

Press Release

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District Three Schools Bring Home Silver and Gold Awards

Five District Three schools have earned recognition for academic achievement in 2010. Cannons Elementary School received the Palmetto Gold award, while Cowpens Elementary School, Pacolet Elementary School, Cowpens Middle School and Middle School of Pacolet all received Palmetto Silver awards. Pacolet Elementary School is also the recipient of a Gold "Closing the Achievement Gap" Award. High school and technology center scores have not yet been announced.

In its tenth year, the Palmetto Gold and Silver awards program was created for schools attaining high levels of absolute performance, high rates of growth, and substantial progress in closing achievement gaps between groups of students.

Schools received general awards for overall performance based on both the absolute and growth ratings and the growth index found on State Report Cards. These ratings are determined by PASS scores for elementary and middle schools. For high schools, the ratings are based on high school exit exam results, graduation rate, and percentage of students passing End-of-Course tests.

Schools received "Closing the Achievement Gap awards based on academic gains made by students who fall into four subgroups -- African American students, Hispanic students, students participating in federal free or reduced-price lunch programs and students with non-speech disabilities.

Schools honored for general performance receive a certificate and award flag, while those recognized for closing achievement gaps receive a certificate. Dr. Jim Ray, superintendent, said, "These awards are a testimony to the hard work of our students, teachers and principals!"