

January 20, 2011

**Newton County School System Announces
Title I Distinguished Schools**

Newton County School System is pleased to announce that five schools—Heard-Mixon Elementary, Palmer-Stone Elementary, Rocky Plains Elementary, West Newton Elementary, and Oak Hill Elementary, have been recognized as 2011 Georgia Title I Distinguished Schools. Only 861 schools in the state of Georgia received such recognition.

"These schools have shown that high expectations, hard work and collaboration do improve student achievement," Georgia School Superintendent John Barge said. "I'm so pleased to recognize the educators, students and parents in these schools and school districts. These 868 schools could make excuses, but they don't. The teachers and students are focused and the consistent results prove it."

Title I schools have a significant population of students who are economically disadvantaged and receive federal money to assist with the education of these students. Georgia Title I Distinguished Schools have made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) at least three years in a row.

"Congratulations are very much in order for the students, staff, and parents of these five Newton County schools," said School Superintendent Gary Mathews. "I believe State Superintendent Barge really hit it on the head when he suggested that *'these schools could make excuses, but they don't!'* Each school has met the rising bar that is No-Child-Left-Behind, and has jumped over it time and time again, year after year. And, while students and parents play a big role in a child's education, clearly quality teaching matters! They have our thanks and admiration."

Title I schools making AYP for three consecutive years are awarded a certificate, while those who have made AYP four or more years receive a monetary award, paid for out of federal funds.

Newton County's schools and their awards are listed below:

School	Consecutive Years Making AYP	Years Distinguished	Award
West Newton	8	6	\$742
Heard-Mixon	8	6	\$742
Palmer-Stone	8	6	\$742
Rocky Plains	5	3	\$742
Oak Hill	3	1	Certificate

For more information, please contact Sherri Viniard, Director of Public Relations for Newton County Schools, at 770-784-2908.
