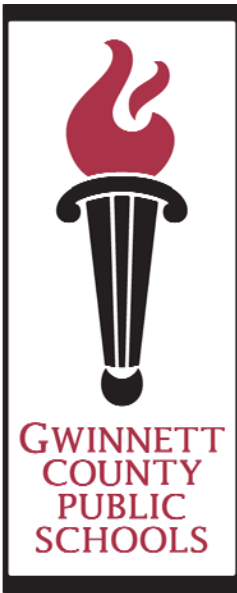


# NEWS RELEASE



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**THE MISSION OF  
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PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
*is to pursue excellence  
in academic knowledge,  
skills, and behavior  
for each student,  
resulting in measured  
improvement against  
local, national, and  
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It is the policy of Gwinnett County Public Schools  
not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex,  
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other program, activity, or service.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** September 24, 2008

*Contact: Communication and Media Relations, 678-301-6020*

## **PSAT scores qualify nine Gwinnett seniors for National Achievement Scholarship Program**

A group of nine **Gwinnett County Public Schools (GCPS)** students qualify for national scholarships worth some \$2.6 million. They were named semifinalists for the National Achievement Scholarship Program, founded to honor and provide scholarships to academically promising Black students.

The high school seniors qualified for the program due to each student's high achievement on the 2007 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), the initial step which identified the academically talented students when they took the test as juniors. More than 150,000 high school juniors from across the nation requested to be considered for the 2009 National Achievement Scholarship Program when they took the PSAT. Out of the 150,000 test-takers who asked to be considered, 1,600 were designated as semifinalists after having the highest scores.

The nine high school seniors represent seven different Gwinnett high schools including **Brookwood High; Central Gwinnett High; Collins Hill High; Dacula High; North Gwinnett High; Peachtree Ridge High; and Shiloh High.**

This year's Gwinnett semifinalists are:

- **Cameron T. Askew** – Brookwood High
- **Briana D. Campbell** – Dacula High
- **Ariel R. Ford** – Peachtree Ridge High
- **Steven Lewis** – Collins Hill High
- **Cassandra A. Maafah** – Brookwood High
- **Nathan Yohannes** – Central Gwinnett High
- **Ariel A. Young** – Dacula High
- **Leah L. White** – North Gwinnett High
- **Amaris N. Williams** – Shiloh High

These academically talented students now have the opportunity to advance to the finalist level of the competition. All Achievement Scholarship winners are selected from that finalist group on the basis of their abilities, accomplishments, and potential for success in college. To be considered for finalist status, they must fill out a detailed application, present a record of high academic performance throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by the school principal, and earn SAT scores that confirm the PSAT/NMSQT performance.

*--More--*

The considerable amount of information collected about each finalist will be used in the selection of scholarship winners who will receive one of 800 Achievement Scholarship awards, all worth a total of \$2.6 million.

*Winners will be announced in spring of 2009. For more information, contact the National Achievement Scholarship Corporation at (847) 866-5100.*