



NEWS RELEASE

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Four schools to begin school year with counseling distinction

The support Gwinnett County Public Schools (GCPS) counselors provide to their students every day recently brought national distinction to four Gwinnett schools. The American School Counselor Association (ASCA) recognized the counselors at these schools with the “Recognized ASCA Model Program (RAMP) Designation.” The RAMP designation, awarded to schools that are aligned with the criteria set in the *ASCA National Model*, recognizes schools that are committed to delivering a comprehensive, data-driven school counseling program and an exemplary educational environment.

The four Gwinnett schools honored as Recognized ASCA Model Program Designees and their counselors are:

- **Benfield Elementary** – Teshia Dula and Tracie Sharpe
- **White Oak Elementary** – Jennifer Diaz
- **Creekland Middle** – Stephanie Bentley, Maria Grovner, Julie Taylor, and Carla Winkler
- **Peachtree Ridge High** – Sarah Belknap, Dolly Glisson, Nikita Johnson, Keisha Rogers, Sylvia Rowe, Donna Thomas, and Abbey Youngblood

These Gwinnett schools join a select group of other schools from across the country that have received the national recognition since the program’s inception in 2004. In Gwinnett, 14 GCPS schools have now been recognized with the RAMP Designation, which is valid for three years. These schools include **Annistown Elementary, Berkeley Lake Elementary, Bethesda Elementary, Grayson Elementary, Magill Elementary, Mason Elementary, Jones Middle, Radloff Middle, and Collins Hill High. Peachtree Elementary**, the first Gwinnett school to earn this national designation, was recently recertified.

The American School Counselor Association is a worldwide nonprofit organization which supports school counselors’ efforts to help students focus on academic, personal/social, and career development so they not only achieve success in school but are prepared to lead fulfilling lives as responsible members of society.

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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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For more information or about the counselor’s role in GCPS, contact Dianne Thompson, director of advisement and counseling, at 678-301-7372, or visit

www.schoolcounselor.org