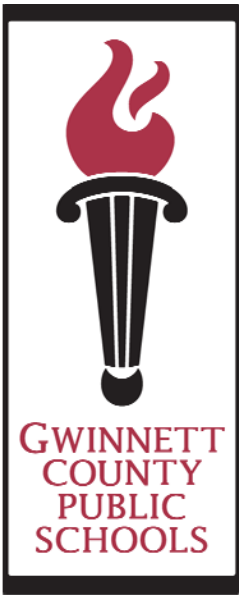


NEWS RELEASE



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in academic knowledge,
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437 Old Peachtree Road, NW
Suwanee, GA 30024-2978
678-301-6000
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 23, 2008

Contact: Communication and Media Relations, 678-301-6020

Berkeley Lake ES and Peachtree ES: National group honors two Gwinnett schools for counseling program

The American School Counselor Association (ASCA) has selected Gwinnett's **Berkeley Lake Elementary** and **Peachtree Elementary** to receive the "Recognized ASCA Model Program (RAMP) Designation" for their exemplary commitment to comprehensive school counseling programs. The two Gwinnett schools are among a group of 62 schools from 15 states to receive the national recognition. Both Gwinnett schools will be honored in a special ceremony on June 30, during ASCA's annual conference. This year, the national conference takes place in Atlanta.

The RAMP designation, awarded to schools that are aligned with the criteria set in the *ASCA National Model*, recognizes schools that are committed to delivering a comprehensive, data-driven school counseling program and an exemplary educational environment.

"I am thrilled that these two elementary schools have won this award," says **Dianne Thompson**, GCPS director of advisement and counseling. "Gwinnett counselors have long been known as leaders within the state and nation, and this is just another example of the exemplary work our counselors do on a daily basis." Since the launch of ASCA's model five years ago, it has helped Gwinnett counselors to use data to identify the needs of the students and to more effectively intervene in key areas, which has resulted in increased student achievement. "The model clearly identifies not just the work that counselors do, but how students are different because of the work that counselors do. It shows that counselors have an impact upon student achievement."

The counseling teams at Berkeley Lake Elementary and Peachtree Elementary were selected for the honor by a panel of school counseling professionals. The schools' RAMP designation is valid for three years.

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The American School Counselor Association is a worldwide nonprofit organization which supports school counselors' efforts to help students focus on academic, personal/social and career development so they not only achieve success in school but are prepared to lead fulfilling lives as responsible members of society.

The organization's annual conference will be held June 28-July 1 at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta.

For more information on the program, visit www.schoolcounselor.org