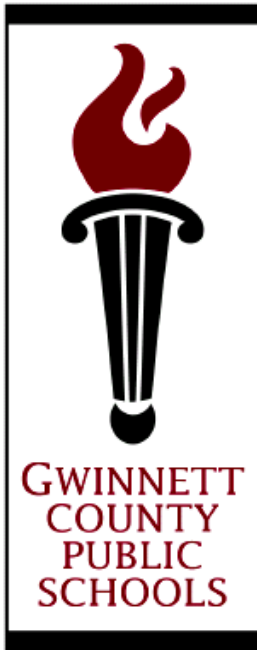


NEWS RELEASE



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THE MISSION OF GWINNETT COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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99 Gwinnett schools make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)

AYP results from the 2007-08 school year provide further evidence that Gwinnett County Public Schools' (GCPS) focus on teaching and learning is making a difference in terms of student achievement. **94 percent of Gwinnett County's public schools met the state's accountability goals**, according to information released by the Georgia Department of Education. Gwinnett schools continue to make progress under No Child Left Behind (NCLB) as evidenced by the state's Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) listing of Georgia schools. Of 105 Gwinnett schools required to meet state standards, **99 schools made AYP** for the 2007-08 school year. Other key points in terms of this year's AYP results include:

- **Three Gwinnett schools made AYP this year after not making it in 2007.** These schools are Radloff MS, Sweetwater MS, and Oakland Meadow School.
- **Four Gwinnett schools moved off the needs improvement list, having made AYP for two consecutive years.** Those schools are Lilburn MS, Shiloh MS, Summerour MS, and Norcross HS.
- **Every school in the following clusters made AYP:** Brookwood, Collins Hill, Duluth, Grayson, Mill Creek, Norcross, North Gwinnett, Parkview, Peachtree Ridge, and Shiloh.

CEO/Superintendent J. Alvin Wilbanks said that this year's results are a direct result of the school district's focus on teaching and learning. He explains, "As Gwinnett has grown in size and diversity, achievement has remained high even as the state standards have risen. That has not happened by accident, but rather because of our intense focus on helping all students achieve their potential. We are extremely proud of the work going on at all of our schools. That said, we especially want to recognize the dedicated teachers and staff at the five schools that moved off the Needs Improvement list this year. They have made a concerted effort to raise academic achievement by involving teachers, students, and parents in their school improvement efforts.

This year's AYP results also show that, while we are doing well overall, we still have room to improve with some small groups of students. Our school improvement efforts will continue to focus on meeting the needs of students who come to us with the most challenges, including those who are learning English and those who have disabilities"

Schools Offering Choice and Supplemental Services

Of Gwinnett's six schools that did not make AYP, one— Alcova Elementary— does not face consequences because it made AYP the previous year. The remaining five schools have not made AYP for two or more years. Berkmar HS, Richards MS, Snellville MS, and Phoenix HS are considered "Needs Improvement" schools. As a school designated as "Needs

July 25, 2008

Improvement” for three years (NI3), Meadowcreek High will move into corrective action. These five schools will offer choice and/or supplemental services during 2008-09.

- Two of these schools— Meadowcreek HS and J.E. Richards MS— are Title I schools. Richards MS will offer choice this school year. Meadowcreek HS will offer choice and supplemental services and will implement a corrective action plan to help it make progress in making AYP. Because these schools are Title I schools based on their higher population of students on free and reduced lunch, students from these schools whose families opt for choice will be reimbursed for direct round-trip transportation to and from school at a rate of 58.5 cents per mile.
- Two schools— Berkmar HS and Snellville MS— are non-Title schools that will offer choice and locally funded tutoring. As such, parents who exercise the choice option will not be reimbursed for transportation.
- Phoenix HS is an open campus facility. As such, students have choice through the open campus option. The school also will provide locally funded tutoring this year.

Three of the schools making AYP in 2008 will offer choice and supplemental educational services for one more year, as they will need to make AYP in 2009 to move off the Needs Improvement list. Those schools include Sweetwater MS and Radloff MS, as well as Oakland Meadow School, a special education school required to offer choice although this facility best meets students’ IEP needs.

Schools offering choice and/or supplemental services are mailing letters to notify parents of their school’s status and of the process for requesting a transfer to another school through the choice option. In addition to outlining the choice procedures, the letter will provide a listing of schools designated to accept choice transfer students for the 2008-09 school year. Those schools are: Duluth MS and Lilburn MS, as well as Dacula HS and Duluth HS. The letter also notifies parents of the dates for AYP Information Sessions at their school, as well as at the schools accepting choice transfer students. These sessions allow parents to learn more about their options before making a decision to transfer their students.

As the school year is quickly approaching, GCPS will accept requests for choice transfers in two waves. Parents will have until August 1 to make a choice transfer request during the first wave. These approved transfers will go into effect the first week of school. The deadline for the second wave of requests is August 8. Any requests made August 2-8 will be approved with students being placed at their choice schools as early in the school year as possible.

“With the first day of school right around the corner, we encourage parents interested in pursuing a choice transfer to make that request as early as possible,” says **Associate Superintendent Dale Robbins**. “Completing the requests for transfers process during Phase I allows system and school leaders time to prepare for these transfers prior to the start of school... a situation that best serves students and schools.”

July 25, 2008

Gwinnett Schools Not Making AYP in 2008

School	Area(s) Not Achieving AYP	Status	Consequences
Alcova ES	Students with Disabilities in Math	Non-AYP	None
Snellville MS	Students with Disabilities in Reading and Math	Needs Improvement-2nd year	Choice and locally funded tutoring
Richards MS	Students with Disabilities and English Language Learners in Reading/Language Arts	Needs Improvement, 1st year	Choice
Phoenix HS	Graduation Rate	Needs Improvement, 2nd year	Open Campus and locally funded tutoring
Berkmar HS	Hispanic students in English/Language Arts; and Hispanic students and economically disadvantaged students in Math	Needs Improvement, 2nd year	Choice and locally funded tutoring
Meadowcreek HS	English Language Learners and Hispanic students in Math; All students and English Language Learners in English/Language Arts; All students, Hispanic students and economically disadvantaged students in Graduation Rate	Needs Improvement, 3rd year	Choice, SES, and Corrective Action

Note: Summer school results on the CRCT may change the results for some schools.