

July 14, 2009

**Newton County Schools Announces Findings of
Georgia's Adequate Yearly Progress Report**

Newton County School System has received the Georgia Department of Education report on Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for the 2008-2009 school year and administrators are currently reviewing that information. According to the report, fourteen of twenty-one schools included in the report made AYP in 2008-2009; the district did not meet AYP in 2008-2009. This year, all three high schools—Alcovy, Eastside, and Newton—made AYP. In addition, Porterdale Elementary School came off the Needs Improvement List by making AYP for the second consecutive year.

It is important to note that these are not the final 2008-2009 AYP results. Newton County School System offered summer school and retests to students who, in the spring, did not pass the reading or math portion of the Georgia Criterion Referenced Competency Tests (GCRCT). The Georgia Department of Education will be updating AYP results later this fall to account for the results of the CRCT retests in grades 3, 5, and 8. Once those results are determined, it is possible that more schools will have made AYP for 2008-2009.

“Although I am disappointed that the system did not make adequate yearly progress in the preliminary data release, we have seen improvement throughout the district,” said Newton County School Superintendent, Dr. Steve Whatley. “There has been an increase in the percentage of students district-wide that are meeting or exceeding the mathematics annual measured objectives over last year’s performance and we anticipate an even greater increase when the final CRCT retake results are tabulated. In fact, when we compare the preliminary 2009 math data with the final 2008 data, the meets and exceeds numbers for all students in the district, including students with disabilities, increased. Although we did not meet AYP as a district, we are heading in the right direction. We will continue to analyze the AYP data and work on improving the performance of our students with disabilities. Our goal is ultimately to have all schools, all students, and all subgroups meet or exceed annual measured objectives.”

AYP designation is a reflection of the individual schools’ performance in several criteria: percentage of students taking the test; the percentage of students meeting standards in reading/language arts and mathematics; and for elementary and middle school students, the percentage of student absenteeism. For high schools, the second indicator is graduation rate.

In addition to looking at the total school performance in these criteria, the performance of several subgroups is also analyzed. These subgroups include students with disabilities, the economic status of families, race ethnicity, and limited English proficiency. A school that fails to achieve the criteria in any one of the three areas (test participation, academic achievement, and attendance/graduation) for any subgroup is classified as not meeting AYP. Should any of the subgroups fail to meet the standards, the school is also classified as not meeting AYP—even if the school as a whole meets the criteria.

For six of the seven schools that did not meet AYP, it was the academic performance of students with disabilities, not the student population as a whole, which resulted in the school's AYP designation. Challenge Charter Academy did not meet AYP due to school-wide performance.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Porterdale Elementary

Porterdale Elementary School made AYP again this year and as a result, the school has been removed from the Needs Improvement List. Parents who opted to transfer their children from Porterdale to other elementary schools will now be responsible for transportation to those schools (without school district reimbursement) or they will have the option of sending their children back to Porterdale this school year. Parents of those students will receive written notification from the district regarding this matter.

Middle Ridge

Although Middle Ridge Elementary School did not make AYP on the initial listing, the school did improve in all categories, but barely missed making AYP in the students with disabilities subgroup in language arts by just under seven tenths of one percent. It is possible that once CRCT retest results are analyzed, the school will make AYP.

Middle Ridge did not make AYP the previous school year; therefore, the school will remain on the "Needs Improvement List" and must continue to offer school choice.

Parents will be notified by letter and through public meetings to explain options. Students zoned for Middle Ridge will have the option of attending East Newton or Heard-Mixon elementary schools.

Ficquett

Ficquett Elementary School did not meet AYP because the students with disabilities subgroup did not meet standards in language arts and math and the black subgroup did not meet standards in math.

The school is **NOT** on the Needs Improvement List. Only schools that have failed to meet AYP for two consecutive years are considered Needs Improvement schools.

Livingston

Livingston Elementary School did not make AYP in 2008-2009 due to the performance of the students with disabilities subgroup on the language arts portion of the CRCT. This is the second consecutive year that the school did not make AYP. As a result, Livingston Elementary School is now in its first year on the Needs Improvement List and must offer supplemental services. It is possible that once CRCT retest results are analyzed, the school will make AYP and thus be removed from the Needs Improvement List.

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Only one of the district’s four middle schools, Veterans Memorial, made AYP in 2008-2009. The district’s remaining middle schools—Clements, Cousins, and Indian Creek, did not meet AYP due to the performance of the students with disabilities subgroup in both math and reading.

Cousins

Cousins made AYP in 2007-2008; therefore, the school is **NOT** on the Needs Improvement List.

Clements

Although Clements made AYP in 2007-2008, the school needed to make AYP again in 2008-2009 to be removed from the Needs Improvement List. Since it did not make AYP, Liberty Middle School, the school housing the attendance zone for Clements Middle School, must offer choice in 2009-2010. Letters will be sent to parents regarding this situation and the options available. Liberty will continue Clements’ status as a State-Directed School. Choice options for Liberty Middle School are Cousins and Veterans Memorial.

Indian Creek

For the second consecutive year Indian Creek did not make AYP. As a result, the school will be placed on the Needs Improvement List and must offer supplemental services in 2009-2010.

HIGH SCHOOLS

All three high schools—Alcovy, Eastside, and Newton—made AYP in 2008-2009 and none of the schools are in Needs Improvement.

CHARTER SCHOOL

The Challenge Charter Academy did not make AYP this year school-wide due to the performance of the student body as a whole, on the math and language arts CRCT. Challenge Charter opened in 2008-2009; therefore, this is the school’s first year not making AYP. It is not on the Needs Improvement list.

NCSS 2008-2009 SCHOOL NCLB STATUS REPORT

SCHOOL	Current NCLB Status (2008-2009)
<u>ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS</u>	
East Newton Elementary	Made AYP
Fairview Elementary	Made AYP
Ficquett Elementary	Did Not Make AYP
Heard-Mixon Elementary	Made AYP

Livingston Elementary	Did Not Make AYP <i>(Needs Improvement)</i>
Mansfield Elementary	Made AYP
Middle Ridge Elementary	Did Not Make AYP <i>(Needs Improvement)</i>
Oak Hill Elementary	Made AYP
Palmer-Stone Elementary	Made AYP
Porterdale Elementary	Made AYP
Rocky Plains Elementary	Made AYP
South Salem Elementary	Made AYP
West Newton Elementary	Made AYP
<u>MIDDLE SCHOOLS</u>	
Clements Middle <i>(Liberty assuming school designation)</i>	Did Not Make AYP <i>(Needs Improvement)</i>
Cousins Middle	Did Not Make AYP
Indian Creek Middle	Did Not Make AYP <i>(Needs Improvement)</i>
Veterans Memorial Middle	Made AYP
<u>HIGH SCHOOLS</u>	
Alcovy High	Made AYP
Eastside High	Made AYP
Newton High	Made AYP
<u>CHARTER SCHOOL</u>	
Challenge Charter Academy	Did Not Make AYP

Links to the system and school AYP reports are available on the Newton County School System website at the following page:

<http://www.newtoncountyschools.org/about/ayp.asp>

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