

Accountability Report

Issued 2020–21

Dacula Middle 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 Dacula 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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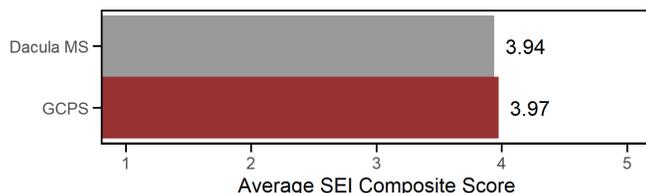
2019–20 Results: Norm-referenced Assessments: PSAT 8/9

Gwinnett’s 8th graders have an early opportunity to set their course for college and careers with the PSAT 8/9, a test that helps determine what students need to work on most so that they are ready for college when they graduate from high school. The PSAT 8/9 is part of the College Board family of assessments that includes the SAT college-admission assessment and the PSAT/NMSQT, a preview of the SAT. The PSAT 8/9 tests the same skills and knowledge as the SAT and PSAT/NMSQT, but in a way that makes sense for 8th graders. The test focuses on the skills and knowledge at the heart of education— what students have been learning in school and what they’ll need to succeed in college— in the areas of mathematics and evidence-based reading and writing. The PSAT 8/9 establishes a baseline measurement of college and career readiness as students enter high school. It also gives students a chance to preview the SAT and the PSAT/NMSQT. (Gwinnett 10th graders take the PSAT/NMSQT.)

	Math	Reading/Writing
Dacula	422	416
GCPS	436	414
State	412	410
National	406	405

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 Dacula Middle School compared with an average of results for all GCPS middle 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 Dacula MS in 2019–20 was 3.94, compared to the GCPS middle school average of 3.97.

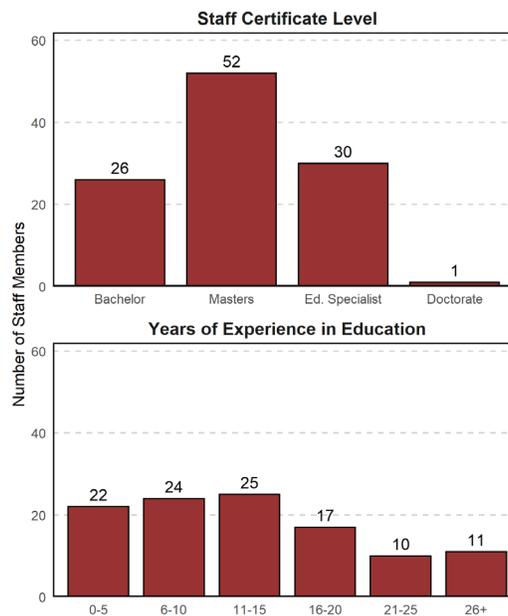


Dacula Middle School

Other 2019–20 Highlights...

- Our 6th grade students earned a Superior rating in both performance and sight reading in Large Group Performance Evaluation (LGPE). The 7th Mixed Chorus earned straight Superior ratings in performance and a Superior in sight reading and the 7th Grade Women’s Chorus earned an Excellent rating in performance and a superior rating in sight reading. Dacula’s 8th Grade Women’s Chorus earned an Excellent rating in performance and a Superior in sight reading and the 8th Grade Mixed Chorus earned straight Superior ratings in performance and a Superior in sight reading.
- A group of 20 Dacula students were selected to perform with the District 13 Honor Chorus in Athens.
- Both 7th and 8th grade orchestra groups earned Superior ratings in performance before LGPE.
- Dacula’s Honors Orchestra performed at the High Museum of Art Atlanta.
- In the GCPS Student Media Festival, a Dacula 8th grader won Best of Show and earned a perfect score at the state level. In total, 13 Computer Science students won awards for programming video games and creating and editing videos, presentations, and animations.
- The DMS Readers Rally team competed at the annual Readers Rally Bowl.
- Dacula Middle students competed in the Gwinnett Science, Engineering + Innovation Fair. Two Students advanced to the State Science and Engineering Fair, with one receiving 1st place and a Best In Category Award for Environmental Engineering. The other was recognized with 2nd place. Both students were nominated for the Broadcom MASTERS (Math, Applied Science, Technology, and Engineering for Rising Stars) program.
- Our Odyssey of the Mind team advanced to state-level competition.
- Dacula’s Drama Club performed two productions for the community— “Variety Show” and “Evening With Shakespeare and Poe.”
- National Junior Beta Club raised \$2,000 for the March of Dimes. Students also wrote letters to service members in Iraq, delivered gifts to 28 families at the Gwinnett Newborn Intensive Care Unit, and designed artwork and led social media campaigns for March of Dimes and the school’s Chick-fil-A Spirit Night

2019–20 Staff Data



Student Data (2017–18 to 2019–20)

	School Year		
	17–18	18–19	19-20
Enrollment	1644	1691	1790
+American Indian/Alaskan Native*	0%	0%	0%
+Asian*	4%	4%	4%
+Black/African American*	42%	43%	44%
+Hispanic or Latino, <i>any race</i>	23%	23%	24%
+Multiracial, <i>two or more races</i> *	4%	4%	4%
+Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander*	0%	0%	0%
+White*	27%	26%	24%
Special Education	16%	16%	15%
English Learner**	15%	15%	15%
Gifted Eligible	15%	15%	15%
Free/Reduced Lunch	50%	49%	49%
Average Attendance***	97%	97%	97%

*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...

- 70.7% of students agreed or strongly agreed that they felt safe at Dacula Middle.
- 90% 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.

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