

Accountability Report

Issued 2020–21

Duluth Middle School

Cindy Kinchen, *Principal*

Dr. Al Taylor, *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 Duluth 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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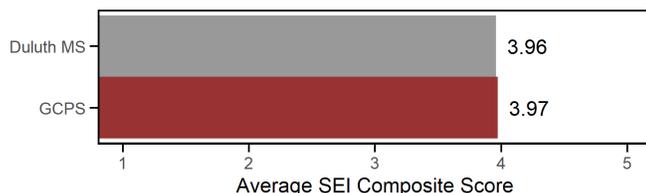
2019–20 Results: Norm-referenced Assessments: PSAT 8/9

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
Duluth	431	410
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 Duluth 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 Duluth MS in 2019–20 was 3.96, compared to the GCPS middle school average of 3.97.

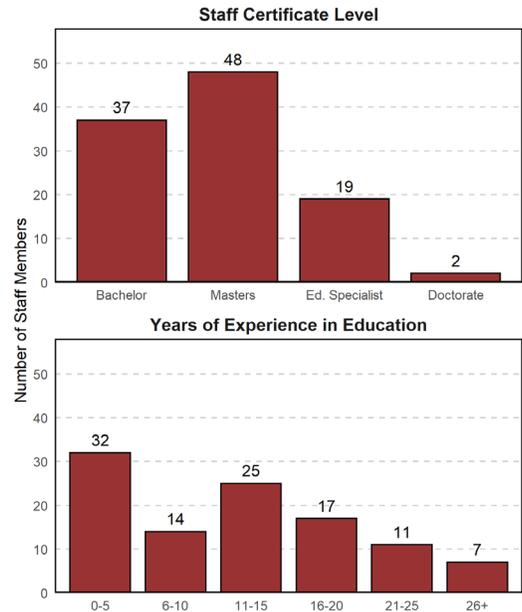


Duluth Middle School

Other 2019–20 Highlights...

- Seven student musicians in the Duluth Middle Guitar program participated in the Reinhardt University Honors Guitar Festival. Duluth Middle' combined 8th grade Guitar Ensembles performed at the Georgia Music Educators Association (GMEA) in-service conference in Athens.
- The Duluth Middle Chorus participated in Large Group Performance Evaluation. Five groups performed, including the Tenor/Bass Chorus and the 6th Grade Combined Chorus, both of which earned Superior ratings in performance and sight reading.
- Four student musicians in Duluth Middle Orchestra program were selected for All-State Orchestra. Five students participated in the Kendall Youth Orchestra. One student performed with the Gwinnett County Youth Orchestra and two students participated in the Atlanta Music Project.
- Two members of the Duluth Middle School Band were selected to perform with All-State Band. Eight students performed with the District 13 Honor Band, and 13 students participated in the University of Georgia Middle School Band Festival (MidFest).
- Duluth Middle continued to support the STEM program, implementing teaching and learning strategies in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. Students prepared project-based learning projects and presented them to the community during the October 2019 STEM Night in downtown Duluth.
- Duluth Middle counselors hosted a Career Fair for 8th graders, featuring 20 businesses and postsecondary options.
- Duluth Middle was recognized for the fourth consecutive year as a No Place for Hate school for anti-bullying and diversity programs.
- Our students participated in the GCPS mentoring program.
- The Duluth Middle Swim Team finished with a record of 4-0 in dual meets, placed 1st at the Marist Metro Championships, and placed 2nd at the Southeastern Championships.
- Our Boys Basketball Team finished the season at 10-4, advancing to the semifinals in the Middle County Championship.
- Duluth Middle offered a course to certified staff that resulted in 13 teachers earning English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) certification.
- In soccer, the boys team placed 1st in the district and the girls team finished the season in 4th.

2019–20 Staff Data



Student Data (2017–18 to 2019–20)

	School Year		
	17–18	18–19	19–20
Enrollment	1444	1471	1484
+American Indian/Alaskan Native*	0%	0%	0%
+Asian*	15%	13%	13%
+Black/African American*	24%	25%	23%
+Hispanic or Latino, <i>any race</i>	46%	47%	50%
+Multiracial, <i>two or more races</i> *	2%	3%	4%
+Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander*	0%	0%	0%
+White*	13%	12%	10%
Special Education	17%	17%	16%
English Learner**	32%	36%	39%
Gifted Eligible	15%	13%	14%
Free/Reduced Lunch	71%	71%	67%
Average Attendance***	97%	98%	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...

- 82.7% of students agreed or strongly agreed that they felt safe at Duluth Middle.
- 97.3% 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.

Duluth Middle School

3200 Pleasant Hill Road • Duluth, GA 30096
(770) 476-3372 • <https://www.gcpsk12.org/duluthms>
Cindy Kinchen, Principal

Gwinnett County Public Schools

437 Old Peachtree Rd., NW • Suwanee, GA 30024-2978
www.gcpsk12.org

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