

Dooly County School System honored by the Georgia Department of Education

MEDIA CONTACT: Vienna News Observer

June 27, 2013- Vienna - The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) is honoring Dooly County Elementary School, Dooly County Middle School and Dooly County High School for reaching a high level of student participation in the School Nutrition Program. During the 2011-2012 school year 74.4 percent of students in attendance in Georgia schools ate **lunch** each day and 36.2 percent ate **breakfast**. This participation is amongst the highest in the nation. Schools that earned this distinction generally share two common characteristics: (1) administrators, faculty, and staff who support and participate in the program and who see the program as enhancing the learning process; and (2) many of these schools offer a wide variety of menu choices daily, allowing students a greater opportunity to select a nutritionally complete meal that they enjoy.

Dooly County Elementary School was awarded a certificate of accomplishment from the GaDOE to acknowledge the school's success in achieving a breakfast participation rate of 59% and above and a lunch participation rate of 85% and above.

Dooly County Middle School was awarded a certificate of accomplishment from the GaDOE to acknowledge the school's success in achieving a breakfast participation rate of 46% and above and a lunch participation rate of 89% and above.

Dooly County High School was awarded a certificate of accomplishment from the GaDOE to acknowledge the school's success in achieving a breakfast participation rate of 34% and above and a lunch participation rate of 72% and above.

“This recognition is a wonderful way to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the members of our nutrition staff and faculty,” said Lisa Bryant, School Nutrition Director. “We are motivated to work harder in achieving our goals of serving more students the nutritious meals they deserve. However, our aim is to not only serve nutritious meals; but also to educate our students towards habits of healthy choices. Nutrition education is the key to developing healthy eating habits for a lifetime.”

We have implemented several things that have impacted our breakfast and lunch participation. Some of them are: providing every child with an English/Spanish monthly menu and newsletter, getting feedback from students at each school, asking all faculty and staff members to encourage students to eat breakfast and lunch, and attending food shows to see what food items are new and popular.

Schools across the state are recognized for achieving above average participation. Schools were selected based on the following percentages of student participation:

School Type	Recognition Level: Breakfast	State Average Participation
Elementary	≥ 59%	45%
Middle	≥ 46%	35%
High	≥ 34%	26%
PreK-12/Other	≥ 60%	52%

School Type	Recognition Level: Lunch	State Average Participation
Elementary	≥ 85%	81%
Middle	≥ 89%	81%
High	≥ 72%	63%
PreK-12/Other	≥ 80%	76%

“The Dooly County School Nutrition Program is an equal opportunity provider.”