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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **89% of Houston County Schools Make AYP**

HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – The Georgia Department of Education released amended Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) reports for 2011 on Nov. 2, 2011. The amendments include summer retest scores, which resulted in three more schools - Warner Robins High School, Thomson Middle and Northside Middle - making AYP. Overall, **33 of Houston County's 37 (89 percent) evaluated schools met AYP standards.**

Superintendent Dr. Robin Hines said, "We are very pleased that the hard work of three more of our schools paid off and that they were granted AYP status! Congratulations to Thomson Middle, Northside Middle and Warner Robins High. All of our schools have focused school improvement plans and it's good to see that our strategies are making a difference."

It has become very difficult for high schools to make AYP. In order to make AYP last year, the requirements for the passage rate on the Georgia High School Graduation Test were: 76 percent met or exceeded math standards; and 90.8 percent met or exceeded standards for English Language Arts. In addition, at least an 85 percent graduation rate was required.

Warner Robins High has now made AYP for six consecutive years. Principal Steve Monday commented, "We have very dedicated faculty and staff that continue to build relationships daily with our students, in addition to providing excellent instruction."

For middle schools to make AYP last year, the requirements for the passage rate on the Criterion Referenced-Competency Test were: 75.7 percent met or exceeded math standards; and 80 percent met or exceeded standards for English Language Arts.

Northside Middle Principal Jan Melnick said, "I am so excited that the hard work of our students and our faculty has been validated by our amended AYP report. Northside Middle has now made AYP for five years in a row and I could not be more proud of this accomplishment."

Thomson Middle Principal Tammy Dunn remarked, "We are so excited! The staff at Thomson Middle School made a personal, renewed commitment to the academic success of all of our students. I am proud of the staff, students, parents and community. It was a team effort."

**MORE**

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## **89% of Houston County Schools Make AYP**

AYP reports are required by the federal *No Child Left Behind Act* (NCLB). AYP measures if schools meet state academic standards and other requirements. The Criterion-Referenced Competency Test (CRCT) and Georgia High School Graduation Test (GHSGT) results are used to determine academic performance for AYP status.

For AYP purposes, schools are judged on meeting criteria in three areas: test participation, academic performance and another statistic called a “second indicator.” Academic goals continue to rise every few years toward a goal of 100 percent proficiency for all students by 2014.

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