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 Berkeley Lake 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.

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. Berkeley Lake’s 2020 NPR for 2nd graders taking the Iowa Assessments is 65, compared to the overall GCPS NPR of 60. For 2020, the Berkeley Lake’s NPR for 5th graders is 52, 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 Berkeley Lake 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 Berkeley Lake ES in 2019–20 was 4.10, compared to the GCPS elementary school average of 4.24.
Berkeley Lake Elementary School

Other 2019–20 Highlights...

• Berkeley Lake Elementary was recognized by the Governor’s Office of Student Achievement as a 2019 Greatest Gains School at the Gold level under Georgia’s Single Statewide Accountability System.

• Berkeley Lake Elementary earned recognition from the Georgia Department of Education as a 2019–20 Title I Distinguished School, ranking among the top 5% of all Title Schools in Georgia.

• Berkeley Lake provided six Title I workshops and events for parents.

• Berkeley Lake students’ extracurricular and leadership opportunities included Student Council, Safety Patrol, Peer Mediators, Broadcast Team, School Store, Green Team, IT Girls Club, Camp Invention, Club Invention, Art Club, Chess Club, Chorus, Strings Club, and the Duluth Kiwanis-sponsored K-Kids Service Club.

• Competitive student teams included Wuzzle Pro Math, Readers Rally, Running Bears, and the Bearbots, our Robotics team.

• The school hosted Literacy Night, STEM Night, International Literacy Night, Science Fair, an evening at Barnes & Noble, fine arts concerts, Candlelight Luncheons, Grandparents Day, and PTA Turkey Trot.

• Community members supported our students through KIDS HOPE USA mentoring program, Corners Outreach, and Mt. Carmel Homework Club. Our Parent Center engaged parents as volunteers. Language arts and math materials were available through the center for check out.

• Berkeley Lake Elementary was recognized as a Taking Action Green & Healthy School in the Environmental Achievement Awards sponsored by Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful.

• Student recognition included Silver Spoons, Dr. Pendleton’s Bear of the Week, Best of Bus, Honor Roll, Paw Points, Perfect Attendance, On-A-Roll, and 5th grade Presidential and Citizenship Awards.

• Berkeley Lake Elementary was recognized by the Georgia DOE with Operational status for implementation of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS), which encourages positive behaviors, recognizing those students exhibiting appropriate conduct.

• Berkeley Lake Elementary community members donated more than $5,000 to support a grass-roots program to provide families with groceries during the Spring of 2020.

• Teachers expanded course pages for students and parents and added resources for schoolwide digital learning in the Spring of 2020.

• During the summer, the two-story addition and school renovation projects were completed.

• Berkeley Lake staff, led by school counselors, continued learning about how to become a Trauma-Sensitive School and integrated the concept of growth mindset throughout the school community.

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.

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