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Schools receive awards for outstanding achievement

LAWRENCEVILLE — Nearly three dozen schools in Gwinnett, Barrow and Loganville are being recognized for improvement and achievement during the 2009-10 school year.

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LAWRENCEVILLE — Nearly three dozen schools in Gwinnett, Barrow and Loganville are being recognized for improvement and achievement during the 2009-10 school year.

The Governor's Office of Student Achievement and the state Department of Education announced Wednesday that 345 public schools are being honored under Georgia's Single Statewide Accountability System, which awards schools based on their performance on state curriculum exams and Adequate Yearly Progress status.

Award Winners

The following chart shows the schools in Gwinnett, Barrow and Loganville that received awards through Georgia's Single Statewide Accountability System.

Greatest Gains

School — Award Level

Buford Elementary — Platinum

Dyer Elementary — Platinum

New Life Academy of Excellence — Platinum

Annistown Elementary — Gold

The awards were announced as part of the release of the state's Annual K-12 Public Schools Report Card.

"The students and staff at these schools are to be commended for this significant achievement," State School Superintendent Brad Bryant said. "These high levels of achievement and improvement don't happen unless everyone is focused on the goal of providing a world-class education to every student."

The schools are awarded on four levels — Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze — in two categories: Greatest Gains, given to schools that showed the greatest improvement in scores on the Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests or the Georgia High School Graduation Tests, and Highest Performance, given to schools that demonstrated the highest achievement on the CRCT or GHSCT.

Buford Elementary and New Life Academy of Excellence, a charter school in Gwinnett, were the only area schools that received awards in both areas. Both received Platinum awards for Greatest Gains. Buford Elementary received a Gold award for Highest Performance, and New Life received a Bronze award for Highest Performance.

Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science and Technology and Simpson Elementary both received Platinum awards for Highest Performance. Dyer Elementary received a Platinum award for Greatest Gains.

Lawrenceville Elementary — Silver
Winder-Barrow Middle — Bronze

Highest Performance

School — Award Level

Gwinnett School of Mathematics,
Science and Technology —
Platinum

Simpson Elementary — Platinum

Buford Elementary — Gold

Buford High — Gold

Osborne Middle — Gold

Parsons Elementary — Gold

Puckett's Mill Elementary — Gold

Riverside Elementary — Gold

Suwanee Elementary — Gold

Crews Middle — Silver

Brookwood Elementary — Silver

Camp Creek Elementary — Silver

Duncan Creek Elementary —
Silver

Freeman's Mill Elementary —
Silver

Level Creek Elementary — Silver

Mulberry Elementary — Silver

Parkview High — Silver

Brookwood High — Bronze

Craig Elementary — Bronze

Dacula Elementary — Bronze

Fort Daniel Elementary — Bronze

Gwin Oaks Elementary — Bronze

Head Elementary — Bronze

Mill Creek High — Bronze

New Life Academy of Excellence —
Bronze

North Gwinnett Middle — Bronze

This year marked the first Accountability System award for GSMST, which opened in 2007. The school earned the Platinum award based on the performance of the inaugural class.

"GSMST's first class of seniors certainly reached a historic milestone for our school based on their performance last year," GSMST principal Jeff Mathews said. "This award represents the journey not only of our students, but also of our teachers, staff, parents, advisory board, partners and other stakeholders."

Buford High was the only area high school that received a Gold award for Highest Performance.

"I think that a collaborated effort of our faculty focusing and addressing each individual student's strengths and weaknesses had a major impact on our success," Buford High principal Banks Bitterman said. "I cannot begin to tell you how proud I am of our faculty and students. They have worked extremely hard toward our vision and mission to accomplish this."

Osborne Middle, Parsons Elementary, Puckett's Mill Elementary, Riverside Elementary and Suwanee Elementary all received Gold Awards for Highest Performance, and Annistown Elementary received a Gold award for Greatest Gains.

Lorraine Sparks, principal of Annistown Elementary, said she is excited for her school and community for receiving the recognition.

"Receiving this award demonstrates the dedication of our staff and students and the support of our parents," she said. "We take teaching and learning very seriously at Annistown Elementary, and the goal of accepting only excellence from our students and teachers has become a part of our language and culture."

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Peachtree Ridge High — Bronze

Twin Rivers Middle — Bronze

White Oak Elementary — Bronze

Youth Elementary — Bronze

Source: Governor's Office of Student Achievement

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