THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE of STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

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327 Georgia Schools Awarded for Outstanding Achievement

K-12 Education Report Card Available

ATLANTA- GOSA Executive Director Kathleen Mathers and State Superintendent of Schools Kathy Cox announced today that 327 Georgia public schools are being recognized for improvement and achievement during the 2008-2009 school year. The schools are being recognized under Georgia's Single Statewide Accountability System (SSAS), which awards schools based on their performance on state curriculum exams and Adequate Yearly Progress status.

"Congratulations to the principals, teachers, parents and students at these 327 schools," said State Superintendent of Schools Kathy Cox. "Even in these very difficult economic times the schools we are awarding continue to have a no excuses attitude and are more focused than ever on the goal of providing a world-class education to every student."

The awards are being announced as part of the release of the 2008-2009 K-12 Public Schools Scoreboard and Report Card. The recognized schools will receive a congratulatory letter and a banner announcing the accomplishment.

"I am pleased to recognize these schools that are working hard to get great results," said Kathleen Mathers, Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Student Achievement (GOSA). "Congratulations to the students at these schools for achieving at impressive levels and to the staff for their commitment to helping children learn."

The schools are awarded on four levels -- Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze -- in two categories (see full criteria below):

- **Greatest gains**: Schools that showed the greatest improvement in scores on the Criterion-

Referenced Competency Tests (CRCT) or the Georgia High School Graduation Tests (GHSGT).

- **Highest performance**: Schools that demonstrated the highest achievement on the CRCT or GHSGT.

The Report Card, which features the SSAS awards, was developed by GOSA and provides bottom-line data for Georgia's preschools, K-12 schools, colleges and universities, technical colleges, and educator licensing and accreditation. It includes school, system, and state level reports organized into seven major sections: Accountability, Georgia Tests, National Tests, Indicators, Student and School Demographics, Personnel and Fiscal, and Comparisons.

The Governor's Office of Student Achievement provides accountability for all of Georgia's education system from Pre-Kindergarten to Post Secondary to drive improvement in student achievement and school completion through meaningful, transparent and objective analysis and communication of statewide data. To learn more about GOSA, please visit www.gaosa.org.

To access a complete list of 2008-2009 SSAS award winners, please visit www.gaosa.org

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