

# Houston County Board of Education

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### State Releases AYP Reports

### **88% of Houston County Schools Meet or Exceed Academic Goals**

HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – The Georgia Department of Education released the 2005-2006 Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) report on July 11, 2006. AYP measures the improvement a school has made toward meeting state academic standards. **Thirty (88%) of Houston County's 34 schools met AYP standards.** This compares favorably with the state's 78.7% AYP performance.

Northside Elementary and Northside Middle missed making AYP by the performance of one subgroup in one subject. The AYP status of Perry High and Northside High was affected by the performance of two subgroups. All four schools have plans for improvement and are already working toward making AYP in 2006-2007.

Twenty of Houston County's 21 elementary schools made AYP. This is especially noteworthy because the tests used to measure AYP reflected a new, more rigorous curriculum. Two schools – Perry Middle and Thomson Middle - improved their status over last year by achieving AYP, even with the tougher curriculum. At the high school level, a higher percentage of students had to pass math and English for the school to make AYP.

Superintendent Danny Carpenter commented, "Although making AYP is important to our district, there are many other factors we use to measure our accomplishments. We are especially pleased with our high school science and social studies scores on the Georgia High School Graduation Test. Our GHSGT systemwide results show that the number of students eligible for graduation increased, giving more students the opportunity to graduate." He continued, "The majority of our schools showed significant improvement. We will not be satisfied, however, until all of our schools meet or exceed the highest academic standards."

For AYP purposes, schools are judged based on three criteria:

- 1) participation rate with at least 95% of students tested;

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## **91% of Houston County Schools Meet or Exceed Academic Goals**

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- 2) academic performance as measured by minimum test scores **for each subgroup**, categorized by ethnicity, disability, English proficiency and socioeconomic status in math and reading/language arts -
- ◆ for elementary and middle schools, Criterion-Referenced Competency Test (CRCT) scores in math and reading/language arts
  - ◆ for high schools, the Georgia High School Graduation Test (GHSGT) in math and language arts; and
- 3) attendance for elementary or middle schools; graduation rate for high schools.

Schools are required to test subgroups of either 40 students or 10% of the assessed student population, whichever is greater. A subgroup, however, can be no larger than 75 students. Schools are required to test at least 95% of the students in the respective subgroups. At a minimum, the following percentage must pass the test *for each subgroup*:

- ◆ 58.3% on the CRCT in grades 3-8 for math,
- ◆ 66.7% on the CRCT for grades 3-8 in reading/language arts,
- ◆ 68.6% on the GHSGT in math, and
- ◆ 84.7% on the GHSGT in English/language arts.

In 2006, a higher percentage of students had to pass the GHSGT in English and math in order for high schools to meet the academic goals. For example, last year 62.3% of the students within each subgroup were required to pass the math portion of the GHSGT, and 81.6% had to pass the English/Language Arts test.

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