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NEWS RELEASE

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GaDOE Recognizes Houston County's Special Education Department as a Leader



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – The Houston County School System has been recognized as a leader in Georgia for its outstanding efforts to improve the performance of students with disabilities. Houston County was honored at the Georgia Council for Administrators of Special Education conference in November.

The system also received letters of commendation and certificates from the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE). Houston County was recognized as a district that exhibited the highest performance in the following areas:

- by achieving a higher percentage of graduates with regular education diplomas; and
- by increasing the percentage of students who meet or exceed state achievement standards for
- reading/English language arts.

Houston County was also recognized as one of 47 systems statewide that met three out of five state targets. Houston County met state targets in the following areas:

- graduates with regular education diplomas;
- reducing the students who drop out of school; and
- students who meet or exceed state achievement standards for reading/English language arts.

Of this achievement, Superintendent of Schools, Kathy Cox stated that the recognized districts, “exemplify the spirit of both the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and No Child Left Behind Act. These districts demonstrate the belief that all children can and will learn. The Divisions for Special Education Services and Supports are proud to recognize the accomplishments of these districts and to acknowledge all districts are improving lives of students with disabilities on a daily basis.”

Houston County was similarly recognized in 2008. Paula Dougherty serves as Assistant Superintendent for Student Services and Zabrina Cannady serves as special education director. For more information, contact either Dougherty or Cannady at (478) 988-6200.

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