



NEWS RELEASE

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GCPS recognized for environmental stewardship and cost-effective practices

A national organization which works to promote sustainable and environmentally responsible planning and construction of buildings recently took notice of the conservation practices by **Gwinnett County Public Schools (GCPS)** and its facilities, presenting Georgia's largest school district with the "2011 Leadership in Energy Efficiency Award" from the USGBC (United States Green Building Council - Georgia Chapter). Georgia's Lt. Governor Casey Cagle presented the district with the national recognition during the "High Performance, Healthy Schools Regional Summit" held at the Georgia World Congress Center, November 3-4, 2011.



GCPS Facility Planning Staff Architect Greg Pruitt accepts the Leadership in Energy Efficiency Award on behalf of the school district from Georgia Lt. Governor Casey Cagle

Gwinnett County Public Schools was selected from among Georgia's school districts due to the system's efforts to meet the highest standards in building and operating facilities that are resource -- water and energy -- efficient. Examples of such efficiency are the district's ENERGY STAR certified schools, and the use of waterless urinals, among others. More than 100 of Gwinnett's eligible schools are ENERGY STAR certified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for superior energy performance. With more than 21 million square feet of ENERGY STAR certified areas, GCPS leads the nation for K-12 certified building space, saving \$8.4 million in operating costs annually systemwide. In addition, the school district operates over 2,800 waterless urinals saving 1 to 5 gallons of water per use, reducing consumption and saving wastewater treatment capacity.

The USGBC award further validates the district's commitment to designing, constructing, maintaining, and operating environmentally responsible and cost-effective facilities. Gwinnett County Public Schools plans to continue improving resource efficiency by managing strategically across the entire organization to identify and make cost-effective improvements.

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is to pursue excellence in academic knowledge, skills, and behavior for each student, resulting in measured improvement against local, national, and world-class standards.

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It is the policy of Gwinnett County Public Schools not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, or disability in any employment practice, educational program, or any other program, activity, or service.

2010 Winner of



Representatives from more than 25 public school districts, private schools, and higher education institutions were present at this year's High Performance, Healthy Schools Regional Summit. Participants learned about green schools through workshops on energy efficiency, water efficiency, indoor air quality, recycling and waste management, and environmental integrated curriculum.