

# Accountability Report

Issued 2020–21

## Benefield Elementary School

Shonda Stevens, *Principal*

Dr. Terry Watlington, *Assistant Superintendent*



### Local school improvement connected to district's strategic direction

Gwinnett County Public Schools' accountability system for improving schools is called the Results-Based Evaluation System (RBES). RBES fairly and systematically measures a school's progress, providing a process that clearly communicates expectations; reviews, monitors, and supports school performance; and evaluates that performance. With a waiver from federal requirements during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Georgia Department of Education did not administer state tests in the spring or produce related reports on school effectiveness. This abbreviated report reflects available achievement data from the 2019–20 school year. Using local data, school

administrators, teachers, and parent advisory groups developed this year's Local School Plans for Improvement (LSPI) which outline our improvement goals and guide the work we will do throughout the 2020–21 school year to support student learning. These improvement plans are connected to the school district's strategic direction and our core business of teaching and learning. Find our school's LSPI on the website. The Benefield school council and school leaders collaborated on the highlights in this accountability report, which also serves as the school's annual report. **Please review this report to learn more about our improvement efforts and progress.**

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### 2019–20 Results: Norm-referenced Assessments: The Iowa Assessments

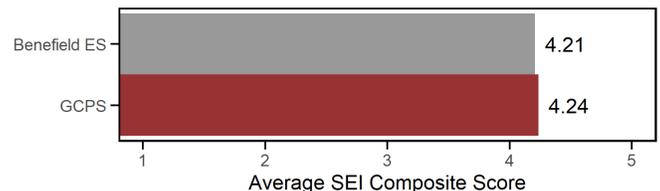
The Iowa Assessments measure a student's progress in key academic areas and allow for a comparison of their performance to that of students across the U.S. This nationally norm-referenced test was administered in Gwinnett in grades 2 and 5 in 2019–20. Results from the fall administration help identify students' areas of academic strength as well as areas that need improvement. Teachers and schools use these results during the school year to inform instruction and monitor growth.

Core Composite results reflect overall performance on tests covering a variety of skill areas, including reading, spelling and other language arts conventions, vocabulary, and mathematics, including computation. Scores are expressed as a national percentile rank (NPR), with an NPR of 50 marking typical achievement on the Iowa Assessments. For example, a Core Composite NPR of 60 indicates that students at a school, on average, scored as well as or better than students at 60% of U.S. schools on the test. Benefield's 2020 NPR for 2nd graders taking the Iowa Assessments is 41, compared to the overall GCPS NPR of 60. For 2020, the Benefield's NPR for 5th graders is 39, compared to the overall GCPS NPR of 48.6.

### 2019–20 Student Engagement

The Student Engagement Instrument (SEI) is a survey used to measure how engaged students are at school and with learning. When taking the SEI, students respond to items that cover a variety of topics related to their engagement in their education, including the level of support they receive from teachers, peers, and family, as well as their perceptions of school work and future educational goals. We measure student engagement at GCPS because it is related to important outcomes such as on-time graduation and postsecondary success. The bar graph below shows the average SEI Composite Score—a summary of a student's responses across all items on the SEI—for Benefield Elementary School compared with an average of results for all GCPS elementary schools.

The Composite Score can range from 1.0 to 5.0, with higher scores reflecting stronger student engagement. This chart shows that the average Student Engagement Instrument Composite Score for Benefield ES in 2019–20 was 4.21, compared to the GCPS elementary school average of 4.24.

