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NEWS RELEASE

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**Four Houston County Schools Earn State Awards
 for Academic Performance**

HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – Four Houston County schools have won five Single Statewide Accountability System (SSAS) awards from the Governor’s Office of Student Achievement for the 2009-2010 school year. **Bonaire Elementary, Quail Run Elementary, Matt Arthur Elementary and the Houston County Career & Technology Center (HCCTC)** are four of 345 schools in Georgia recognized for significant student achievement.

The awards are presented in collaboration with the Georgia Department of Education. The SSAS award structure combines criteria for making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) with Criterion-Referenced Competency Test (CRCT) scores achieved by elementary and middle schools and Georgia High School Graduation Test (GHSCT) scores for high schools.

Awards are based on the results of the most recent two years of test results in English/language arts, math, science and social studies. Schools must also remain above needs improvement status. Award levels are Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze in two categories:

- 1) **Greatest Gains** for schools that showed the greatest improvement on the CRCT or GHSCT;
- 2) **Highest Performance** for schools with the highest percentage of students meeting and exceeding academic standards on the CRCT or GHSCT.

Superintendent Dr. Robin Hines said, “Congratulations to our principals, faculty, staff, parents, and students at our schools that have earned this recognition! I commend them for their commitment and success in meeting or exceeding the highest academic standards.”

The following chart lists the awards earned by Houston County schools.

Greatest Gains	Bronze	Houston County Career & Technology Center, Principal Mike Parker
Highest Performance	Gold	Bonaire Elementary, Principal Willis Jones
Highest Performance	Gold	Quail Run Elementary, Principal Dr. Cheryl Thomas
Highest Performance	Bronze	Houston County Career & Technology Center, Principal Mike Parker

Highest Performance	Bronze	Matt Arthur Elementary , Principal Dr. Jolie Hardin
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The Houston County Career & Technology Center (now the Houston County Career Academy) is one of 17 schools in the state to win two student achievement awards. The HCCTC won Bronze in the greatest gains category for having more than 20 percent of students exceed standards and for being in the 95th percentile of greatest gains. In addition, the HCCTC won a highest performance Bronze award for having at least 95 percent of students meet and exceed standards, with at least 20 percent exceeding GHSGT standards.

Bonaire Elementary won a Gold award in the highest performance category for having at least 97 percent of students meet and exceed standards, with more than 30 percent exceeding CRCT standards. Bonaire has won a highest performance award five out of the past six years.

Quail Run Elementary also won a Gold award in the highest performance category for having at least 97 percent of students meet and exceed standards, with more than 30 percent exceeding CRCT standards. Quail Run has won a high performance award for six consecutive years.

Matt Arthur Elementary achieved a Bronze in the highest performance category for having at least 95 percent of students meet and exceed standards, with more than 20 percent exceeding CRCT standards. Matt Arthur has won four SSAS awards the past five years.

For more information about the SSAS awards, please visit the Governor's Office of Student Achievement's Web site, www.gaosa.org.

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