

**November 2, 2011**

### **THREE MORE SCHOOLS MAKE AYP AFTER CRCT RETESTS**

According to information just released by the Georgia Department of Education (GDOE), after tabulating CRCT (Criterion Referenced Competency Tests) retest scores, Live Oak, Livingston, and Middle Ridge elementary schools have made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for the 2010-2011 school year!

"Congratulations to our system's students and staff are in order, especially when you realize that we were predicted to have 19 schools miss AYP last year," said Newton County School Superintendent Gary Mathews. "Instead, we had only 7 miss AYP with Ficquett and Cousins, for example, missing AYP by less than one student given the calculations. A change in the No-Child-Left-Behind accountability system is certainly in order as it has really outlived its usefulness. Going forward, Georgia's new AYP proposal to the federal government--if approved-- will begin to focus less on minimum competency and more on college and career readiness. While challenging, I believe Georgia's new AYP emphasis promises to better serve students and their futures. It will require a greater emphasis on academic rigor, relevance, and relationships in our schools if we are to be successful. We are committed to such success."

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. Performance in several subgroups, including students with disabilities, the economic status of families, racial ethnicity, and limited English proficiency, is also analyzed. A school that does not meet 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.—even if the school as a whole meets the criteria.

After calculating the scores from the original spring 2011 testing period, this is what occurred in the AYP classification of these three schools. Live Oak Elementary School did not make AYP because of the performance of the black students' subgroup in math; Livingston Elementary School did not make AYP due to the performance of both the black and economically disadvantaged students' subgroups in math; and Middle Ridge Elementary did not make AYP as a result of the performance of the Students with Disabilities subgroup in English Language Arts/Reading.

Students who failed the math portion of the CRCT were offered remediation and the opportunity to retest and scores from these tests were then calculated by the state and included in the GDOE's final AYP report. With the retest scores included, Live Oak, Livingston, and Middle Ridge have now made AYP for the 2010-2011 school year. If Middle Ridge makes AYP for the 2011-2012 school year, it will be removed from the Needs Improvement List.

Now that these results are final, the list of Newton County schools not making AYP in 2010-2011 has been reduced from ten (excluding the charter school, which is an independent charter

school governed by a separate board of directors) to seven—Alcovy High School; Newton High School; Clements Middle School; Cousins Middle School; Oak Hill Elementary School; West Newton Elementary School; and Ficquett Elementary School, which is no longer in operation. Original predictions were that 19 Newton County schools would not make AYP under the 2010-2011 standards. (U.S. Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, had predicted that 83 percent of U.S. public schools would not earn AYP in 2010-2011.)

Although three more schools have made AYP, Newton County School System as a whole, did not make AYP in 2010-2011.

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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