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NEWS RELEASE

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AYP Results for Houston County Schools

HOUSTON COUNTY – According to the Georgia Department of Education 2005 Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) report, 30 of Houston County's 34 schools met AYP standards. Every elementary school was rated as making AYP. Two schools - Northside Middle and the Crossroads Center - improved their status over last year by achieving AYP.

AYP measures how much improvement a school has made toward meeting state academic standards for all student subgroups. Superintendent Danny Carpenter commented, "As evidenced by the AYP report, our schools are rising to the challenges of the *No Child Left Behind Act*. We are proud of our results, but will continue to work to improve and meet or exceed the standards." Of the four 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. Two of the schools are appealing.

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 -
 - ◆ 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
- 3) attendance for elementary or middle schools **or** graduation rate for high schools.

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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,
- ◆ 62.3% on the Georgia High School Graduation Test (GHSGT) in math, and
- ◆ 81.6% on the GHSGT in English/language arts.

The required test scores for the CRCT increased over last year. For example, last year 50% of the students within each subgroup were required to pass the CRCT in math.

Thomson Middle and Perry Middle schools were identified as not making AYP solely because one subgroup did not meet proficiency standards. These schools filed an appeal with the Georgia Department of Education on July 6, 2005, and hope to receive an answer in August. Both Warner Robins High and Perry High did not make AYP because of the test scores of two subgroups.

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