

## **Broken Arrow Public Schools is ‘What Parents Want’**

Broken Arrow Public Schools has once again been selected as a winner of the national “What Parents Want Award.”

Only 16 percent of the nation’s 15,571 public school districts have been recognized for this year’s award, which honors the nation’s top school districts who are best meeting the needs of families choosing schools.

The 18<sup>th</sup> annual “What Parents Want Award” is given by *SchoolMatch* of Columbus, Ohio. *SchoolMatch* is the nation’s largest school selection consulting firm. It maintains information on every public school system throughout the nation, helping corporate employee families find schools that match needs of their children.

More than seven-million parents accessed *SchoolMatch* services through a variety of website locations including national, regional, and local real estate firms, various multiple listing services, chambers of commerce, economic development offices, and other family oriented sites.

Criteria used for the award selection include competitive academic test scores, accreditation standards met, recognition for excellence by a national foundation or by the U.S. Department of Education, competitive in teachers’ salaries, above average in instructional expenditures on a national percentile basis, above average in expenditure for library/media services on a national percentile basis, and known for small class size.

“We are thrilled with this recognition, which spotlights our School District’s vital economic development role in our community,” Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Gary Gerber said.

“Our staff and parents have always worked together to provide an exceptional School District for our students, but it is very exciting when an independent and respected group such as *SchoolMatch* sees the excellence in our School District and spotlights that excellence on a national stage through this prestigious honor.”

Broken Arrow Public Schools is one of 15 School Districts in Oklahoma selected for the 2009 “What Parents Want Award.”