

NEWS RELEASE

Newton County School System Launches Pearson Centerpoint Student Information System

Centerpoint Helps Growing Georgia District's Teachers, Administrators and Parents Improve Student Achievement

COVINGTON, Ga., & MESA, Ariz. – April 25, 2006 – A rapidly growing school district, Newton County School System announced today that it has selected Pearson Centerpoint as its real-time, Web-based student information and performance management system to serve its more than 17,000 students.

Newton County, a racially diverse district located 33 miles southeast of Atlanta, has experienced an eight-year period of growth. Never has it been so vital for the district's educators to have centralized access to student data that can also be easily shared with students and parents.

RaNae Sims, Newton County School System director of Student Services, said her district was seeking a comprehensive program that administrators, teachers, parents and students could access through the Web. "Centerpoint provides one-stop shopping, which is important because we aren't staffed to manage separate pieces of software," said Sims. Newton County School System had previously used Pearson SASI, a server-based student information system, "and we always received excellent service," she said. "It just made sense to stay with Pearson School Systems to meet our growing needs."

Combining all aspects of a student information system, including attendance, grading and scheduling with key functions such as skills reporting, standards tracking, and an assessment engine, Centerpoint optimizes school and student management in the district's 19 schools. It allows administrators, teachers, parents and students to work together toward maximum student performance – a long-held value in this district.

Despite the district's socioeconomic challenges – with 47 percent of its students qualifying for free/reduced lunch – Newton County students consistently score above state averages on standardized achievement tests. The average SAT score has topped the state and national average for the past four years, while the dropout rate has been reduced

to well below the state average. Newton County students are recognized at the state and national level for excellence in academics, athletics, the arts and extra-curricular activities.

“As we continue our relationship with Newton County School System, we look forward to meeting the information management needs of this growing school district,” said Mike Evans, president, Pearson School Systems. “We always learn a lot from our customers and this Georgia district has taught us a great deal about how effective management of student information can improve student achievement.”

About Pearson School Systems

Pearson School Systems (PSS) is changing the face of K-12 student performance and information management through its offering of tightly integrated, mission-critical district enterprise solutions. Through its innovative, digital solutions, PSS is dedicated to helping schools perform and students succeed. Its product lineup includes SASI, the comprehensive student information system; Pearson Centerpoint, the multi-platform, Web-based student information and performance management system; CIMS[®], the comprehensive finance, human resources, and student information system; Pearson Inform, the achievement data analysis and decision support tool; and Pearson Benchmark, the customizable, Web-based district benchmark testing solution. Pearson School Systems is a business of Pearson Education, the world’s leading integrated education company, which in turn is a part of Pearson, the international media company. For more information, please visit: www.pearsonschoolsystems.com.

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