



**Dr. John D. Barge, State School Superintendent**  
*“Making Education Work for All Georgians”*

## **2011 Georgia Schools of Excellence in Student Achievement Criteria**

Each year, the Georgia Department of Education identifies schools from each Congressional District as Georgia Schools of Excellence in Student Achievement. One public school from each Congressional District (26 schools) is chosen in each of the following two categories:

### **Categories:**

- 1) **Top 10%** Schools, regardless of demographics, that are in the **top 10 percent** of schools in Georgia as measured by assessments in reading and mathematics in at least the last grade tested  
*(eligible for possible consideration as a national NCLB-Blue Ribbon School nominee)*
- 2) **Greatest Gains in Congressional District-** Schools, regardless of demographics, that demonstrate **greatest continuous gains** in student achievement for the past three years as measured by assessments in reading and mathematics *(criteria category for NCLB Blue Ribbon School is different – it includes demographics).*

### **Additional Criteria:**

- Meet AYP for minimum of three consecutive years
- Meet or exceed state mean scores in Science and Social Studies (with the exception of K-2 schools that do not test in these areas.)
- Not be considered a “Persistently Dangerous School” under the Unsafe School Choice Option of No Child Let Behind
- Offer a minimum of two AP courses offered (grades 9-12 only)
- Schools must be in existence for five years
- Not under any type of state investigation within the last year

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.