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**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Six Schools Earn State Awards for Academic Performance**

HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – Six Houston County schools won Single Statewide Accountability System (SSAS) awards from the Governor’s Office of Student Achievement for the 2010-2011 school year.

**Bonaire Elementary, Lake Joy Elementary, Quail Run Elementary, Feagin Mill Middle, Mossy Creek Middle and Veterans High** are six of 259 schools in Georgia recognized for high achievement on standardized tests.

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 (GHSGT) 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 GHSGT;
- 2) **Highest Performance** for schools with the highest percentage of students meeting and exceeding academic standards on the CRCT or GHSGT.

Superintendent Dr. Robin Hines said, “Congratulations to our school families on winning this highest performance state award! I commend their dedication to achieving high academic standards. I am very proud of all six schools. I am especially pleased for Quail Run Elementary, which has won this academic award for seven consecutive years.”

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

Highest Performance	Silver	<b>Bonaire Elementary</b> , Principal Willis Jones
Highest Performance	Silver	<b>Lake Joy Elementary</b> , Principal Dr. Doug Rizer
Highest Performance	Bronze	<b>Quail Run Elementary</b> , Principal Dr. Cheryl Thomas
Highest Performance	Bronze	<b>Feagin Mill Middle</b> , Principal Dr. Jesse Davis
Highest Performance	Bronze	<b>Mossy Creek Middle</b> , Principal Paige Busbee
Highest Performance	Bronze	<b>Veterans High</b> , Principal Dr. Lionel Brown

MORE

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**Bonaire Elementary** won a Silver award for having at least 96 percent of students meet and exceed standards, with more than 25 percent exceeding CRCT standards. Bonaire has won a highest performance award six out of the past seven years. **Lake Joy Elementary** also won Silver for its academic performance.

**Quail Run Elementary** won a Bronze award for having at least 95 percent of students meet and exceed standards, with more than 20 percent exceeding CRCT standards. Quail Run has won a high performance award for seven consecutive years.

**Feagin Mill Middle** won a Bronze award. Feagin Mill also won a SSAS academic award in 2005. **Mossy Creek Middle** and **Veterans High** also won Bronze awards. These schools are first-time winners.

For more information about the SSAS awards, please visit the Governor's Office of Student Achievement's Web site, [www.gaosa.org](http://www.gaosa.org).

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