

Accountability Report

Issued 2020–21

Richards Middle School

Mark McCain, *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 Richards 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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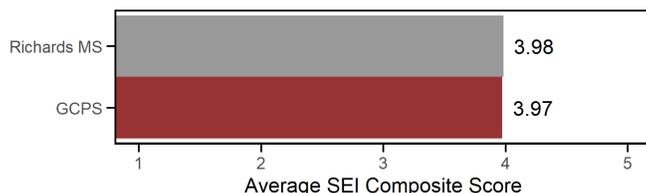
2019–20 Results: Norm-referenced Assessments: PSAT 8/9

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
Richards	415	386
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 Richards 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 Richards MS in 2019–20 was 3.98, compared to the GCPS middle school average of 3.97.

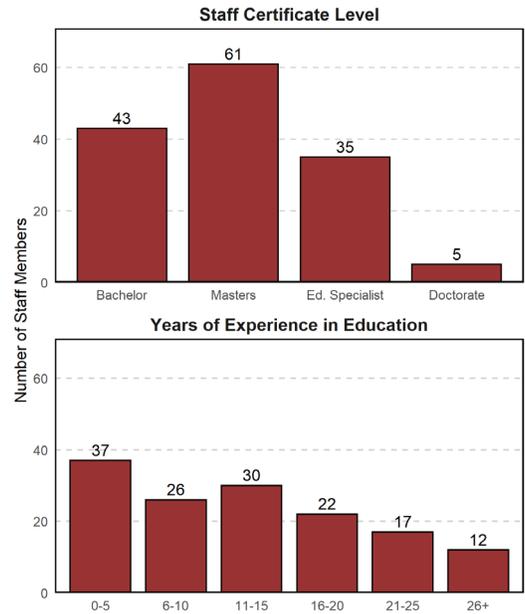


Richards Middle School

Other 2019–20 Highlights...

- We were pleased that a Richards 8th grader was selected as a Georgia REACH Scholar. The program recognizes dedicated students who demonstrate promise for a strong academic future.
- A Richards 8th grader was awarded the GPCS Counseling Department's Annual "Caring Award," given to students who exhibit care, compassion, and support for others.
- The Richards Middle Care Team Walkathon raised more than \$8,000 to provide needed resources for students and families.
- The Richards Middle School United Way initiative raised \$6,610 toward the overall GPCS fundraising campaign.
- Richards Middle was recognized as a Taking Action Green & Healthy School in the Environmental Achievement Awards, sponsored by Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful. Kelly Paulk, 6th grade Earth Science teacher, organized this schoolwide effort.
- Five students from Richards Middle completed the rigorous interview process and were selected to participate in the highly competitive C5 Georgia Student Leadership Program. C5 Atlanta is a youth development program that prepares at-risk students for success in their community.
- A group of 63 Richards Middle students and five teachers attended the Latino Youth Leadership Conference at Emory University.
- Richards Band Director Adam Gresham and an 8th grader were featured in local and national broadcasts, demonstrating the power of making music digitally using the Acapella application for iPhone.
- Band Director Adam Gresham and Chorus Director David Lukens pioneered the new Music Technology course at Richards Middle School. The course helps to train middle school students in the art of sound engineering, and will prepare them for fine arts opportunities in high school.
- Head Custodian Dragana Sejdic and Cafeteria Manager Ryan McManus and their teams, earned high marks once again for their respective school site inspections and evaluations.
- Richards Middle teachers selected 8th grade Physical Science Teacher Crystal Donaldson to represent them as Teacher of the Year.
- Richards Middle School earned a gold medal and a place on the 2020 Governor's SHAPE Honor Roll. The award recognizes school level efforts in the areas of physical activity, nutrition, and wellness.

2019–20 Staff Data



Student Data (2017–18 to 2019–20)

	School Year		
	17–18	18–19	19–20
Enrollment	2161	2180	2193
+American Indian/Alaskan Native*	0%	0%	0%
+Asian*	8%	9%	9%
+Black/African American*	35%	33%	32%
+Hispanic or Latino, <i>any race</i>	47%	49%	50%
+Multiracial, <i>two or more races</i> *	2%	2%	2%
+Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander*	0%	0%	0%
+White*	7%	7%	6%
Special Education	16%	17%	16%
English Learner**	32%	35%	34%
Gifted Eligible	9%	9%	10%
Free/Reduced Lunch	80%	81%	79%
Average Attendance***	98%	97%	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...

- 80.8% of students agreed or strongly agreed that they felt safe at Richards Middle.
- 98.8% 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.

Richards Middle School

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