



On November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013, The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) released the list of 2013 Reward and Alert Schools as part of the state's waiver from the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).

**Towns County Middle School** was pleased to find that it had made both Title 1 Reward School lists for Highest-Performing School and High-Progress School in the 2013 school year. This is more great news as it comes just on the heels of being named a 2012 Georgia School of Excellence just a mere 3 months ago.

Principal, Dr. Darren Berrong, explained that only Title 1 schools in Georgia are eligible for these awards. Schools must have a minimum of 50% of their student's eligible for free or reduced lunch based on household income to be able to apply for Title 1 status. Roughly 60% of TCMS students qualify this year. In the 2012-2013 school year, there were 1,598 Title 1 schools in the state of Georgia that were eligible for one of the awards.

A **“High-Progress School”** is a Title I school among the 10% of Title I schools in the State that is making the most progress in improving the performance of the “all students” group over three years on the statewide assessments. Dr. Berrong also explained that there were 153 schools named for making the High-Progress list. There were 56 middle schools in Georgia on that list of 153 schools with TCMS being one of them.

A **“Highest-Performing School”** is a Title I school among the 5% of Title I schools in the State that has the highest absolute performance over three years for the “all students” group on the statewide assessments. There were only 77 schools on this list and more impressively only 11 were middle schools. Just like the schools of Excellence list, TCMS was up against elementary, middle, and high schools for these achievements. The majority of the 77 schools named Highest-Performing were elementary schools.

After analyzing both lists only two schools out of 77 made the cut in both categories, Towns County Middle School and The Early College High School at Carver (an Atlanta Public School). This is a true testament as to how hard the teachers, staff, and students have worked in an effort to achieve true academic success.

This of all schools and more information about Georgia Reward Schools can be found at the following URL.

<http://www.gadoe.org/External-Affairs-and-Policy/communications/Pages/PressReleaseDetails.aspx?PressView=default&pid=142>