



## EYE ON THE PRIZE

### GCPS' 2010 ROAD TO BROAD

Named one of the highest performing urban districts in the country for the second consecutive year, Gwinnett County Public Schools (GCPS) is one of five finalists for the 2010 Broad Prize for Urban Education, the largest education award in the country. Georgia's largest district, GCPS is only the second in the state to be considered for the honor.



In announcing the five finalists, Eli Broad, founder of the Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation, said, "This marks the second consecutive year Gwinnett has been a Broad Prize finalist, which demonstrates the district's unwavering focus on strong, sustainable student achievement. It is our hope that school districts around the country will learn from the practices Gwinnett and the other finalist districts are employing that are leading to impressive academic gains."

Gwinnett County Public Schools' direction is clear... we are working to become a system of world-class schools. The district focuses on teaching and learning within a structure that supports and encourages excellence. That focus is a key reason for the school system's success... success that is gaining national attention.

*Among the reasons Gwinnett was chosen as a 2010 Broad Prize finalist:*

- *In 2009, Gwinnett outperformed other Georgia districts that serve students with similar family income levels in both reading and math at all school levels (elementary, middle, and high school), according to The Broad Prize methodology.*
- *In recent years, Gwinnett has narrowed achievement gaps between both African-American and Hispanic students and white students in reading at all school levels and in elementary and middle school math. For example, between 2007 and 2009, the gap between Gwinnett's African-American and white students narrowed by 8 percentage points in middle school math.*
- *In 2009, the achievement gaps between African-American and white students in Gwinnett were among the smallest in the state in reading at all school levels and in elementary and middle school math.*
- *Between 2006 and 2009, participation rates rose for African-American and Hispanic students taking the SAT, the ACT and Advanced Placement exams. For example, between 2006 and 2009, the SAT participation rate for African-American high school seniors increased by 9 percentage points.*

*Just take a look at a sampling of recent GCPS accomplishments...*

**Twelve Gwinnett high schools are Advanced Placement (AP) Honor Schools:**

- AP Merit Schools— Schools with at least 20% of students taking AP exams and at least half of the AP exams with a score of 3 or higher: Brookwood High; Duluth High; Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science, and Technology; North Gwinnett High; Parkview High; and Peachtree Ridge High.
- AP Access and Support Schools— Schools with 30% of AP test takers who are African-American or Hispanic and at least 30% of all AP exams with a score of 3 or higher: Berkmar High; Central Gwinnett High; Dacula High; Phoenix High; Shiloh High; and South Gwinnett High.

**Peachtree Ridge High and Osborne Middle both were named a 2009–10 Georgia School of Excellence in the Greatest Gains category**, meaning that the schools demonstrated greatest continuous gains in student achievement for the past three years in reading and mathematics.

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For 2009, a total of 1,992 Gwinnett students were designated as AP scholars for college-level achievement, with 109 students qualifying for the National AP Scholar Award, 544 Gwinnett students qualifying for the AP Scholar with Distinction Award, 397 students qualifying for the AP Scholar with Honor Award, and 942 students qualifying for the AP Scholar Award.

**28 Gwinnett schools were recognized for outstanding performance through the Single Statewide Accountability System** which recognizes Georgia schools for their continuous improvement in raising student achievement and closing the achievement gap on state curriculum tests and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) status. The state recognizes schools in two categories: Highest Performance and Greatest Gains. In each category, the state recognizes four school award levels: Platinum, Gold, Silver, and Bronze.

### **Greatest Gains:**

Platinum— Berkeley Lake Elementary; Dacula High; Duluth High; and South Gwinnett High

Gold— Snellville Middle

Silver— Chesney Elementary; Berkmar Middle; and Shiloh High

### **Highest Performance:**

Platinum— Simpson Elementary

Gold— Crews Middle and Brookwood High

Silver— Brookwood Elementary; Camp Creek Elementary; Parsons Elementary; Riverside Elementary; Osborne Middle; Collins Hill High; Duluth High; Mill Creek High; North Gwinnett High; and Peachtree Ridge High

Bronze— Freeman's Mill Elementary; Head Elementary; Level Creek Elementary; Mulberry Elementary; Puckett's Mill Elementary; Suwanee Elementary; Grayson High; and Parkview High

**The Georgia Department of Education designated 34 Gwinnett schools as Georgia Title I Distinguished Schools for meeting academic goals.** Title I schools receive federal funds to better serve their student body, which includes a higher percentage of students receiving free or reduced lunch. GCPS' percentage of students receiving free or reduced lunch is 49.9%.

- Eight consecutive years of making AYP: Annistown Elementary; Hopkins Elementary; and Kanoheda Elementary
- Seven consecutive years of making AYP: Bethesda Elementary; Britt Elementary; Cedar Hill Elementary; Knight Elementary; Lilburn Elementary; Nesbit Elementary; Norcross Elementary; Norton Elementary; Partee Elementary; and Peachtree Elementary
- Six consecutive years of making AYP: Alford Elementary; Corley Elementary; Meadowcreek Elementary; Minor Elementary; Rockbridge Elementary; Sycamore

Elementary; and Central Gwinnett High

- Five consecutive years of making AYP: Beaver Ridge Elementary; Centerville Elementary; Chesney Elementary; and Winn Holt Elementary
- Four consecutive years of making AYP: Simonton Elementary
- Three consecutive years of making AYP: Benefield Elementary; Lawrenceville Elementary; Stripling Elementary; Berkmar Middle; Lilburn Middle; Shiloh Middle; Snellville Middle; Summerour Middle; and Norcross High

**108 (or 99%) of 109 Gwinnett schools made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).**

**Fourteen Gwinnett schools earned Distinguished Achievement Awards from the State Superintendent of Schools.** The program honors schools that had the highest achievement and made the greatest gains on state assessments. Gwinnett's honored schools include Brookwood Elementary; Riverside Elementary; Simpson Elementary; Crews Middle; Five Forks Middle; Osborne Middle; Pinckneyville Middle; Brookwood High; Meadowcreek High; Phoenix High; Shiloh High; Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science, and Technology; GIVE Center East; and GIVE Center West.

**With an average SAT composite score of 1526, GCPS' 2009 test-takers topped state and national averages on the SAT. A higher percentage of students (73% in 2009) generally take the SAT in Gwinnett than in the state or nation.**

- SAT progress over the last three years earned Central Gwinnett High the Regional Governor's Cup.

**Gwinnett ACT scores set a new record, topping state and national averages, with improvements in every measure.**

**Seven GCPS seniors in the Class of 2010 were named Gates Millennium Scholars,** earning full scholarships for undergraduate work as well as selected graduate and doctoral studies. This program recognizes high-achieving African-American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian/Pacific Islander, and Hispanic students.

**For the Class of 2010, 90% of Gwinnett seniors planned to attend college or postsecondary school.**

**Gwinnett seniors were offered more than \$105 million in scholarships in 2010,** not counting HOPE. Of that amount, 63 percent were for academic scholarships. Twenty-two graduates earned appointments to U.S. military service academies.

**Twelve Gwinnett high schools were named in *Newsweek Magazine's* list of top high schools for 2009.**