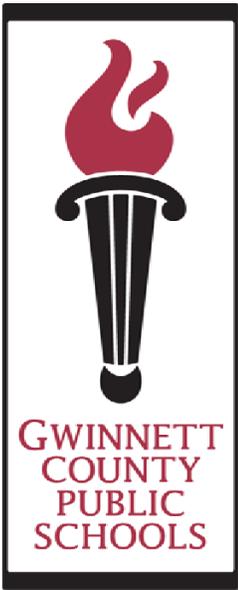


NEWS RELEASE



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**THE MISSION OF
GWINNETT COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**
*is to pursue excellence
in academic knowledge,
skills, and behavior
for each student,
resulting in measured
improvement against
local, national, and
world-class standards.*

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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.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 29, 2008

Contact: Communication and Media Relations (678) 301-6020

Gwinnett County Public Schools receives highest bond ratings (triple-A) from the nation's two leading rating agencies

Gwinnett County Public Schools (GCPS), Georgia's largest school system, has received the highest possible bond ratings from the nation's two leading rating agencies, evidence of the district's stellar financial stewardship. Standard & Poor's (S&P) raised its rating on GCPS' general obligation debt from double-A-plus (AA+) to triple-A (AAA) with a stable outlook. In addition, Moody's Investment Services reaffirmed the school system's triple-A rating. Currently, there are 23 school districts rated triple-A by Moody's and 28 rated at the highest level by S&P. Gwinnett was the first system in Georgia to earn this financial distinction, and remains the only large system in the nation to have a triple-A rating. Additionally, it is one of only five districts nationwide to hold the triple-A rating from both Moody's and S&P.

"Earning the highest ratings from both agencies is an accomplishment of which our school system and our community can be quite proud," says **CEO/Superintendent J. Alvin Wilbanks**. "We have achieved something few school districts in the nation have been able to do. The triple-A ratings are strong statements of our Board of Education's record of fiscal accountability, and provide a strong outlook for the school district's financial future."

Chief Financial Officer Rick Cost further explains the importance of the upgraded ratings saying, "I could not be more pleased that our efforts to be the best stewards of public funds has been recognized nationally by Moody's and now Standard & Poor's. Taxpayers will benefit from the lowest interest rates possible on the sale of our bonds, which translates into a benefit for our students as more money will be available to build much-needed classrooms."

Gwinnett County Public Schools' favorable bond ratings is based on the school district's continued maintenance of a strong financial profile in spite of limited state aid growth, as well as the district's ability to maintain a favorable debt profile throughout a period of rapid growth and substantial capital needs.