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July 19, 2010

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Eighty-Six Percent of Cobb Schools Make AYP **Three Middle Schools Removed From ‘Needs Improvement’**

A preliminary review of Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) data released today shows 95 of 110 Cobb County schools met the continually increasing academic standards. Just 14 percent of Cobb schools, compared to 29 percent of all schools statewide, did not make AYP. Three Cobb middle schools - Cooper, Griffin and Smitha – were removed from ‘Needs Improvement’ status entirely.

The 15 Cobb schools that fell short of meeting AYP are: Acworth, Compton, Powder Springs and Riverside Intermediate elementary schools; Lindley 6th Grade Academy, Barber, Campbell, and Tapp middle schools; and Campbell, Kell, McEachern, Oakwood, Osborne, Pebblebrook and South Cobb high schools.

With increased targets in math and graduation rates for 2010, just 71 percent of all Georgia schools made AYP, according to data released by the Georgia Department of Education. The state uses three areas to determine AYP. In test participation, 112 of 114 (98.2 percent) Cobb schools met requirements; in academic performance, 98 of 114 (86 percent) schools met the standards; and on the second indicator, either graduation rate or attendance, 110 of 114 (96.5 percent) schools met expectations.

Cobb County again did not make AYP as a district, despite having 86 percent of its component schools meet the NCLB benchmarks. The performance of specific student subgroups, particularly in high school Mathematics, continues to hinder Cobb and other large metropolitan school districts from reaching the benchmarks considered for district AYP status.

“It’s reassuring that 86 percent of our schools made AYP even in a year when targets increased,” said Superintendent Fred Sanderson. “We also continue to decrease the number of schools on the Needs Improvement list, and we are seeing real improvement in the number of students exceeding expectations. At the same time, we’ll continue to hone in on specific subgroups of students in an effort to get even more schools to positive AYP status and to improve our chances of making it as a district. Again, though, I will emphasize that just a handful of students can cause an entire school or district to fall short, which is why so few large, diverse school districts are able to make AYP.”

The District will analyze the complete AYP reports and provide further information, including individual school AYP data and choice options for schools in 'Needs Improvement' status, in the coming days. Updates will be made available on the District Web site at www.cobbk12.org.

NOTE: The state Department of Education will show a different total for AYP schools in Cobb County because the state requires four schools not under Cobb County School District management to be included with CCSD's AYP results. Two schools, the Devereux Center and the Imagine International Academy of Mableton, did not make AYP. Two other schools, Kennesaw Charter Science and Math Academy and Imagine International Academy of Smyrna, did make AYP.

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