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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Six Houston County Schools Receive State Awards for High Academic Performance** *Honored by Governor's Office of Student Achievement*

HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – Six Houston County schools have won Single Statewide Accountability System (SSAS) awards from the Governor's Office of Student Achievement. **Perry Primary, Miller Elementary, Pearl Stephens Elementary, Bonaire Elementary, Quail Run Elementary and Houston County High** won six of 263 awards given this year across the state to recognize schools for outstanding student achievement. The test scores of more than 2,200 Georgia schools were reviewed to determine the schools with the most significant academic achievement.

The awards are presented in collaboration with the Georgia Department of Education. Award-winning schools received banners and a commendation from Governor Sonny Perdue. Schools that show excellence in student achievement and/or progress in student achievement are presented the awards.

The SSAS award structure combines criteria for making Adequate Yearly Progress with Criterion-Referenced Competency Test (CRCT) scores achieved by elementary and middle schools and Georgia High School Graduation Test (GHSGT) scores for high schools. 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 and had a high percentage exceed academic standards;
- 2) **Student Achievement** for schools with the highest percentage of students meeting and exceeding academic standards on the CRCT or GHSGT.

Superintendent of Schools David Carpenter told the winning principals, "I am very proud of your school's academic achievement. Your determination and commitment to continuous school improvement shows, and your hard work is paying off. I commend you on your success!"

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

Greatest Gains	<b>Gold</b>	Perry Primary Principal Elgin Mayfield
Greatest Gains	<b>Silver</b>	Miller Elementary Principal Gwen Pearson-Kilgore
Greatest Gains	<b>Bronze</b>	Pearl Stephens Elementary Principal Dr. Marion Ford
Highest Performance	<b>Bronze</b>	Bonaire Elementary Principal Eric Payne
Highest Performance	<b>Bronze</b>	Quail Run Elementary Principal Dr. Cheryl Thomas
Highest Performance	<b>Bronze</b>	Houston County High Principal Sheila Beckham

**Perry Primary** won the Gold for being in the top three percent, or 97<sup>th</sup> percentile, for the greatest gains in the percentage of students who met and exceeded standards on the 2007 CRCT. At least 30 percent exceeded standards, and the school made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for at least three consecutive years.

**Miller Elementary** achieved a Silver award for greatest gains for being in the top four percent, or 96<sup>th</sup> percentile, for the greatest gains in students who met and exceeded standards on the CRCT. At least 25 percent of Miller’s students exceeded standards, and the school made AYP for at least two consecutive years.

**Pearl Stephens Elementary** earned a Bronze award. At least 95 percent of Pearl Stephen’s students met and exceeded standards and at least 20 percent exceeded CRCT standards.

**Quail Run Elementary** won a Bronze award because at least 95 percent of Quail Run students met and exceeded standards with at least 20 percent exceeding 2007 CRCT standards. Quail Run has won an SSAS award for three consecutive years. A Silver award was earned in 2006 because at least 96 percent of students met or exceeded standards and at least 25 percent exceeded CRCT standards. In 2005, Quail Run Elementary earned a Gold award in the highest percentage category because at least 97 percent of its students met or exceeded standards with at least 30 percent exceeding standards on the 2005 CRCT as compared to the 2004 CRCT.

**Bonaire Elementary** won a Bronze award for having at least 95 percent of students meet and exceed standards, with at least 20 percent exceeding CRCT standards. In 2005, Bonaire also won a Bronze award in the highest percentage category. Bonaire Elementary and Quail Run Elementary are two of only 28 elementary schools in the state of Georgia to receive this award in 2007.

**Houston County High** won a Bronze award for having at least 95 percent of students meet and exceed standards, with at least 20 percent exceeding GHS GT standards. Houston County High is one of only 11 schools in Georgia to receive this award.

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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