State Superintendent Visits Jefferson Parish to Reward District for Increasing Student Achievement

Louisiana Department of Education
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BATON ROUGE, La. – Today, State Superintendent of Education John White visited Jefferson Parish to present a check for nearly $230,000 to Jefferson Parish Public Schools Superintendent Dr. James Meza Jr. to recognize 27 schools in the district for their dedication to increasing student achievement and earning the Top Gains School designation for the 2011-2012 school year.

“We applaud these schools for their dedication to increasing student achievement,” said State Superintendent of Education John White. “It’s a privilege to be able to celebrate that achievement by rewarding them with additional funding to sustain this momentum.”

“I want to congratulate each of these schools for the work they have done in the past year,” said Superintendent Dr. James Meza, Jr. “We are proud of the progress they have made, and we are confident that these schools will work hard to maintain this momentum as we strive to provide a world-class education for all of our children.

For the 2011-2012 school year, 440 schools in the state earned the Top Gains School designation. Top Gains Schools improved their School Performance Score by or beyond a pre-determined growth target, from 2 to 10 points. Each school will receive $8,453 to be used for educational purposes.

“We are honored to have received this reward,” said Julie Berner, principal at J.C. Ellis Elementary School. “It reflects the commitment of our teachers to providing the best teaching and learning environment for our children and our pride as a school in the success of our children.”

“Our students and parents have high expectations for success, and our faculty and staff work diligently every day to meet those expectations,” said George Hebert, Jr., principal of Fisher Middle and High School. Hebert says the school plans to use its award to support the school’s move toward full implementation of the Common Core State Standards.

Another Top Gains school, Judge Lionel R. Collins Montessori, plans to build a high-tech computer lab with the funds from this award.

“At Lionel Collins Montessori, we work collaboratively to impact student achievement,” said Principal Esther Pollard of Lionel Collins Montessori. “The computer lab will help us continue to foster a culture of high student achievement by providing teachers, students, and our community members with an integral resource.”

About Top Gains Schools
This year 440 schools in the state earned the Top Gains School designation. Top Gains Schools improved their School Performance Score by or beyond a pre-determined growth target, from 2 to 10 points, and will receive $8,453 each for educational purposes within the school. For a complete listing of 2011-2012 Top Gains Schools, please click here.

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