

Huntsville City Schools Selected for "What Parents Want Award"

Huntsville City Schools is one of 25 Alabama public school systems to be nationally recognized by *SchoolMatch*'s 18th annual "What Parents Want Award." These awards are presented to only 2,436 of America's 15,571 public school districts for making noteworthy strides to meet the needs of their communities. For Huntsville City Schools, this is the 16th straight year to receive this award. The award, which originated in 1992, recognizes systems that meet standards of excellence in seven criteria:

- 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

An April 1, 2009, search of the twenty-two field *SchoolMatch*® Database revealed that only 16% of the nation's public schools consistently provide "What Parents Want" in public education. Corporations and consumers use *SchoolMatch*® when moving across town, upgrading residences, relocating to a new area, when negotiating child custody issues and for general information about schools.

A collection of over 97,000 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.

For more information about *SchoolMatch*, visit the Website at www.schoolmatch.com.