

January 5, 2011

### Three Newton County Schools Receive State Awards for Outstanding Achievement

Newton County School System is pleased to announce that three schools—Fairview Theme School, Clements Theme School, and Heard-Mixon Elementary School have been recognized by the Governor’s Office of Student Achievement for being in the top percent of schools in the state with the greatest improvement on the Criterion Reference Competency Tests (CRCT).

"We’re very proud of these accomplishments in student achievement," said Gary Mathews, Newton County School Superintendent. "Student learning has to be our bottom line. Congratulations to the students, teachers, administrators and all others who’ve contributed to this improvement!"

Schools are awarded on four levels—Platinum, Gold, Silver, and Bronze depending on their AYP status, the percentage of students exceeding standards on the assessment, and their standing in the state percentile of greatest gains. (See table below)

#### *Greatest Gain Minimum Requirements*

Criteria:	Platinum Schools	Gold Schools	Silver Schools	Bronze Schools
<b>AYP Status</b>	AYP for 3 consecutive years	AYP for 2 consecutive years	AYP for 2 consecutive years	No Needs Improvement status
<b>Exceeds Standards</b>	> 35% of students exceed standards	> 30% of students exceed standards	> 25% of students exceed standards	> 20% of students exceed standards
<b>Meets + Exceeds Gain</b>	98 <sup>th</sup> percentile of greatest gains	97 <sup>th</sup> percentile of greatest gains	96 <sup>th</sup> percentile of greatest gains	95 <sup>th</sup> percentile of greatest gains

*(Information provided by Governor’s Office of Student Achievement)*

Both Heard-Mixon Elementary School and Clements Theme School earned Bronze Awards for Greatest Gains meaning both school have made AYP and are not in Needs Improvement Status. In addition, both Clements Theme and Heard-Mixon Elementary had more than 20 percent of students exceeding standards and each school also placed in the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile of greatest gains in the state.

Fairview Theme School received a Platinum Award for Greatest Gains. Fairview has made AYP for three consecutive years, had more than 35 percent of students exceed standards on the CRCT and was in the 98<sup>th</sup> percentile of greatest gains in the state.

"The students and staff at these schools are to be commended for this significant achievement," said State School Superintendent Brad Bryant. "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."

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