



## **Pine Street Elementary School Named 2011 Georgia School of Excellence**

Conyers, GA – Rockdale County Public Schools is proud to announce that Pine Street Elementary School has been named a Georgia School of Excellence by the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE). A press release sent by the GaDOE earlier today revealed that twenty-six schools received this honor. "These schools are showing that excellence can be achieved when they focus on providing a world-class education for their students," State Superintendent of Schools Dr. John Barge said. The Georgia Schools of Excellence are honored in two categories. One school from each Congressional District is chosen in each of the following categories:

- Top 10%: Schools that are in the top 10 percent of schools in Georgia as measured by assessments in reading and mathematics.

- Greatest Gains: Schools that demonstrated greatest continuous gains in student achievement for the past three years as measured by assessments in reading and mathematics. Pine Street Elementary was chosen in this category.

"Pine Street is truly excited about this announcement," says Principal Kim Vier. "Excellence is what we strive for each day. Being a Georgia School of Excellence is recognition of the hard work of our staff, students, and parents, and for that, we are truly honored."

Additionally, in order to be considered for the recognition, a school must:

1. Meet AYP for a minimum of three consecutive years
2. Meet or exceed state mean scores in Science and Social Studies (with the exception of K-2 schools, which do not test in this area)
3. Not be considered a "Persistently Dangerous School" under the Unsafe School Choice Option of No Child Left Behind
4. Offer a minimum of two AP courses (grades 9-12 only)
5. Be in existence for five years

Schools that have been recognized as a Georgia School of Excellence in the past five years are not eligible to win again **UNLESS** the only school or schools eligible to receive the honor in a certain district have won within the last five years.

If no schools qualify in a specific Congressional District, an award is not given.

"I congratulate Principal Kim Vier, the administrative staff, teachers, support staff, students, and parents for receiving this outstanding recognition," says Dr. Samuel King, superintendent of Rockdale County Public Schools. "This accomplishment is the result of a team approach for continuous improvement which centers on the individual needs of all students."

The Georgia Schools of Excellence will be honored at a banquet in February at the Georgia World Congress Center. For more information about the Georgia Schools of Excellence, please visit [www.gadoe.org](http://www.gadoe.org).

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