

NEWS RELEASE



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Governor Deal salutes 35 Gwinnett schools

Recognizing the improvement schools from throughout Georgia have made in the last school year, the Governor's Office of Student Achievement (GOSA) and the Georgia Department of Education (DOE) announced that 35 Gwinnett County public schools are among those which have made the most significant gains and have performed at the highest level. GOSA released the state's 2010-2011 K-12 Public Schools Report Card, which highlights Georgia schools for academic achievement during the 2010-2011 school year. The report recognizes the work of **Gwinnett County Public Schools (GCPS)** students, teachers, parents, and administrators at 25 Gwinnett elementary schools, five middle schools, three of its traditional high schools, and two of its charter schools.

The 35 Gwinnett schools were recognized under the Single Statewide Accountability System (SSAS), which recognizes Georgia schools for their continuous improvement in raising student achievement and closing achievement gaps on state curriculum tests and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) status.

The Governor's Office of Student Achievement in collaboration with the Georgia Department of Education, recognized the schools in two categories:

- 1) **Highest Performance**, indicating the percentage of students meeting and exceeding academic standards; and
- 2) **Greatest Gains**, indicating the greatest gains in the percentage of students meeting and exceeding academic standards.

In each category, the state recognizes four school award levels: Platinum, Gold, Silver, and Bronze.

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It is the policy of Gwinnett County Public Schools not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, or disability in any employment practice, educational program, or any other program, activity, or service.

2010 Winner of



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This year's 35 award winning Gwinnett schools are:

Greatest Gains

Schools that showed the greatest improvement on the state's Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests (CRCT) at the elementary and middle levels, or the Georgia High School Graduation Tests (GHSGT) taken by juniors at the high school level

Out of 111 Georgia schools recognized in this category, five were from Gwinnett:

Platinum

Kanoheda Elementary
Simonton Elementary
Winn Holt Elementary

Gold

Partee Elementary

Bronze

Rockbridge Elementary

Earning a spot on the state's report card is exciting news for **Kanoheda Elementary**, one of three Gwinnett schools honored at the platinum level, the highest level possible. **Debra Scott**, principal of Kanoheda Elementary says, "We have high standards for our students, our school, and our community. Our community expects great things from us, and we do our best to meet and exceed those expectations every day." Ms. Scott also expresses her appreciation for the work of Kanoheda Elementary teachers and staff members as they work together to make this kind of improvement happen and see their students succeed. She explains, "The students are able to see that their hard work pays off. This kind of recognition gives them the impetus to keep moving forward, working hard each day as they continue their schooling and become successful adults."

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Highest Performance

Schools that demonstrated the highest achievement on the CRCT at the elementary and middle school levels, or the GHSGT at the high school level.

Thirty Gwinnett schools are among the 259 Georgia schools recognized in this category:

Platinum

Brookwood Elementary
Parsons Elementary
Riverside Elementary
Simpson Elementary
Osborne Middle
Gwinnett School of Mathematics,
Science, and Technology

Gold

Camp Creek Elementary
Craig Elementary
Head Elementary
Freeman's Mill Elementary
Gwin Oaks Elementary
Level Creek Elementary
Puckett's Mill Elementary
Suwanee Elementary
North Gwinnett Middle

Silver

Duncan Creek Elementary
Dyer Elementary
Fort Daniel Elementary
Mulberry Elementary
New Life Academy of
Excellence-Norcross
Crews Middle
Twin Rivers Middle
Brookwood High
North Gwinnett High

Bronze

Burnette Elementary
Dacula Elementary
Roberts Elementary
White Oak Elementary
New Life Academy of Excellence-Duluth
Dacula Middle
Parkview High

This year's results are significant for both **Burnette Elementary** and **Roberts Elementary** as it's the first time both new schools were eligible to be considered for the award having opened in 2010. "Receiving the award for Highest Performance in our first year sets the tone for the level of achievement we expect our students to reach each year," says **Kim Reed**, principal of Burnette Elementary. "We will continue to teach at high levels so our students will have a strong foundation to build upon as they enter middle and high school and prepare for post secondary education." In receiving this recognition, Ms. Reed thanks the very young but strong Burnette Elementary community which came together to support the new school and its students. She says, "Our community has been very involved in ensuring that Burnette students and teachers have the resources needed to be a successful school. Our community leaders, partners in education, and PTA have been involved in promoting initiatives to help our students succeed. Receiving this award demonstrates to our community that Burnette Elementary is committed to ensuring our students are taught and are performing at high levels each day."

For more information regarding the SSAS, contact the Governor's Office of Student Achievement at (404) 463-1150 or visit www.gaosa.org