



# Muscogee County School District

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## **For Immediate Release**

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Fort Service Learning Academy Wins 2016 Family-Friendly Partnership Award**

(Columbus, GA)—Fort Service Learning Academy is one of six schools in Georgia and the only school in the Muscogee County School District (MCSD) to earn the 2016 [Georgia Family-Friendly Partnership](#) school award. Winners are selected annually based on best customer service and family engagement efforts in education.

Sonja Coaxum, the proud principal of Fort Service Learning Academy, says, “Our faculty and staff are grounded in the belief that parents send us their very best and in return we must work hard every day, in unity, with our parents to give them our very best to help ensure that all students receive an excellent education.”

According to the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE), each school is required to be a Title I school and cannot be a Priority or Focus School under the state’s Elementary and Secondary Education Act Waiver (ESEA) waiver. Applicants described the family engagement programs in their schools. The applications were reviewed by a team of representatives from the GaDOE, the Georgia Association of Educators (GAE), Voices for Georgia’s Children, and the State School Superintendent’s Parent Advisory Council. Nine finalists were selected and members of the Review Team made surprise visits to each school posing as parents looking for information or assistance. In addition, walkthroughs were scheduled for each school and interviews were conducted with school staff, parents, students, and community members.

“When schools work in partnership with parents and families, students succeed,” said Richard Woods, State Superintendent.

Superintendent Woods plans to visit Fort Service Learning Academy to present a plaque and welcome mat for the front entrance of the school in the fall.

For more information, contact [communications@muscogee.k12.ga.us](mailto:communications@muscogee.k12.ga.us) or [Fort Service Learning Academy](#), (706) 569-3740.

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