

Accountability Report

Issued 2020–21

McConnell Middle School

Clent Chatham, *Principal*

Jay Nebel, *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 McConnell 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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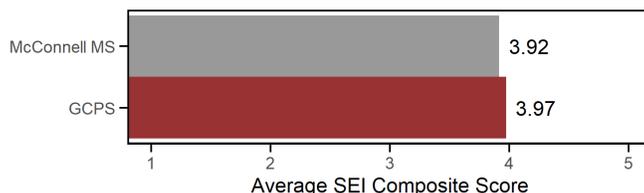
2019–20 Results: Norm-referenced Assessments: PSAT 8/9

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
McConnell	438	419
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 McConnell 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 McConnell MS in 2019–20 was 3.92, compared to the GCPS middle school average of 3.97.

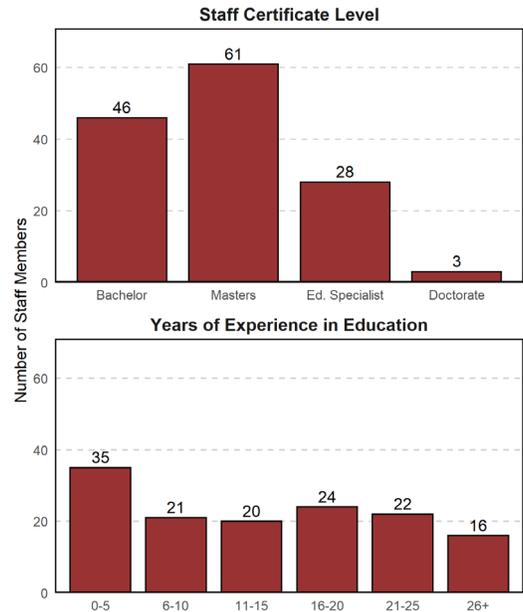


McConnell Middle School

Other 2019–20 Highlights...

- Our 8th grade students earned more than 800 Carnegie units (high school credits) in the four high school courses offered here at MMS.
- McConnell staff and students raised more than \$15,000 for Relay For Life.
- McConnell's National Junior Beta Club members completed 1,026 service hours and donated 72 Easter baskets to the Southeast Co-op.
- McConnell earned a five-star Climate Rating for the seventh consecutive year.
- McConnell's United Way campaign raised \$17,173.78, the largest school campaign in the district.
- Duke University's Talent Identification Program (TIP), which invites high-performing middle school students to take the SAT (a college-entrance exam) as 7th graders, had 26 participants from McConnell Middle. Of those, five earned state-level recognition, 20 qualified for eStudies, and 20 qualified for Summer Studies at Duke University.
- McConnell's Career and Technical Education (CTE) students, in conjunction with our Journalism students, wrote and mailed 455 appreciation letters to deployed service members over the Thanksgiving holiday.
- McConnell Middle School earned the Green & Healthy School Award from Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful. Our Environmental Club donated hundreds of pounds of clothes for recycling.
- Music is alive and well at McConnell... Our 7th and 8th Grade Chorus earned Superior ratings in both Performance and Sight Reading at Georgia Music Educators Association's (GMEA) Large Group Performance Evaluations (LGPE). We were pleased that 38 students attended GMEA State and District Honor Chorus events, nine students auditioned for All-State Chorus, and three students participated in All-State Chorus. Twenty-five of our Orchestra students participated in the 2020 GMEA District 13 Solo and Ensemble Performance Evaluation, earning Superior and Excellent ratings, and two students auditioned and were selected for membership in the countywide Kendall Honor Orchestra. One 8th grade Band student represented McConnell in the GMEA District 13 Honor Band, and 80% of our 8th graders in Band will continue their music education in high school.

2019–20 Staff Data



Student Data (2017–18 to 2019–20)

	School Year		
	17–18	18–19	19–20
Enrollment	1923	2148	2276
+American Indian/Alaskan Native*	0%	0%	0%
+Asian*	3%	3%	3%
+Black/African American*	44%	47%	46%
+Hispanic or Latino, <i>any race</i>	16%	18%	20%
+Multiracial, <i>two or more races</i> *	3%	4%	4%
+Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander*	0%	0%	0%
+White*	33%	29%	26%
Special Education	13%	12%	14%
English Learner**	10%	9%	10%
Gifted Eligible	17%	16%	15%
Free/Reduced Lunch	44%	44%	42%
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...

- 72.2% of students agreed or strongly agreed that they felt safe at McConnell Middle.
- 92.6% 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.

McConnell Middle School

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