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Heading: Fourth District Elementary School Receives National Award for Student Achievement

On Friday morning, November 12, Dr. Lynn Overstreet, Principal/Consultant of Fourth District Elementary School, received a welcomed phone call from Mrs. Dale Sellers, Title I Director for Appling County, informing him that Fourth District had been chosen to receive the National Title I Distinguished School Award. The unsolicited, prestigious, and highly prized award for sustained student achievement is one of only two presented in the state of Georgia. Students, faculty, and staff were jubilant when the announcement was made.

The National Title I Distinguished School Program is a project of the National Title I Association and provides an opportunity for Title I schools from every state to be recognized publicly for their positive educational achievements. Each state's Title I Director selects two schools for national recognition in one of two categories: schools exceeding adequate yearly progress (AYP) for two or more years, or schools that significantly close the achievement gap between the school's student groups. Each school, additionally, must exhibit exemplary school effectiveness, must have a poverty rate of at least 34%, and must demonstrate high academic achievement for two or more consecutive years. Fourth District is being recognized in the first category. Selected schools are honored each year at the annual National Title I Conference which, for this award, will be held in Tampa, Florida, in January 2011. A monetary award accompanies the recognition to defray expenses associated with attending the recognition ceremony. Plans are underway now for faculty members to attend this gala event and share with other nationally-recognized, distinguished schools the beliefs, plans, and processes that Fourth District Elementary School utilizes each day to ensure that our students receive the best possible education in a caring, nurturing environment.

Dr. Overstreet extends his heartfelt appreciation to the students, faculty, and staff for making Fourth District the symbol of excellence in Appling County, the state of Georgia, and the nation. All of you are deserving of this unrivaled honor, and each one can now reflect on his or her contributions to the success of Fourth District and on ways to ensure that the school continues its legacy of achievement for those students who are fortunate to attend.

