district had average composite scores above the national average (50th percentile) at the third grade, 76% at fifth grade. Sixty-three percent of middle schools ranked above the national average in grade seven. These figures include charter school.

Performance of fifth grade students was strongest overall, with 2% gains in Reading and Language Arts, a 3% gain in Math, and a 2% in Science over scores from the previous school year.

KEY FINDINGS

Third Grade Results

- Students at this grade level ranked in the 63rd percentile in **Reading** with a grade equivalent (GE) of 3.5. At the time of the administration, a GE of 3.2 is the expected performance level.
- Performance on the **Language Arts** test placed third graders in the 65th percentile, with a GE of 3.5.
- Students scored in the 69th percentile in **Math**, and a grade equivalent of 3.6.
- The **Core** for third grade, which is an overall score excluding Science and Social Studies, was in the 66th percentile and 3.6 for a GE.
- **Social Studies** scores for third grade students ranked in the 68th percentile with a GE of 3.8.
- In **Science**, the percentile for third graders was 70 with a GE of 3.9.
- The percentile rank for students at this grade in **Sources of Information** was 71, with a GE of 3.7.
- The **Composite** score for third grade students was 70, and the GE was 3.7.

Fifth Grade Results

- Students at this grade level ranked in the 63rd percentile in **Reading** with a grade equivalent (GE) of 5.8. At the time of the administration, a GE of 5.2 is the expected performance level.
- Students scored in the 69th percentile in **Language Arts**, with a grade equivalent of 6.4.
- **Math** scores for fifth grade students ranked in the 70th percentile with a GE of 6.0.
- The **Core** for fifth grade, which is an overall score excluding Science and Social Studies, was in the 68th percentile and 6.0 for a GE.
- In **Social Studies**, the percentile for fifth graders was 69 with a GE of 6.2.
- Performance on the **Science** test placed fifth graders in the 68th percentile, with a GE of 6.3.
- Fifth grade students scored in the 69th percentile in **Sources of Information**, with a GE of 6.2.
- The **Composite** score for fifth grade students was 68, and the GE was 6.2.

Seventh Grade Results

- Students at this grade level ranked in the 58th percentile in **Reading** with a grade equivalent (GE) of 7.7. At the time of the administration, a GE of 7.2 is the expected performance level.
- In **Language Arts**, the percentile for seventh graders was 59 with a GE of 8.0.
- Students scored in the 63rd percentile in **Math**, with a grade equivalent of 8.1.
- The **Core** for seventh grade, which is an overall score excluding Science and Social Studies, was in the 60th percentile and 7.9 for a GE.
- Performance on the **Social Studies** test placed seventh graders in the 63rd percentile, with a GE of 8.3.
- **Science** scores for seventh grade students ranked in the 66th percentile with a GE of 8.6.
- On the **Sources of Information Test**, seventh grade students scored in the 65th percentile and had a GE of 8.7.
- The **Composite** score for seventh grade students was 64, and the GE was 8.2.

COBB COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT SUMMARY REPORT
FALL 2011
IOWA TESTS OF BASIC SKILLS (ITBS)
PERCENTILE RANK SCORES AND GRADE EQUIVALENT SCORES FOR ALL STUDENTS

System Averages

PERCENTILE: %TILE
 ABOVE AVERAGE: 77-99%TILE
 AVERAGE: 23-76%TILE
 BELOW AVERAGE: 1-22%TILE
 NATIONAL AVERAGE: 50%TILE

National Grade Equivalent for
 Third Grade: 3.2
 Fifth Grade: 5.2
 Seventh Grade: 7.2

