

MEDIA RELEASE

South Fayette Township School District

2250 Old Oakdale Road

Phone: 412-221-4542 ext. 421

e-mail: belcher@southfayette.org

McDonald, PA 15057-2580

Fax: 724-693-2883

www.southfayette.org

Contact: Shelly Belcher, Public Relations

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 6, 2005

South Fayette Earns Statewide Recognition for Outstanding Achievement

South Fayette Township, PA – As part of the independent research they provide on school district's across the nation, Standard & Poor's has created an analytic website (www.SchoolMatters.com) that evaluates academic, financial, and demographic indicators and trends, provides valuable comparative benchmarks, and presents its impartial findings on the performance of schools.

S&P has recently released its data regarding school performance of the 719 "districts" throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, including all school districts, vocational-technical schools, charter schools and cyber charter schools in the state. In overall district performance of Reading and Math Proficiency, South Fayette ranked 8th out of 719 schools. (Districts ranked higher were: Central Bucks School District, Bucks County; Lower Moreland School District, Montgomery County; Upper St. Clair School District, Allegheny County; Peters Township School District, Washington County; Mt. Lebanon School District, Allegheny County; Tredyffrin-Easttown School District, Chester County; and Unionville-Chadds Ford School District, Chester County.)

Of the group identified above, South Fayette is the second smallest school district (1,794 students) with only Lower Moreland having smaller enrollment (1,696). The remaining districts have considerably higher enrollments ranging from 3,796 (Peters Township) to 18,549 (Central Bucks).

When taking into consideration the enrollment percentage of economically disadvantaged students, South Fayette's performance was number one in the state. No school district in the Commonwealth with equal or greater percentages of economically disadvantaged students scored higher than South Fayette students. (South Fayette's student population includes 9.4% economically disadvantaged, in comparison to Central Bucks School District, Bucks County, 2.5%; Lower Moreland School District, Montgomery County, 1%; Upper St. Clair School District, Allegheny County, 1.4%; Peters Township School District, Washington County, 2.2%; Mt. Lebanon School District, 2.2%; Tredyffrin-Easttown School District, Chester County, 2.7%; and Unionville-Chadds Ford School District, Chester County, 2.2%.)

Academic results were based on the PSSA exams given to students in grades 5, 8 and 11. Below are South Fayette's rankings for all students at each grade level:

- In 11th grade Math proficiency, South Fayette ranked 8th in the State (top 1%)
- In 11th grade Reading proficiency, South Fayette ranked 7th in the State (top 1%)
- In 8th grade Math proficiency, South Fayette ranked 28th (top 3.7%)
- In 8th grade Reading proficiency, South Fayette ranked 24th in the State (top 3.1%)

- In 5th grade Math proficiency, South Fayette ranked 2nd in the State
- In 5th grade Reading proficiency, South Fayette ranked 45th in the State (top 6%)

“We want to congratulate and thank our students, staff, school board, parents and community for their support of high academic standards, a strong commitment to education and a willingness to do whatever is necessary to promote high levels of achievement and excellence in the South Fayette School District,” said Dr. Linda B. Hippert, Superintendent of Schools. “With great appreciation I commend all of them on this outstanding performance.”

(Source: www.schoolmatters.com; Data analysis from 2002, 2003 demographic and financial information and 2004 academic results)

###