

For Immediate Release
01/18/2012

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**Heritage High School and Lorraine Elementary School
earn awards for student achievement**

Conyers, GA – Heritage High and Lorraine Elementary schools have been given 2010-2011 Single Statewide Accountability System (SSAS) awards from the Governor’s Office of Student Achievement.

Heritage earned the platinum award in the greatest gains category and the bronze award in the highest performance category. Lorraine earned the silver award in the highest performance category. “I am thrilled that our school is being recognized in two categories,” says Greg Fowler, principal of Heritage High School. “These awards are evidence that all students can learn and reach for their potential. Our students, teachers and support staff are to be commended for this outstanding accomplishment. I am honored to work with such a dedicated faculty and staff and I am extremely proud of our students.”

“Lorraine Elementary is excited to be recognized for highest performance again this year,” says Principal Dr. David Ray. “Our staff and parents are very proud of the hard work our students continue to put forth to achieve this prestigious award. This honor is a reflection of the teamwork between students, teachers, support staff and parents and everyone’s commitment to academic excellence.”

“Heritage and Lorraine are being recognized at the state level and deserve to be acknowledged for leading the district with exceptional student achievement,” says Superintendent Dr. Samuel King. “I congratulate the administrators, teachers, students, parents and staff who are dedicated to raising the academic bar so that every student has the opportunity to learn and thrive.”

These schools are being recognized under Georgia’s Single Statewide Accountability System (SSAS), which awards schools that show excellence in student achievement and/or progress in student achievement based on their performance on state curriculum exams and Adequate Yearly Progress status. 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 (GHS GT).

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

Award-winning schools must meet the following criteria, which are based on the results of the most recent two

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years of Criterion Referenced Competency Test (CRCT) (grades 1-8 in reading, English/language arts, math, social studies, and science) and/or the Georgia High School Graduation Test (GHSGT) (grade 11 first time test takers - English/language arts, math, science, and social studies).

Criteria are based on Full Academic Year (FAY) students. Both the CRCT and the GHSGT classify achievement in terms of the percent of students who a) do not meet standards, b) meet standards, and c) exceed standards.

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

Highest Performance 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% or more meet and exceed standards	97% or more meet and exceed standards	96% or more meet and exceed standards	95% or more meet and exceed standards

For more information about these awards, please visit the Governor's Office of Student Achievement web site at www.gaosa.org.

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