



STATE OF ALABAMA  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**



Joseph B. Morton  
 State Superintendent  
 of Education

Alabama  
 State Board  
 of Education

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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Governor Bob Riley  
 President

**NATIONAL SURVEY SAYS 24 ALABAMA SCHOOLS KNOW  
 “WHAT PARENTS WANT”**

Randy McKinney  
 District I  
 President Pro Tem

**MONTGOMERY, AL** — Twenty-four Alabama public school systems have been nationally recognized by *SchoolMatch*'s 15<sup>th</sup> annual “What Parents Want Award.” These awards are presented to only 2,504 of America’s 15,573 public school districts for making noteworthy strides to meet the needs of their communities.

Betty Peters  
 District II

*SchoolMatch*, the nation’s largest school selection consulting firm, helps corporate employee families find schools that match the needs of their children. The majority of Alabama’s recognized school systems have consistently received the “What Parents Want Award” for most of the last decade.

Stephanie W. Bell  
 District III

Dr. Ethel H. Hall  
 District IV  
 Vice President  
 Emerita

The award, which originated in 1992, recognizes systems that meet standards of excellence in seven criteria:

Ella B. Bell  
 District V

- Competitive academic test scores
- Accreditation
- Recognition for excellence by a national foundation or the U.S. Department of Education
- Competitive teacher salaries
- Above (national) average instructional expenditures
- Above (national) average expenditures for library/media services
- Small class sizes

David F. Byers, Jr.  
 District VI

Sandra Ray  
 District VII  
 Vice President

A collection of over 95,000 parent questionnaires completed by *SchoolMatch* clients reveals that the seven items are the qualities parents most often look for in school systems. Only secondary schools are eligible for this distinction since parents usually try to find school systems that produce quality high school graduates. The systems were judged using auditable information gathered annually state-by-state from sources including county assessors, county auditors, state taxing authorities, and state departments of education.

Dr. Mary Jane Caylor  
 District VIII

Joseph B. Morton  
 Secretary and  
 Executive Officer

An April 1, 2006, survey of the twenty-two field *SchoolMatch* Public School Database revealed that only 16% of the nation’s public schools consistently provide ‘What Parents Want’ in public education. The 24 Alabama school systems receiving the 2006 What Parents Want Awards are listed on the following page. For more information about *SchoolMatch*, contact Vice President William R. Mason Jr. at (614) 890-1573 or visit the Web site at [www.schoolmatch.com](http://www.schoolmatch.com).

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SCHOOL SYSTEM	TOTAL YEARS	YEARS RECOGNIZED
Arab City	11	1996-2006
Athens City	11	1996-2006
Auburn City	11	1996-2006
Baldwin County	7	1998 and 2001-2006
Daleville City	12	1995-2006
Decatur City	12	1995-2006
Dothan City	9	1998-2006
Enterprise City	12	1995-2006
Florence City	12	1995-2006
Hartselle City	11	1996-2006
Homewood City	13	1992 and 1995-2006
Hoover City	11	1996-2006
Huntsville City	13	1994-2006
Jacksonville City	3	2004-2006
Jefferson County	10	1992 and 1998-2006
Madison County	9	1998-2006
Mobile County	9	1998-2006
Mountain Brook City	15	1992-2006
Muscle Shoals City	12	1995-2006
Ozark City	11	1996-2006
Shelby County	9	1998-2006
Trussville City	1	2006
Tuscaloosa City	11	1996-2006
Vestavia Hills City	13	1992 and 1995-2006

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