

January 17, 2012

Liberty Middle School Receives State Award for Outstanding Student Achievement

Newton County School System is pleased to announce that Liberty Middle School has 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).

"Liberty teachers are outstanding with a record, now, well known by many," said Gary Mathews, Superintendent of Newton County Schools. "Principal Vic Lee and staff are truly serving students. This is a recognition we all can be very proud of. Congratulations to the students, staff, administration, and parents of LMS!"

According to the Governor's Office of Student Achievement website, award-winning schools must have met the following criteria, which are based on the results of the most recent two years of Criterion Referenced Competency Test (CRCT) (grades 1-8 in reading, English/language arts, math, social studies, and science). Criteria are based on Full Academic Year (FAY) students.

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
AYP Status	AYP for 3 consecutive years	AYP for 2 consecutive years	AYP for 2 consecutive years	No Needs Improvement status
Exceeds Standards	> 35% of students exceed standards	> 30% of students exceed standards	> 25% of students exceed standards	> 20% of students exceed standards
Meets + Exceeds Gain	98 th percentile of greatest gains	97 th percentile of greatest gains	96 th percentile of greatest gains	95 th percentile of greatest gains

(Information provided by Governor's Office of Student Achievement)

Liberty Middle School earned a Bronze Award for Greatest Gains, meaning the school has made AYP, is not in Needs Improvement Status, and also had more than 20 percent of students exceeding standards. In addition, the school also placed in the 95th percentile of greatest gains in the state.

"Congratulations to these 370 schools for their commitment to hard work and high academic standards," said Governor Deal. "The principals and teachers at these schools are to be commended for maintaining a focus on providing every student with a world-class education."

"I am pleased to recognize these schools for their continued focus on student achievement," added Bonnie Holliday, Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Student Achievement. "Congratulations to the students at these schools for their accomplishments and to the staff for their ongoing commitment to learning."
