



NEWS RELEASE

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Parsons ES media center on Georgia's "Exemplary" list

A school media center that provides **Gwinnett County Public Schools (GCPS)** students and teachers with information resources has been named an "Exemplary Library Media Program" by the Georgia Department of Education (DOE). State Superintendent of Schools Dr. John Barge recently announced that the media center at **Parsons Elementary** has earned that honor, recognizing the center for the services its staff provides to support student learning.

"We are very proud of the accomplishments of Parsons Elementary's staff and students. This award represents the strides they are making for the 21st century learner," says **Mary Barbee**, the school district's director of media services and technology training. "Today's school media centers are the learning commons for the school. Self-selected reading and research skills prepare students to be lifelong learners and to achieve academically. In addition, students in the media center work collaboratively, think critically, and learn to be more responsible digital citizens."

The Parsons Elementary media center is one of only two elementary schools from across Georgia selected for the state award. The Peachtree Ridge Cluster elementary school media center was selected based on the role it plays in helping the school meet school improvement goals and improve student achievement. The school excelled in the following categories: student achievement and instruction; staffing; facilities, access, and resources; administrative support; and staff development. Parsons Elementary was selected by peer media specialists from around the state, as well as DOE staff members.

This is not the first time Parsons Elementary is recognized for its media center services. In 2010, the school's media specialist, Ms. Suzanne Skeen, was named Gwinnett County Public Schools' Library Media Specialist of the Year.

In addition to Ms. Skeen, Parsons Elementary students also count on media center support from Betsy Cummins, media clerk; Landa Torrence, local school technology coordinator; and Maurice Rushlow, technology support technician.

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