

# Aurora Public Schools

## Gateway ROTC Program Earns Unprecedented Rating



The cadets and instructors of the Gateway High School Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program have a lot to be happy about these days.

The program earned an “Exceeding Standards” rating from the Department of the Air Force during a recent unit evaluation, which, as Gateway instructor Maj. Kent Cast said, “is not a paper drill.” The mark is the highest rating attainable.

The inspector evaluated cadets on their overall appearance, marching, drill movements, clarity and crispness of commands as well as a formal briefing. The Air Force also considered the squad’s community service hours and academic performance as part of the exemplary rating.

Cast and fellow instructor Sgt. John May worked many late nights ensuring that everything was in order and ready for the inspection, which happens every three years.

“I was extremely pleased to see that the hard work they put in paid off,” Cast said. “These young folks could actually see what they get from their hard work.”

## APS Nets Big Energy Savings

Thanks to energy efficiency projects funded by the 2008 bond program and a strong commitment to energy conservation, APS continues to realize a compounding effect on its energy savings. This year, the district expects to save more than \$850,000 in energy costs due to incremental improvements made since 2007.

In addition, APS expects to earn Xcel Energy rebates of more than \$100,000 for the 2013-14 school year. Since 2007, APS has earned more than \$900,000 in rebates from Xcel Energy’s business incentive programs. The district expects to exceed \$1 million in total rebates by the end of this school year. APS earned the incentives by installing high efficiency heating, air conditioning and lighting systems in its schools.



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