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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **State Releases AYP Reports 97% of Houston County Schools Meet or Exceed Academic Goals**

HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – The Georgia Department of Education released the 2006-2007 Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) report on July 6, 2007. AYP measures the improvement a school has made toward meeting state academic standards. **Thirty-three (97 percent) of Houston County's 34 schools met AYP standards.** This is an improvement over last year when 88 percent of Houston County's schools made AYP. About 81.6 percent of Georgia's schools made AYP in 2006-07.

Ninety-seven percent of Houston County schools making AYP is especially noteworthy because many of the tests used to measure AYP reflected the new, more rigorous curriculum. Three schools - Northside Elementary, Northside Middle and Perry High - improved their status over last year by achieving AYP, even with the tougher Georgia Performance Standards curriculum.

Although Northside High succeeded in many areas, this school's AYP status was affected by the performance of two subgroups. Of 13 areas reviewed to determine AYP status, Northside High showed gains in 11 areas. Northside High's faculty and staff are implementing a detailed strategic plan to continue improvement.

Superintendent David Carpenter commented, "Our schools are working very hard to provide our students with a quality education and to meet all of the requirements of the *No Child Left Behind Act*. All 34 of our schools showed significant improvement, including Northside High in most areas. We are especially proud of our three schools that improved their status by achieving Adequate Yearly Progress this year. Our goal, though, is for 100 percent of our schools to make AYP, and we will not rest until that is accomplished."

For AYP purposes, schools are judged on 13+ criteria in three areas to include test participation, academic performance and a "second indicator" as described below.

#### **I. Test Participation**

- 1) at least 95% of students take the mathematics test;
- 2) at least 95% take the reading/English LA test;

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**II. Academic Performance**

Academic performance of the school and subgroups are measured against Georgia's Annual Measurable Objectives, which state what percentage of students must score at or above proficient levels on the assessments. Academic performance is measured by minimum test scores for *each subgroup*:

- 3) all students in mathematics;
- 4) black students in mathematics;
- 5) white students in mathematics;
- 6) students with disabilities in mathematics;
- 7) \* English Language Learners in mathematics;
- 8) economic disadvantaged students in mathematics;
- 9) all students in reading/English LA;
- 10) black students in reading/English LA;
- 11) white students in mathematics;
- 12) students with disabilities in reading/English LA;
- 13) \* English Language Learners in reading/English LA;
- 14) economic disadvantaged students in reading/English LA.

**III. The Second Indicator**

Each school and subgroup must meet the standard or show progress on another indicator. In Houston County:

- 15) attendance is used for elementary and middle schools; graduation rate is used for high schools.

\* Not all schools have enough English Language Learners students to qualify as a subgroup. Schools with large enough subgroups of Asian/Pacific Islander, Hispanic, American Indian/Alaskan and multi-racial students would also be ranked based on the performance of these subgroups.

Subgroups are created whenever there is a minimum of 40 students or 10 percent of the assessed student population, whichever is greater. Schools are required to test at least 95 percent of the students in the respective subgroups. High schools had to graduate at least 65 percent, an increase over last year. The following minimum percentage of students was required to 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.

The percentages will continue to rise until 2014, when the *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB) mandates a 100 percent proficiency rate for all schools. In May 2007, the Houston County Board of Education passed a resolution in support of legislation introduced by Rep. Don Young (R-AK), the *No Child Left Behind Improvements Act of 2007*, H.R. 648. The board has also contacted federal and state legislators to give input on specific ways to improve the NCLB law.

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Note to Media: The resolution and recommendations are provided, as is a release on Title 1 Distinguished schools, which is based on AYP.