



# Accountability Report

Issued 2020–21

## Discovery

### High School

Marci Sledge, *Principal*

Dr. Reuben Gresham, *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 graduation and 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 Discovery 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: College-Admissions Tests

Students are encouraged to take one or both of the college-admissions tests that most colleges and universities require for admissions. The two tests— the SAT and the ACT— both assess college-readiness in language arts/reading and mathematics, with a science section on the ACT, and an optional essay component. SAT and ACT postponed and/or cancelled administrations or reduced sites due to COVID-19.

#### 2019–20 ACT Averages

	English	Math	Reading	Science	Total
Discovery	19.4	20.2	21.7	20.7	20.6
GCPS	22.4	22.8	23.4	22.9	23.0
State	21.3	21.0	22.5	21.6	21.7
National	19.9	20.2	21.2	20.6	20.6

#### 2019–20 SAT Averages

	Reading/Writing	Math	Total
Discovery	517	503	1020
GCPS	552	545	1097
State	537	516	1053
National	528	523	1051

### 2019–20 Results: Advanced Placement (AP) Exams

Advanced Placement (AP) courses are challenging, college-level classes taught by specially trained high school teachers. Students have the option of taking an AP exam at the end of the school year. Many colleges award credit for passing the exams or allow a student to exempt certain courses. The table below shows the percentage of students who took an AP class at Discovery High, compared to the county average. The chart also shows the percentage of optional, course-specific AP exams taken, as well as the percentage of test-takers who scored 3 or better on a 5-point scale on one or more AP exams. In 2019–20, 4.9% of courses taken at Discovery HS were AP courses, compared to 9.4% at all GCPS high schools. Note that AP exams were administered differently in 2019–20 due to COVID-19.

AP Percentages	School Level	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20
% Students Who Took an AP Course	Discovery	22.9	21.0	19.7
	GCPS	32.1	31.1	31.4
% AP Exams Taken	Discovery	75.2	82.1	80.6
	GCPS	82.7	83.0	82.6
% Test-Takers Who Scored 3+	Discovery	59.5	58.8	56.9
	GCPS	66.7	68.3	67.4

### 2019–20 Senior Report

	Students Completing HS†	Number Who Enrolled in College or Postsecondary School (Fall 2020)*	Number of Honor Graduates†	Seniors with Dual Enrollment†
Discovery	533	267	90	93
GCPS	11,887	7,966	3,672	1,928

\*Based on the National Student Clearinghouse enrollment records

†Reflects system-reported data as of August 2020

# Discovery High School

## Other 2019–20 Highlights...

- Discovery was acknowledged by the Georgia Department of Education as a 2020 Advanced Placement (AP) Honor School in five categories— AP Access and Support, AP Humanities, AP Humanities Achievement, AP STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics), and AP STEM Achievement, based on results from 2018–19 AP classes and exams.
- For the second year in a row, our Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) program was one of 40 teams to advance to the National JROTC Leadership & Academic Bowl (JLAB) Championship. In addition, JROTC participants raised more than \$6,600 for the Empty Stocking Fund.
- Three Discovery juniors were selected as QuestBridge Prep Scholars.
- A Discovery student was selected for the Governor’s Honors Program in the area of Spanish. GHP is a prestigious honor for academically and artistically talented Georgia students.
- Seven members of Discovery’s HOSA–Future Health Professionals organization qualified for state competition. Students earned 6th place in Medical Reading and 1st place in Medical Terminology.
- Discovery’s School-Based Enterprise earned Gold-level certification from DECA, based on its retail operation.

## 2019–20 Graduation Rate Information

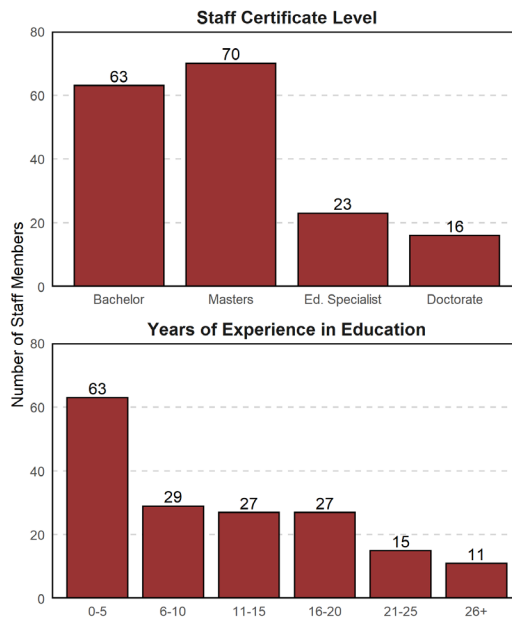
The Graduation Rate is calculated using the number of students who begin 9th grade at the same time

Graduation Rate (2017 to 2020)

	2017	2018	2019	2020
Discovery	75%	79%	74%	81%
GCPS	81%	82%	81%	83%
State	81%	82%	82%	84%

and graduate within four years with a regular education diploma. Students who take longer than four years to complete high school are not considered on-time graduates for the purpose of graduation rates, but they are not considered dropouts either. Additional students in the cohort will go on to graduate with a full diploma in their 5th year. Data shows that large numbers of students moving in during high school who are behind can have a negative impact on a school’s graduation rate, just as having students move who can’t be accounted for affects the rate. A number of GCPS initiatives— Credit Recovery, Online Campus courses, 7th period classes at Phoenix High, and summer school— offer students more opportunities to get and stay on pace for on-time graduation. GCPS is working to ensure that all students graduate, even if some students need more time to do so, and that all students are college- and career-ready. As a result of COVID-19, the Class of 2020 was granted a one-time waiver of the Gateway assessment requirement.

## 2019–20 Staff Data



## Student Data (2017–18 to 2019–20)

	School Year		
	17–18	18–19	19–20
<b>Enrollment</b>	2691	2749	2766
+American Indian/Alaskan Native*	0%	0%	0%
+Asian*	10%	10%	10%
+Black/African American*	38%	36%	34%
+Hispanic or Latino, <i>any race</i>	44%	45%	47%
+Multiracial, <i>two or more races</i> *	3%	3%	2%
+Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander*	0%	0%	0%
+White*	6%	6%	6%
Special Education	13%	13%	14%
English Learner**	12%	12%	14%
Gifted Eligible	11%	12%	10%
Free/Reduced Lunch	75%	72%	69%
Average Attendance***	94%	93%	92%

\*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...

- 73.1% of students agreed or strongly agreed that they felt safe at Discovery High.
- 94.6% 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.*

### Discovery High School

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