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Thursday May 10, 2007

NEWS

School districts honored for making yearly progress

List includes eight from Broome, Tioga

By [George Basler](#)
Press & Sun-Bulletin

Eight school districts in Broome and eastern Tioga counties have received state recognition for increasing student achievement and meeting state standards.

The districts have been named "high performing/gap closing" school districts by the state Education Department under the provisions of the No Child Left Behind Act, a federal law designed to improve student performance and school accountability.

Officials with the Broome-Tioga Board of Cooperative Educational Services released the list Wednesday.

The Broome and Tioga districts are among 288 public school districts statewide -- out of 684 districts that were eligible -- to receive the designation, said Jonathan Burman, a spokesman for the state Education Department.

Local districts on the list are Chenango Forks, Chenango Valley, Johnson City, Maine-Endwell, Newark Valley, Owego-Apalachin, Vestal and Windsor. Fifteen public school districts operate in Broome and eastern Tioga counties.

The recognition is an acknowledgement of the hard work put in by teachers and students, said Windsor Superintendent Jason Andrews, adding, "We're extremely pleased with the recognition." Chenango Valley Superintendent Carmen Ciullo also named staff and student dedication as the reason the district is on the list.

To be recognized, a district had to meet state standards for English and math during the 2005-06 school year and make "adequate yearly progress" in those two subjects plus science and graduation rates the past two years, state officials said. The schools also had to have at a minimum of 30 students enrolled in at least three accountability groups, including all students, five racial ethnic groups, students with disabilities and low-income students.

What the schools on the list have in common is that most of their students were proficient, and all disaggregated groups made adequate yearly progress for two consecutive years, Burman said.



WAYNE HANSEN / Press & Sun-Bulletin

Katharine Kennedy, a Johnson City High School math teacher, goes over a Math 11 Trigonometry test with junior Lane Luangxay on Wednesday. Johnson City was one of eight local school districts named "high performance/gap closing" by the state Education Department.

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This designation really means that some failing schools are not as bad as they were previously. Was this article politically motivated? It is very incomplete. Which area schools are still on the failing school list? What about the area's largest school system?

Posted by: **freedom** on Thu May 10, 2007 7:06 am

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