

Accountability Report

Issued 2020–21

Bethesda Elementary School

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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 Bethesda 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.**

CONTENTS

About School Improvement

2019–20 Iowa Assessment Results

2019–20 Student Engagement

2019–20 Highlights



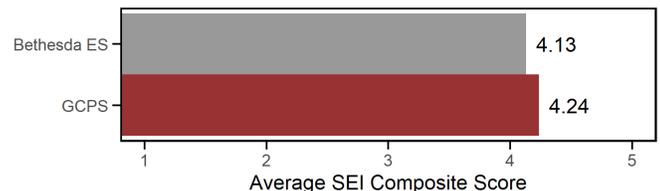
2019–20 Results: Norm-referenced Assessments: The Iowa Assessments

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. Bethesda's 2020 NPR for 2nd graders taking the Iowa Assessments is 44, compared to the overall GCPS NPR of 60. For 2020, the Bethesda's NPR for 5th graders is 42, 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 Bethesda 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 Bethesda ES in 2019–20 was 4.13, compared to the GCPS elementary school average of 4.24.

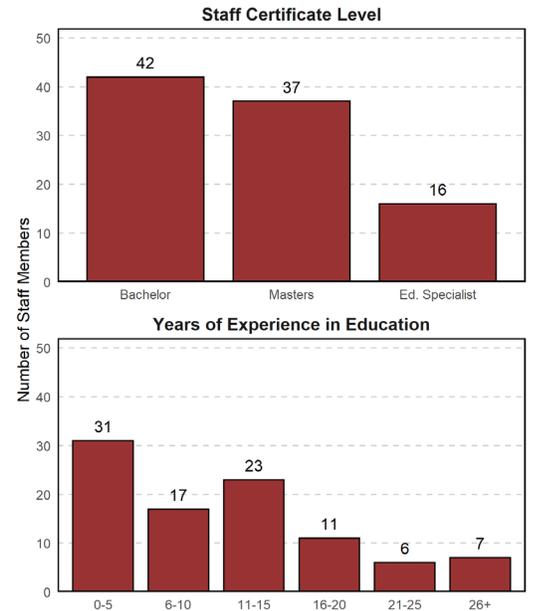


Bethesda Elementary School

Other 2019–20 Highlights...

- Bethesda Elementary earned a 5-star climate rating from the Georgia Department of Education. The rating takes into account discipline data, attendance, and perceptions of the quality and character of the school.
- In its sixth year, our Dual Language Immersion program served children in grades K–5. In DLI, children learn the curriculum in both English and Spanish. We also offered a Spanish Special for all students.
- Bethesda offered extracurricular activities such as Chorus, STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics), Basketball, English, Spanish, Safety Patrol, Student Council, Cheerleading, Readers Rally, Sparkles Dance, Patriot Pages, Robotics, and Soccer.
- The school hosted Reading is Fun with Finnegan, Academic/Math Night, Kindergarten Transition, Media and Technology Night, Arts/Literacy Night, Read with Me, ESOL night, Colonel Charles Young Boys Mentoring, Girl Scouts, and Science Fair. Our Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) sponsored International Night, Harvest Fest, BFF Family Walk, Movie Nights, and Bingo Family Fun. The Parent Center, funded by Title I, partnered with parents to help their child improve in academics, to share test-taking strategies, and to provide English and Spanish classes.
- The Bethesda community participated in Read Across America Day, Relay For Life, United Way, and Career Day.
- Bethesda promoted community unity through celebrations of Hispanic Heritage, Black History Month, and international cultures.
- To support school readiness, Bethesda hosted rising kindergartners over the summer. On Fridays during the school year, families of young children (ages 3–5) participated in Play 2 Learn, working with a certified teacher to prepare their children for school.
- Bethesda was awarded a STEM Camp Grant and a Nordson Corporation Foundation Club Invention Grant. Both grants provided opportunities for our students to participate in STEM activities to encourage imagination and build creative problem-solving skills.
- Bethesda collaborated with the HealthMPowers program to promote health-enhancing behaviors.
- During Bethesda's annual College Week, college students participated in a panel to give our students an up-close view of the college experience.
- Staff members at Bethesda participated in weekly professional learning sessions to support the Local School Plans for Improvement (LSPI).
- Bethesda's parent center provided instructional resources to promote academic success for students. Through parent workshops and evening programs sponsored by the Parent Center, parents learned ways to help their child improve in reading, mathematics, science, social studies, writing, and test-taking strategies. The center also offered English classes for non-English-speaking parents.

2019–20 Staff Data



Student Data (2017–18 to 2019–20)

	School Year		
	17–18	18–19	19–20
Enrollment	1168	1209	1219
+American Indian/Alaskan Native*	0%	0%	0%
+Asian*	11%	9%	8%
+Black/African American*	20%	22%	24%
+Hispanic or Latino, <i>any race</i>	63%	62%	62%
+Multiracial, <i>two or more races</i> *	1%	1%	2%
+Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander*	0%	0%	0%
+White*	5%	5%	5%
Special Education	11%	12%	11%
English Learner**	61%	57%	54%
Gifted Eligible	5%	6%	7%
Free/Reduced Lunch	85%	83%	81%
Average Attendance***	97%	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...

- 86% of students agreed or strongly agreed that they felt safe at Bethesda Elementary.
- 97.4% 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.

Bethesda Elementary School

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