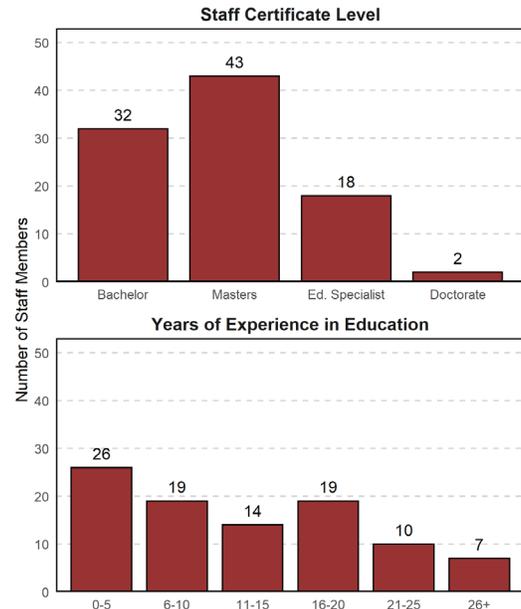


# Benefield Elementary School

## Other 2019–20 Highlights...

- Staff members at Benefield participated in weekly professional learning sessions to support the Local School Plan for Improvement (LSPI), including work with Teachers College Reading and Writing Project, and the Mathematics and Social Studies curriculum areas of Curriculum and Instructional Support.
- Benefield hosted a variety of academic and family events such as STEAM Night, Literacy/Math Night, Sweetheart Ball, and Breakfast with Santa.
- Students at Benefield participated in the Jump Rope for Heart competition, supporting the American Heart Association.
- Benefield continued its “Reading Is Our Superpower” Reading Campaign. The campaign encourages a love of reading while supporting an increased focus on reading stamina, volume, and variety. Students read for more than 1,302,500 minutes.
- Our school distributed more than 2,600 books and magazines to Benefield students to help them build their home libraries. During digital learning, students were provided with resources for learning as well as additional books as resources to be used at home, including both digital and print library resources.
- Benefield Elementary was awarded a grant from the High Museum of Art providing a free field trip for Art Club members. This grant also included free transportation and family passes to return to the museum, free of charge.
- Benefield’s 2019–20 Robotics Team participated in the Gwinnett County Robotics Competition.
- During digital learning that began in March, students and teachers participated virtually, using the Gwinnett County eCLASS platform. Virtual parent meetings were held bi-weekly to provide just-in-time information and question-answer sessions.
- Benefield held its first Virtual Earth Day by making video notes, video clips, and posters to support caring for our environment.
- Benefield held its first Virtual Field Day for students and parents, encouraging families to participate in healthy physical challenges and obstacles at home.

## 2019–20 Staff Data



## Student Data (2017–18 to 2019–20)

	School Year		
	17–18	18–19	19–20
<b>Enrollment</b>	1308	1234	1235
+American Indian/Alaskan Native*	0%	0%	0%
+Asian*	10%	8%	9%
+Black/African American*	31%	31%	30%
+Hispanic or Latino, <i>any race</i>	48%	50%	50%
+Multiracial, <i>two or more races</i> *	4%	3%	3%
+Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander*	0%	0%	0%
+White*	8%	8%	9%
Special Education	13%	12%	11%
English Learner**	40%	43%	42%
Gifted Eligible	7%	5%	5%
Free/Reduced Lunch	79%	77%	68%
Average Attendance***	96%	96%	96%

\*Not Hispanic or Latino

\*\*Since 2017–18, the category for English Learners has reflected both students who qualify for services and those being monitored.

\*\*\*Based on in-school attendance through March 12, 2020. Students participated in online learning from March 16 to May 20.

## School Safety Perceptions

Based on responses from those with an opinion who responded to the 2019–20 RBES Perception Survey...

- 85.2% of students agreed or strongly agreed that they felt safe at Benefield Elementary.
- 97.0% of parents agreed or strongly agreed that their child’s school was safe.

*The mission of Gwinnett County Public Schools is to pursue excellence in academic knowledge, skills, and behavior for each student, resulting in measured improvement against local, national, and world-class standards.*

### Benefield Elementary School

1221 Old Norcross Road • Lawrenceville, GA 30046  
(770) 962-3771 • <https://www.gcpsk12.org/BenefieldES>  
Shonda Stevens, Principal

### Gwinnett County Public Schools

437 Old Peachtree Rd., NW • Suwanee, GA 30024-2978  
[www.gcpsk12.org](http://www.gcpsk12.org)

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