

Accountability Report

Issued 2020–21

Riverside Elementary School

Ben Pope, *Principal*

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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 Riverside 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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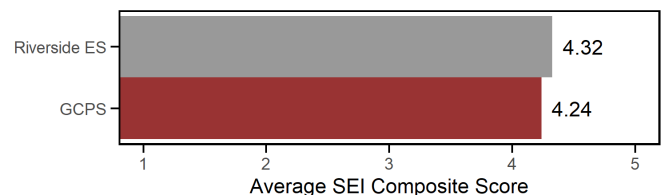
2019–20 Results: Norm-referenced Assessments: The Iowa Assessments

The Iowa Assessments measure a student’s progress in key academic areas and allow for a comparison of their performance to that of students across the U.S. This nationally norm-referenced test was administered in Gwinnett in grades 2 and 5 in 2019–20. Results from the fall administration help identify students’ areas of academic strength as well as areas that need improvement. Teachers and schools use these results during the school year to inform instruction and monitor growth.

Core Composite results reflect overall performance on tests covering a variety of skill areas, including reading, spelling and other language arts conventions, vocabulary, and mathematics, including computation. Scores are expressed as a national percentile rank (NPR), with an NPR of 50 marking typical achievement on the Iowa Assessments. For example, a Core Composite NPR of 60 indicates that students at a school, on average, scored as well as or better than students at 60% of U.S. schools on the test. Riverside’s 2020 NPR for 2nd graders taking the Iowa Assessments is 77, compared to the overall GCPS NPR of 60. For 2020, the Riverside’s NPR for 5th graders is 79, compared to the overall GCPS NPR of 48.6.

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 Riverside Elementary School compared with an average of results for all GCPS elementary 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 Riverside ES in 2019–20 was 4.32, compared to the GCPS elementary school average of 4.24.

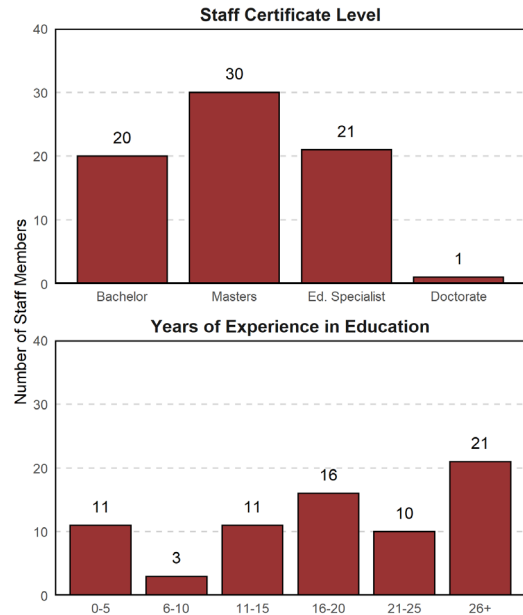


Riverside Elementary School

Other 2019–20 Highlights...

- Community service is a top priority for Riverside students. Our holiday food and winter coat drives with the North Gwinnett Co-op, Linus Project with Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta, and our 5th grade class service project are just a few examples. Individual service projects also benefited the community throughout the school year.
- The 5th grade legacy project included book donations to the GCPS Book Mobiles and culminated with the creation of Riverside’s Little Library, which provides children with access to books outside of school hours.
- Riverside’s Readers Rally Team members modeled enthusiasm for reading throughout the school year and earned a spot at the Gwinnett County Championship for the elementary level.
- In its third year, Riverside’s Robotics Team learned about working with robots. The team also participated in the districtwide Robotics competition.
- Riverside’s Theatre Arts Program engaged students in public speaking, acting, interdisciplinary activities, and drama performances. Our production in early March—“Annie Kids”—was a huge success!
- The 6th annual “Around the World at Riverside” event celebrated the diverse cultures represented at our school. Students and community members experienced each other’s cultures through song, dance, sports, artifacts, and food.
- Riverside students took ownership of their learning and behavior in a variety of ways. Students set personal goals and kept track of their progress using their Be The Leader data notebooks. They showed their leadership skills during our student-led parent conferences.
- Science Night provided a variety of opportunities for parents and community members to engage in all aspects of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) at Riverside. Students also showcased their projects at the Science Fair exhibit.
- The Riverside PTA is a strong advocate for teaching and learning. Because of the PTA’s support, teachers and students benefited from classroom grants, Science Fair resources, numerous cultural arts programs throughout the year, additional books for classroom libraries, and water bottle filling stations. Riverside is so thankful for its top-notch PTA as well as the continuous support from our community!

2019–20 Staff Data



Student Data (2017–18 to 2019–20)

	School Year		
	17–18	18–19	19–20
Enrollment	1011	989	956
+American Indian/Alaskan Native*	0%	0%	0%
+Asian*	26%	28%	28%
+Black/African American*	10%	10%	10%
+Hispanic or Latino, <i>any race</i>	6%	6%	8%
+Multiracial, <i>two or more races</i> *	4%	4%	4%
+Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander*	0%	0%	0%
+White*	54%	51%	50%
Special Education	12%	11%	12%
English Learner**	15%	19%	19%
Gifted Eligible	20%	20%	23%
Free/Reduced Lunch	8%	10%	10%
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...

- 92.2% of students agreed or strongly agreed that they felt safe at Riverside Elementary.
- 96.9% 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.

Riverside Elementary School

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