



*Hancock County Board of Education*  
*"Schools: Where Everybody Is Somebody"*

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**\*\*\* PRESS RELEASE \*\*\***

**All Hancock County Schools Make AYP**

On Friday, July 25, 2008 the Georgia Department of Education announced that more than two-thirds of Georgia's public schools made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in 2008, despite more rigorous standards.

"Not only did all the academic measures of Adequate Yearly Progress go up this year, but we continued to raise the rigor of the work our students are doing, especially in mathematics," said State Superintendent of Schools Kathy Cox. "But even with the higher bar and the increased rigor, a majority of our schools met the mark."

Hancock County's public schools were included in the two-thirds of schools making Adequate Yearly Progress. M.E. Lewis Sr. Elementary, Hancock Central Middle and Hancock Central High schools all meet the criteria set forth by the state to make AYP. The Hancock County Schools were one of thirty-four school systems in the state to have all of its schools achieve AYP status. School administrators and officials say the system's success is the result of a tremendous amount of hard work by the students, teachers, principals, counselors, graduation coaches and parents. In spite of the progress made by students at Hancock Central High, the school must remain under the classification of "Needs Improvement" for another year due to the school's failure to make AYP during the 2006-2007 school year. This means that Hancock Central High School is required to offer school choice and Supplemental Educational Services (SES) to its students for another year.

Parents are encouraged to continue helping our schools in strengthening the academic achievement of all children by doing the following:

- Hold high expectations for your child.
- Support the school in its efforts to maintain proper discipline.
- Instill in your child a positive attitude toward school.
- Make sure that your child attends school regularly, arrives on time and has appropriate supplies.
- Communicate regularly with your child's teacher.

In the Hancock County School System, we are committed to continually seeking to improve instruction for our students. We hope that as a parent, you will become involved in our school improvement initiatives as we continue to monitor student achievement and set high expectations. We encourage you to get to know your child's teacher and the class routines and expectations. We are proud of the professional credentials of our teaching staff and will furnish to you, upon request, the professional qualifications of any of your children's classroom teachers.

If you have any questions concerning the Needs Improvement Status of Hancock Central High School, please call Mr. Isaac Cleveland, Principal of Hancock Central High School at 706-444-7009, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. If you have questions about the Hancock County Schools AYP status, school choice, or the SES program, contact the Hancock County Board of Education at 706-444-5775.