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NEWS RELEASE

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State Releases AYP Report 94.3% of Houston County Schools Meet or Exceed Academic Goals

HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – The Georgia Department of Education released the 2008 Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) report today, July 25, 2008. AYP reports are required by the federal No Child Left Behind Act. AYP measures the improvement a school has made toward meeting state academic standards. **Thirty-three of Houston County's 35 schools (94.3 percent) evaluated met AYP standards.** Across Georgia, 68.8 percent made AYP in 2008.

Ninety-four percent of Houston County schools making AYP is especially noteworthy because it was more difficult than ever for schools to make AYP. Students were taught a more rigorous curriculum and took a more rigorous test, especially in elementary and middle school mathematics. In addition, the percentage of students required to pass the tests increased for AYP.

Two schools - Northside Middle and Perry High - improved their status by achieving AYP for two consecutive years, removing them from the "Needs Improvement" list. In addition, 100 percent of Houston County's schools met AYP for test participation and the second indicator.

Although Northside High and Houston County High succeeded in many areas, each school's AYP status was affected by the performance of one subgroup. **Of 11 areas** reviewed to determine AYP status, **both Northside High and Houston County High met or exceeded standards in 10 areas.**

Superintendent David Carpenter commented, "I commend all of our teachers, administrators and support staff for meeting the needs of our students and for the work they perform. Our schools are very focused and work extremely hard to meet the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act. I am pleased with the efforts of our Northside High and Houston County High teachers and their accomplishment of meeting or exceeding requirements in 10 out of 11 areas. I am confident that they are prepared to implement strategies to increase student achievement for all students. We are especially proud of Northside Middle and Perry High for improving their status by achieving AYP for two consecutive years."

The Criterion-Referenced Competency Test (CRCT) and Georgia High School Graduation Test (GHSGT) results are used to determine AYP status. For AYP purposes, schools are judged on 11+ criteria in three areas: test participation, academic performance on the CRCT and GHSGT 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 language arts test;

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 language arts;
- 10) black students in reading/English language arts;
- 11) white students in mathematics;
- 12) students with disabilities in reading/English language arts;
- 13) * English Language Learners in reading/English language arts;
- 14) economic disadvantaged students in reading/English language arts.

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 evaluated 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 70 percent, an increase of five percent over last year. A greater percentage of students had to meet or exceed standards in 2008 for a school to make AYP. The following minimum percentage of students was required to pass the test *for each subgroup*:

- ◆ 59.5% on the CRCT in grades 3-8 for math, (58.3 in 2007);
- ◆ 73.3% on the CRCT for grades 3-8 in reading/English language arts, (66.7% in 2007);
- ◆ 74.9% on the GHSGT in math, (68.6% in 2007); and
- ◆ 87.7% on the GHSGT in English (84.7% in 2007).

The percentages will continue to rise until 2014, when the *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB) mandates a 100 percent proficiency rate for all schools.

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Note: Houston County has 37 schools. The state evaluated 35 for AYP. The Houston County Career and Technology Center and the Houston County Crossroads Center were not included due to enrollment.