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student achievement
in Atlanta's public schools.

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Dear Friend,

We are happy to share a recent Atlanta Public Schools' press release regarding their Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) accomplishments. Have a great day!

APS Outperforms State Overall in AYP, Continuing its March to Close the Achievement Gap

ATLANTA - Nearly three-fourths of Atlanta Public Schools made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in 2008, outperforming the state of Georgia overall, even as standards were raised across the board.

According to the AYP results reported by the state of Georgia Friday, 73 percent of APS schools met the benchmark standard under the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law, compared to 69 percent of all Georgia public schools.

APS Superintendent Dr. Beverly L. Hall said Atlanta Public Schools continues to show measurable progress. "We have come a very long way, but we do have more to do until every student is learning at the highest levels."

Schools throughout Georgia struggled with the state's new performance standards and assessments in math at grades 3, 5, and 8. Eight APS elementary and eight middle schools did not make AYP this year because they did not meet the new math requirements.

Hall acknowledged those results, but noted that APS had anticipated the dip this year because of the higher math standards. She said APS is pleased that the state raised the bar, because the new global economy demands higher-level skills, and that APS had begun planning earlier this year for a ramped-up curriculum based on the higher standards. In order to meet those new standards, 2,000 APS teachers are participating in the nation's largest math and science professional development program with the assistance of the GE Foundation this summer, to rethink and retool the way they deliver math and science instruction.

As a result of this teacher training effort, APS anticipates much better results on the 2009 Criterion-Reference Competency Tests, which are used to measure compliance with the NCLB requirements.

In addition, seven APS schools that had not made AYP in 2007 did so this year. They are: middle schools Brown, Kennedy and Long, and high schools Grady, Therrell School of

Business and Entrepreneurship, Carver School of Health Sciences and South Atlanta School of Economic Empowerment.

"Overall, we are very pleased with this year's AYP results," said Hall. "Nearly three fourths of our schools met or exceeded the standard. The most important thing to take away from the AYP results is that the district continues to progress and student achievement continues to gain ground."

The district's 2008 AYP status designations and statistics are outlined below:

Number of Elementary Schools 58

Number that made AYP - 50

Percentage 86.2%

Number of Middle Schools 19

Number that made AYP - 11

Percentage 57.9%

Number of High Schools 18

Number that made AYP - 7

Percentage 38.9%

Number of Charter/

Non Traditional Schools 8

Number that made AYP - 7

Percentage 87.5%

Total Number of District's Schools 103

Number that made AYP - 75

Percentage 72.8%

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