	YEAR	SCORE TYPE	READING			LANGUAGE					MATH				CORE TOTAL*	SOCIAL STUDIES	SCIENCE	SOURCES OF INFORMATION			COMPOSITE**
			Voc.	Compre.	TOTAL	Spell.	Capit.	Punct.	Usg/Exp.	TOTAL	Con/Est.	Probs/ Data Int.	Computation	TOTAL				Maps/ Diagrams	Reference Materials	TOTAL	
THIRD GRADE	2011	GE	3.5	3.7	3.5	3.7	3.4	3.7	3.8	3.5	3.5	3.7	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.7
		%tile	59	66	63	74	60	65	67	65	68	65	69	69	66	68	70	70	72	71	70
FIFTH GRADE	2011	GE	5.7	5.9	5.8	6.1	6.5	6.8	6.5	6.4	6.0	6.2	5.7	6.0	6.0	6.2	6.3	6.2	6.4	6.2	6.2
		%tile	63	63	63	72	69	71	68	69	70	67	68	70	68	69	68	67	71	69	68
SEVENTH GRADE	2011	GE	7.5	7.9	7.7	7.9	7.9	8.3	8.2	8.0	8.2	8.1	7.6	8.1	7.9	8.3	8.6	8.8	8.5	8.7	8.2
		%tile	55	60	58	62	57	60	60	59	67	61	59	63	60	63	66	65	65	65	64

* Core Total includes Reading, Language and Mathematics tests

** Composite includes all tests

COBB COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT SUMMARY REPORT

FALL 2011

IOWA TESTS OF BASIC SKILLS (ITBS)

PERCENTILE RANK SCORES AND GRADE EQUIVALENT SCORES FOR ALL STUDENTS

Table I

Three Year Comparison

PERCENTILE: %TILE
 ABOVE AVERAGE: 77-99%TILE
 AVERAGE: 23-76%TILE
 BELOW AVERAGE: 1-22%TILE
 NATIONAL AVERAGE: 50%TILE

National Grade Equivalent for
 Third Grade: 3.2
 Fifth Grade: 5.2
 Seventh Grade: 7.2

	YEAR	SCORE TYPE	READING			LANGUAGE					MATH				CORE TOTAL*	SOCIAL STUDIES	SCIENCE	SOURCES OF INFORMATION			COMPOSITE**
			Voc.	Compre.	TOTAL	Spell.	Capit.	Punct.	Usg/Exp.	TOTAL	Con/Est.	Probs/Data Int.	Computation	TOTAL				Maps/Diagrams	Ref. Material	TOTAL	
THIRD GRADE	2009	GE	3.2	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.5	3.6	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.5
		%tile	57	65	61	70	58	66	65	64	66	62	61	64	64	67	66	70	72	70	68
	2010	GE	3.3	3.7	3.5	3.6	3.3	3.7	3.7	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.6
		%tile	58	67	63	73	59	67	67	65	68	65	67	68	66	67	68	70	73	71	69
	2011	GE	3.5	3.7	3.5	3.7	3.4	3.7	3.8	3.5	3.5	3.7	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.7
		%tile	59	66	63	74	60	65	67	65	68	65	69	69	66	68	70	70	72	71	70
FIFTH GRADE	2009	GE	5.6	5.7	5.6	6.0	6.2	6.6	6.2	6.2	5.7	5.9	5.3	5.7	5.8	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.1	6.1	5.9
		%tile	63	62	62	69	67	70	65	67	66	65	58	65	64	67	66	66	70	67	66
	2010	GE	5.6	5.8	5.6	6.1	6.3	6.6	6.2	6.3	5.8	6.0	5.6	5.8	5.9	6.2	6.1	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.1
		%tile	60	62	61	70	68	69	66	67	68	65	63	67	65	68	66	66	71	68	67
	2011	GE	5.7	5.9	5.8	6.1	6.5	6.8	6.5	6.4	6.0	6.2	5.7	6.0	6.0	6.2	6.3	6.2	6.4	6.2	6.2
		%tile	63	63	63	72	69	71	68	69	70	67	68	70	68	69	68	67	71	69	68
SEVENTH GRADE	2009	GE	7.5	7.8	7.6	7.8	7.8	8.4	8.0	8.0	8.0	7.9	7.4	7.9	7.7	8.1	8.2	8.7	8.5	8.6	8.1
		%tile	56	59	58	62	57	61	59	59	65	60	56	61	59	62	64	65	65	65	62
	2010	GE	7.4	7.9	7.6	7.8	7.8	8.3	8.0	7.9	8.1	8.1	7.5	8.0	7.8	8.1	8.4	8.8	8.5	8.7	8.1
		%tile	55	60	58	61	57	60	59	58	65	61	57	62	59	62	65	66	65	66	63
	2011	GE	7.5	7.9	7.7	7.9	7.9	8.3	8.2	8.0	8.2	8.1	7.6	8.1	7.9	8.3	8.6	8.8	8.5	8.7	8.2
		%tile	55	60	58	62	57	60	60	59	67	61	59	63	60	63	66	65	65	65	64

