



# BARROW COUNTY SCHOOLS

*"World class education, hometown values"*

## **PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**November 2, 2011**

## **Barrow County Schools Amended 2010-2011 AYP Results Russell Middle School and Statham Elementary School Meet AYP!**

The State Department of Education has released new information concerning school systems across the state of Georgia and their designation as having met Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) or not. The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) requires that information concerning public school performance be released to the public.

State law requires schools to administer Criterion Referenced Competency Tests (CRCT) to all students in grades 1-8 in the spring of each year. The CRCT is designed to measure how well students know the state's curriculum. CRCT scores are used for AYP determinations at the elementary and middle school level. They are also used to determine student promotion or retention. In grades 3, 5 & 8, students must meet standards to be promoted. Third grade students must meet standards in reading on the CRCT. Fifth and eighth grades students must meet standards in both reading and mathematics. If a student does not meet standards on the CRCT in reading and/or mathematics, they are offered accelerated, additional, and/or differentiated instruction. After receiving accelerated, additional, and/or differentiated instruction, students have an opportunity to take the CRCT for a second time. For the fourth year, Georgia is including these re-test results in the AYP determinations.

The amended Adequate Yearly Progress Report for Barrow County Schools reflects positive results. The report indicates that Russell Middle School and Statham Elementary School met AYP based on the attendance, academic performance and the number of students who participated in standardized testing. The positive re-test scores also resulted in Russell Middle School and Statham Elementary School being placed in *Distinguished* status.

Mac Almond, Principal of Statham Elementary School, says, "The teachers and paraprofessionals of Statham Elementary, working with the support of many wonderful parents, have given heart and soul and hope to each and every child at Statham Elementary. These efforts are reflected in the successful learning experiences of our students. I am proud of our teachers and our students." Rob Johnson, Principal of Russell Middle School, states, "We are excited about the new results of our AYP status. The results help to reinforce our school wide efforts to

provide the best possible instruction for all students. As a staff, Russell Middle School is committed to continuous improvement in an effort to be the best school we can be.”

Overall, these results mean that three middle schools met AYP and all eight elementary schools met AYP. Additionally, at the system level, Barrow County Schools met all academic goals. All of the schools increased their results in many areas. Each school’s AYP report is available on the Georgia Department of Education website. <http://public.doe.k12.ga.us/ayp2010/search.asp>