

Jefferson County Board of Education Named a GSBA School Board of Distinction

The Jefferson County Board of Education was one of six school boards in the state to be named a Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA) "School Board of Distinction." The award was given at the association's annual conference held in Atlanta on December 4-5, 2009. The Board of Distinction designation is given to boards that achieve the following:

- Are in compliance with GSBA Standards for Local Boards of Education
- Have implemented the GSBA Board/Leadership Team Self Assessment Checklist
- Have formalized the superintendent evaluation incorporating district goals
- Have, a web link to the local district's policy manual that is posted to the Internet
- Have a copy of, or a web link to, the board's goal-setting model and a listing of the district's goals
- Have a web link to postings of monthly board meeting agendas
- Have a stated plan to integrate technology at the governance level of the local district

Carl Bethune, Superintendent, noted: "Our board works hard to be as transparent as possible in conducting the business of educating our children. Over the past few years we have instituted a "paperless" system where all business is tied to the school system website for the public to see at all times. We work closely with the Georgia School Superintendent Association (GSSA) and GSBA for technical support and garnering information on best practices. I am proud to be associated with the fine group of people who make up our board of education. They work tirelessly to provide the best education possible for the children of Jefferson County".

Currently, only 69 out of the 180 local boards of education in Georgia have obtained the Board of Distinction status. Participation in the GSBA Standards for Local Boards of Education and the Board of Distinction program is voluntary. The Standards program sets benchmarks of organizational structure and governance objectives for local boards of education that wish to participate in the program. Details on the Standards and the Board of Distinction are available on GSBA's website: www.gsba.com.

GSBA is a voluntary association of Georgia's 180 local boards of education. It provides programs training and services to assist boards in governing local school systems.