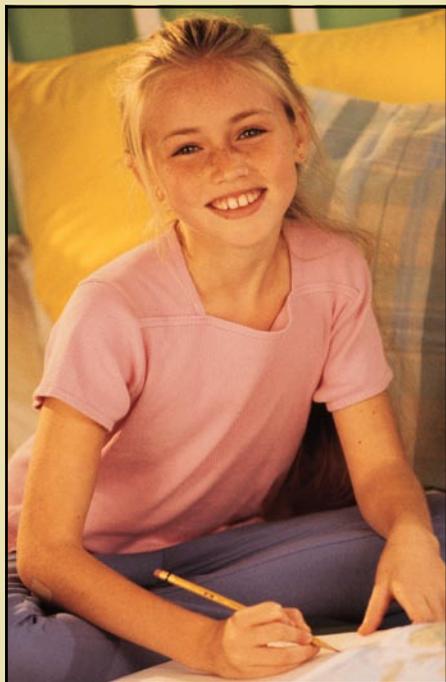


“In today’s demanding global economy, the Quality Counts Report indicates that Florida’s quality K-12 education system works to prepare students for the future,” said The Florida Council of 100 President Susan Pareigis. “By transitioning students from postsecondary education to the workforce, Florida is poised to compete more effectively on an international level.”



**A MESSAGE FROM
GOVERNOR CHARLIE CRIST**

Florida’s K-12 schools have demonstrated that hard work and dedication lead to student achievement in the classroom. The Quality Counts Report demonstrates that Florida schools are working to ensure that our children are getting a year’s worth of knowledge in a year’s worth of time.

I applaud our students, teachers, parents and school administrators for their hard work. As a former Commissioner of Education, I recognize the need for accountability, and I am proud that our effort to reward our teachers for a job well done is being recognized.



Commissioner Eric J. Smith
Florida Department of Education

325 West Gaines Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399
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A Gold Star for
**FLORIDA'S
SCHOOLS!**

FLORIDA SCHOOLS RANK IN TOP 15

Florida is a great place to live and do business. It's an excellent place to learn, too. **The 2008 Quality Counts report – a national comparison of state education systems – ranked Florida among the top 15 in the country. Since last year, Florida schools have jumped from 31st place in the nation to 14th. That's amazing progress.**

“As a parent, my child's education is a top priority,” said Tampa-area parent Stephanie Brazell. “The results from Quality Counts prove that Florida is well equipped to teach a future generation of leaders.”

Florida's education star is truly on the rise. However, the real star power is in our students, parents and teachers. It is their hard work and dedication that have led to success in the classroom. And, successful students are better prepared for college and the workforce, making Florida's future brighter than ever.



RIISING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

In Florida, we know every child can learn and the nation is taking notice of the progress our students have made.

- Quality Counts ranked Florida's K – 12 public school system seventh in the nation.
- National tests show Florida's kids are making remarkable academic gains.
- Florida is closing the achievement gap between white and minority students.
- More students, especially minority students, are taking Advanced Placement classes in high school.
- More students are passing Advanced Placement tests earning them college credit before they graduate.

A STRONG TEACHING FORCE

The key to student success is having good teachers in the classroom.

- Quality Counts ranked Florida's teaching profession fourth in the nation.
- Florida was recognized for preparing, attracting, rewarding and supporting quality teachers.

ACTIVE PARENTS

Learning starts at home. The more involved parents are with their children's education, the more likely they are to do well in school.

- Florida's increased student achievement and top ranking in Quality Counts is because of parents who play an active role in education.
- Research shows parents and guardians taking an interest in children's schooling has a positive impact on students' academic performance.



WORLD-CLASS STANDARDS

Our world-class standards make sure students learn what is needed to be successful in school and in life.

- Quality Counts rated Florida's standards an A-minus.
- High standards and measuring academic performance ensure students are well-prepared for college and a career.
- Better prepared students are more competitive in a global marketplace.
- Well-prepared graduates provide Florida's business and industry with a qualified workforce needed to drive our state's economic engine.