

# Accountability Report

Issued 2020–21

## Sweetwater Middle School

Chekquita Johnson, *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 Sweetwater 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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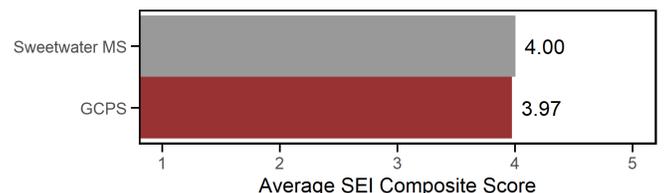
### 2019–20 Results: Norm-referenced Assessments: PSAT 8/9

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
Sweetwater	412	383
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 Sweetwater 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 Sweetwater MS in 2019–20 was 4.00, compared to the GCPS middle school average of 3.97.

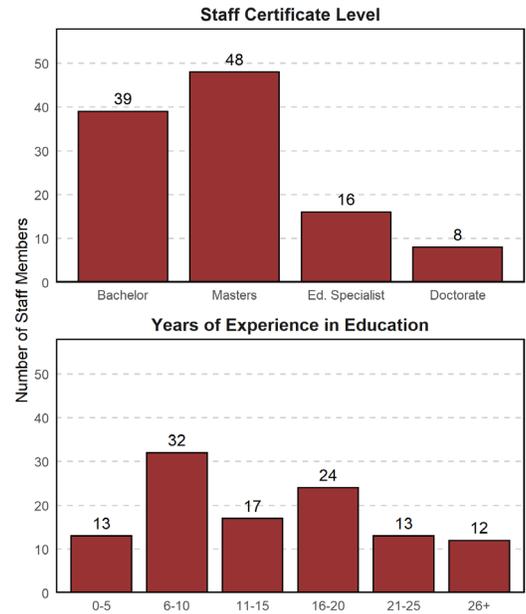


# Sweetwater Middle School

## Other 2019–20 Highlights...

- Sweetwater Middle School earned recognition from the Georgia Department of Education as a 2019–20 Title I Reward School. The award honors the top 5% of Title I schools in Georgia, reflecting the greatest improvement between 2018 and 2019 on state assessments. To be recognized, Reward Schools also must maintain the performance of their students with economic disadvantages, those learning English, and students with disabilities.
- Sweetwater was recognized by the Georgia Department of Education with Distinguished status for implementation of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) during the 2019–20 school year. This is the highest level of recognition for PBIS implementation. PBIS encourages positive behaviors with recognition for those students who exhibited appropriate school conduct. Gwinnett schools made up nearly half of the 16 schools in the state that earned the designation.
- Teachers from Sweden and a group from the Georgia Department of Education visited our school to learn about our PBIS program.
- The Georgia Association of Secondary School Principals awarded Sweetwater Middle School with the Breakout Middle School Award and the Distinguished Breakout Middle School Award.
- A Sweetwater student won 1st place in Mechanical Engineering at the Gwinnett Science, Engineering + Innovation Fair and the Georgia Science and Engineering Fair.
- Sweetwater STEAM Academy continued its partnership with the High Museum of Art by having students spend a day with docents in Atlanta to learn how to use the Engineering Design Process in art.
- The Sweetwater Middle School Scholarship Fund provided two Berkmar High School students—both graduates of Sweetwater—with \$500 scholarships to use for postsecondary plans.
- Sweetwater’s Gear Up for Graduation program supported academic progress for our students. Designed for students who are not on track for on-time graduation, the program allows participants to complete 8th and 9th grade coursework in one year. In most cases, students are able to rejoin their peers in 10th grade, then complete all remaining requirements to earn their high school diploma.

## 2019–20 Staff Data



## Student Data (2017–18 to 2019–20)

	School Year		
	17–18	18–19	19–20
<b>Enrollment</b>	1505	1580	1592
+American Indian/Alaskan Native*	0%	0%	0%
+Asian*	6%	6%	6%
+Black/African American*	26%	26%	25%
+Hispanic or Latino, <i>any race</i>	64%	63%	64%
+Multiracial, <i>two or more races</i> *	2%	2%	2%
+Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander*	0%	0%	0%
+White*	3%	2%	4%
Special Education	14%	12%	13%
English Learner**	42%	43%	44%
Gifted Eligible	8%	7%	7%
Free/Reduced Lunch	91%	91%	91%
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...

- 83.7% of students agreed or strongly agreed that they felt safe at Sweetwater Middle.
- 97.1% 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.*

### Sweetwater Middle School

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