

# Forsyth schools at the top

by Jennie Duncan  
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The state of Georgia presents accountability awards to schools that demonstrate highest performance levels in student achievement and/or largest gains in student achievement as compared to all 2,100 schools in Georgia.

Overall, seventeen Forsyth County Schools were recognized for a total of nineteen total Accountability Awards for Achievement.

In 2006, Forsyth County Schools were presented with eleven Accountability Awards.

The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation has spurred Georgia to adopt a Single Statewide Accountability System (SSAS) which recognizes and rewards schools for their academic performance

The highest award level, Platinum, is given to schools who have Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for three consecutive years, have more than 35% of students exceed standards, and are in the 98th percentile of greatest gains. Forsyth County Schools is exceedingly proud to announce that Riverwatch Middle School was given a Platinum Award for FCS Highest Performance Award Winner.

Two Forsyth County Schools were awarded in both the Highest Performance Award and the Greatest Gains Award categories: Liberty Middle School and South Forsyth Middle School.

This year marks the first time that Georgia has recognized a high school in Forsyth County. South Forsyth High School was honored as one of only 30 high schools in Georgia in the Highest Performance category.

State School Superintendent Kathy Cox and Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Student Achievement Jennifer Rippner visited Liberty Middle and South Forsyth Middle on Oct. 29 to present their awards.

Liberty Middle School's Principal Cindy Salloum said, "Liberty's test scores are a reflection of the hard work and commitment to excellence by our students and staff."

Debbie Sarver, Principal of South Forsyth Middle School, stated how gratified and honored she is to accept this award on behalf of her school.

"We are very proud of the outstanding performance of our students, faculty and the South Forsyth Community."

Both principals credit the Forsyth County School System's support, parents, staff, and the community, with winning these prestigious accomplishments. School Superintendent Paula Gault acknowledged that Georgia "is increasing rigor with new performance standards," making the achievements all the more commendable.

"These schools have worked diligently to get these results and deserve all the credit," said Gault.

Deputy Superintendent Evans is also delighted with Forsyth Schools' triumphs.

"Forsyth County Schools has once again set the bar for excellence in education. It proves that a focus on standards combined with extraordinary team effort results in great performance for our students."



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