

Congratulations to Dr. Jan Harris for being recognized by E-School News as a Tech Savvy Superintendent!



Jan Harris
Cullman City Schools
Alabama

Jan Harris has overseen a nationally recognized one-to-one laptop program in Cullman City high schools since 2005, and officials have tracked a 13-percent increase in test scores in recent years. She has introduced new forms of online communication, and in a recent state survey, 95 percent of the district's teachers said they have sufficient access to technology and training.

Under Harris's leadership, the district has secured more than \$500,000 in grant money to support its laptop program for students in grades 7-12. During the time the laptop program has existed, writing scores are up, attendance has improved, and discipline referrals have dropped by 40 percent. What's more, the number of honor roll recipients has increased by 12 percent.

The laptop program has brought national recognition to the district. The National School Boards Association chose Cullman City as one of its three technology "Salute Districts" for 2009, and district officials were invited to speak about the initiative at NSBA's Technology + Learning conference in 2006. District officials also discussed the laptop program at the Alabama Education Technology Conference in 2007 and 2008, and Cullman City was asked to host the Alabama Technology Regional Meeting in 2007 in recognition of its status as a state leader in technology use.

Harris is continually looking for ways to improve and to make sure the district is meeting the needs of today's learners. She encourages her staff to read books such as *The World is Flat* and *Web Literacy for Educators*, and she recently hosted Alan November's team of technology experts, who came to observe Cullman City classrooms and make recommendations for improving the district's use of technology.