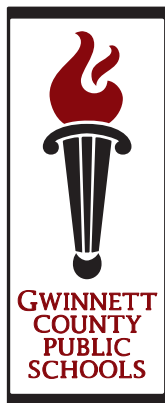


NEWS RELEASE



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News Media Contact: Communication and Media Relations, 678-301-6020

Gwinnett County Public Schools earns EPA's "ENERGY STAR" certification for superior energy efficiency

A review of schools in **Gwinnett County Public Schools (GCPS)** recently earned 111 of Gwinnett's 117 eligible schools the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) ENERGY STAR certification for superior energy performance. To achieve this recognition, each of the schools had to perform in the top 25 percent of K-12 schools nationwide for energy efficiency and meet strict energy efficiency performance levels set by the EPA.

To be rated "top performing," the facilities had to have an energy performance score of 75 or higher— Gwinnett's average score was an impressive 86. As impressive is the fact that top performing ENERGY STAR certified schools cost less to operate than the average performers. With more than 21 million square feet ENERGY STAR certified, GCPS leads the nation for K-12 certified building space, saving \$8.4 million annually systemwide.

Using the ENERGY STAR performance scale and other benchmarking tools, Gwinnett assesses how efficiently its buildings operate. With energy becoming a larger and less predictable expense, the district continues to enhance its energy performance by investing in building improvements like lighting retrofits and occupancy sensors. By increasing energy efficiency, the district not only reduces its carbon footprint but saves money on its utility bills.

Gwinnett's ENERGY STAR achievement is validation that the school district has done a good job of designing, constructing, maintaining, and operating its facilities. GCPS plans to benchmark all schools, with the required 12 months of utility data, through ENERGY STAR by the end of the year. District leaders believe that working in partnership with ENERGY STAR to manage energy use is just good business.

"In Gwinnett, we take pride in being a leader instructionally and operationally," says **CEO/Superintendent J. Alvin Wilbanks**. "On the operations side, it is critical that we make good business decisions and assess our practices against industry standards.

I am pleased with the strides we have been able to make in terms of energy efficiency... strides that have led to 95 percent of our eligible schools earning the ENERGY STAR rating. While this recognition is notable, I contend that the savings

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437 Old Peachtree Road, NW
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we are recouping through our conservation efforts is what is most important. In these tough budget times, those are dollars that can be used to better serve students.”

Through this achievement, GCPS has again demonstrated its commitment to environmental stewardship while also lowering energy costs. The district will continue to improve energy efficiency by managing energy strategically across the entire organization and by making cost-effective improvements to buildings.

Achieving the ENERGY STAR certification for superior energy efficiency is assurance to the community that the district is diligent in its efforts to reduce costs and protect the environment.

111 Gwinnett schools designated as ENERGY STAR certified

Alcova ES	Freeman’s Mill ES	Osborne MS
Alford ES	GIVE Center East	Parkview HS
Annistown ES	Grayson ES	Parsons ES
Arcado ES	Grayson HS	Partee ES
Archer HS	Harbins ES	Patrick ES
Bay Creek MS	Harmony ES	Peachtree ES
Beaver Ridge ES	Harris ES	Peachtree Ridge HS
Benefield ES	Head ES	Pharr ES
Berkeley Lake ES	Hooper Renwick School	Phoenix HS
Berkmar HS	Hopkins ES	Pinckneyville MS
Berkmar MS	Hull MS	Puckett’s Mill ES
Britt ES	Ivy Creek ES	Richards MS
Brookwood ES	Jackson ES	Riverside ES
Brookwood HS	Jones MS	Rock Springs ES
Campus for GIVE Center	Kanoheda ES	Rockbridge ES
West/Gwinnett Online	Knight ES	Rosebud ES
Campus	Lanier MS	Shiloh ES
Camp Creek ES	Level Creek ES	Shiloh MS
Cedar Hill ES	Lilburn ES	Shiloh HS
Centerville ES	Lilburn MS	Simonton ES
Central Gwinnett HS	Lovin ES	Simpson ES
Chattahoochee ES	Magill ES	Snellville MS
Chesney ES	Mason ES	South Gwinnett HS
Collins Hill HS	McConnell MS	Starling ES
Cooper ES	McKendree ES	Stripling ES
Corley ES	Meadowcreek ES	Summerour MS
Couch MS	Meadowcreek HS	Suwanee ES
Craig ES	Mill Creek HS	Sweetwater MS
Creekland MS	Minor ES	Sycamore ES
Dacula ES	Mountain Park ES	Taylor ES
Dacula MS	Mountain View HS	Trickum MS
Dacula HS	Mulberry ES	Trip ES
Duluth HS	Nesbit ES	Twin Rivers MS
Duluth MS	Norcross ES	Walnut Grove ES
Duncan Creek ES	Norcross HS	White Oak ES
Dyer ES	North Gwinnett HS	Campus for Winn Holt
Five Forks MS	North Gwinnett MS	ES/Oakland Meadow
Fort Daniel ES	Norton ES	School
		Woodward Mill ES