* Core Total includes Reading, Language and Mathematics tests

** Composite includes all tests

COBB COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT SUMMARY REPORT

FALL 2011

IOWA TESTS OF BASIC SKILLS (ITBS)

PERCENTILE RANK SCORES AND GRADE EQUIVALENT SCORES FOR ALL STUDENTS

Table I

Seventh Grade

PERCENTILE: %TILE
 ABOVE AVERAGE: 77-99%TILE
 AVERAGE: 23-76%TILE
 BELOW AVERAGE: 1-22%TILE
 NATIONAL AVERAGE: 50%TILE

National Grade Equivalent for
 Seventh Grade: **7.2**

	YEAR	SCORE TYPE	READING			LANGUAGE				MATH				CORE TOTAL*	SOCIAL STUDIES	SCIENCE	SOURCES OF INFORMATION			COMPOSITE **	
			Voc.	Compre.	TOTAL	Spell.	Capit.	Punct.	Usg/Exp.	TOTAL	Con/Est.	Probs/ Data Int.	Computation				Maps/ Diagrams	Reference Material	TOTAL		
Cobb County	2011	GE	7.5	7.9	7.7	7.9	7.9	8.3	8.2	8.0	8.2	8.1	7.6	8.1	7.9	8.3	8.6	8.8	8.5	8.7	8.2
		%tile	55	60	58	62	57	60	60	59	67	61	59	63	60	63	66	65	65	65	64
Simpson	2011	GE	8.4	9.7	9.2	9.0	9.6	10.1	10.6	9.8	9.5	10.1	8.4	9.3	9.4	9.9	10.5	10.9	10.1	10.6	9.9
		%tile	69	77	75	73	69	70	75	73	80	76	67	77	76	76	79	79	77	79	78
Smitha	2011	GE	6.3	6.5	6.3	6.8	5.9	6.5	6.2	6.3	7.0	6.4	6.6	6.7	6.4	6.7	6.9	7.0	7.1	7.0	6.7
		%tile	35	42	39	45	37	43	40	40	49	43	43	43	40	45	48	48	50	49	44
Tapp	2011	GE	6.6	6.9	6.8	7.3	6.6	6.9	6.6	6.8	7.3	7.0	6.4	6.8	6.7	7.2	7.5	7.6	7.4	7.5	7.1
		%tile	42	47	45	53	45	48	45	46	52	49	38	45	44	51	55	55	54	55	50
Mableton Charter	2011	GE	6.3	5.6	6.0	7.4	6.0	5.9	5.2	6.1	6.0	5.5	6.5	6.1	5.9	5.8	6.0	6.2	6.6	6.4	6.1
		%tile	37	32	34	54	38	36	30	37	34	31	41	33	33	33	35	40	43	41	35
Smyrna Charter	2011	GE	6.5	6.5	6.5	7.5	6.5	6.5	6.8	6.7	7.2	6.0	6.8	6.6	6.5	6.9	7.0	7.4	7.4	7.4	6.8
		%tile	40	42	41	56	43	43	47	45	51	37	46	42	41	47	49	53	54	53	45

* Core Total includes Reading, Language and Mathematics tests

** Composite includes all tests