

# Houston County Board of Education

Danny Carpenter, Superintendent

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **94% Houston County Schools Make AYP**

HOUSTON COUNTY – According to the Georgia Department of Education 2004 Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) report, 33 (94 %) of Houston County’s 35 schools met AYP standards. Every elementary school was rated as making AYP. Only one traditional middle school and one alternative school did not make AYP. Statewide, 78% of schools met AYP.

AYP measures how much improvement a school has made toward meeting state academic standards for all student subgroups. The report is for all Georgia schools, both Title 1 and non-Title 1 schools.

Superintendent Danny Carpenter commented, “Our schools performed extremely well! We made tremendous progress over last year. This year 94% of our schools made AYP, an improvement over last year’s AYP results of 71%. Although we are very proud of these results, we will continue to work with the leadership at each of our schools to ensure that schools improve and meet next year’s higher standards. It is important to note that although our system as a whole did not make AYP, 33 of our 35 schools *did* make AYP.”

According to the state 2003 Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) report, 20 (60%) of Houston County’s 33 schools met AYP standards. Every elementary school was rated as making AYP. Of those schools that did not make AYP, many are very successful yet are on the list because they did not meet AYP for one or two subgroups.

Schools were judged based on three criteria:

- 1) participation rate, showing that 95% of students tested;
- 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 -

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- ◆ for elementary and middle schools, CRCT scores in math and reading/language arts
- ◆ for high schools, the Georgia High School Graduation Test in math and language arts; and

3a) attendance for elementary or middle schools only or

3b) graduation rate for high schools only.

Schools with 40 or more students in any of the subgroups were required to test at least 95% of the students in the respective subgroups. The test score requirements for *each subgroup* was:

- ◆ 50% on the CRCT in grades 3-8 for math,
- ◆ 60% on the CRCT for grades 3-8 in reading/language arts,
- ◆ 81% on the Georgia High School Graduation Test (GHSGT) in math, and
- ◆ 88% on the GHSGT in language arts.

The required test scores are increasing for the 2004-2005 school year.

Northside Middle School, the only traditional Houston County school not making AYP, was identified as not making AYP solely because students with disabilities did not achieve proficiency standards. Northside Middle, however, serves many students with disabilities who are enrolled at other schools, yet these students' scores were all reported to that campus. In all other areas, Northside Middle met the requirements for AYP. Crossroads did not make AYP because of attendance.

The system as a whole did not make AYP because of the aggregate test scores of its high schools' students with disabilities subpopulation. Each high school individually made AYP, however, the sum total of this subpopulation's scores resulted in the system AYP result.

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Note to media: Crossroads is one school that represents Watson and Elberta on the state AYP report.

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