



Muscogee County School District

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For Immediate Release

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NEWS RELEASE

State Applies for *Race to the Top* Federal Grant MCSD 1 of 22 Georgia School Districts to Participate

(Columbus, GA)-The Muscogee County School District (MCSD) is one of 22 districts in the state that will participate in the state's *Race to the Top* plan to help compensate and retain teachers and leaders.

"I strongly believe that Georgia needs a compensation system that identifies, motivates, rewards, and retains effective teachers and principals," said Governor Sonny Perdue.

The governor recently asked for feedback from teachers and school administrators to help form the state's *Race to the Top* plan and over 20,000 responded. *Race to the Top* is an unprecedented competitive federal grant opportunity for states who wish to improve student achievement by implementing plans in four specific areas--the most important of which is developing, compensating, and retaining great teachers and leaders," added Perdue. "Building on the responses we received to this survey, I will propose legislation this year that truly rewards excellence in education."

The governor proposes legislation that will require the State Board of Education to adopt a common evaluation tool for school districts across the state to help ensure Georgia teachers receive a fair and comparable evaluation. Under the plan, quantitative and qualitative methods measure teacher effectiveness. As a result, overall teacher effectiveness determines compensation with fifty-percent of a teacher's performance measured on the academic progress of students.

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According to Perdue, enhancements to the current salary structure in Georgia will add a performance-based compensation system for all new teachers, and any existing teachers who choose this option. The existing salary schedule will remain in place for those teachers who would prefer it. The enhancements to the statewide compensation system will not take effect until 2014.

For more information, e-mail communications@mcsdga.net.

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