

Accountability Report

Issued 2020–21

Berkmar Middle School

Kaneshia Dorsan, *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 Berkmar 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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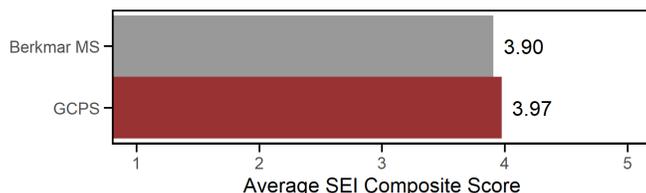
2019–20 Results: Norm-referenced Assessments: PSAT 8/9

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
Berkmar	402	379
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 Berkmar 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 Berkmar MS in 2019–20 was 3.90, compared to the GCPS middle school average of 3.97.

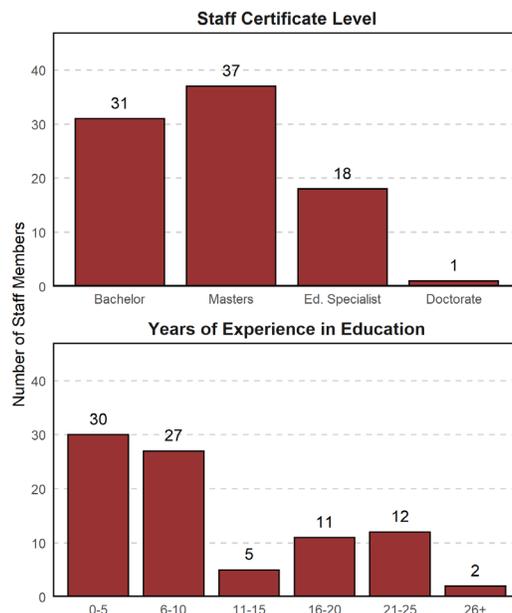


Berkmar Middle School

Other 2019–20 Highlights...

- Berkmar Middle School continued to implement its three key initiatives: Engaging Bell-to-Bell Instruction, Effective Collaboration, and Essential Safety Nets.
- Berkmar Middle continued to implement Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS) using our Three R's mantra: Respectful, Responsible, and Ready. PBIS encourages positive behaviors with recognition for those students who exhibit appropriate school conduct.
- Students were continually recognized for exemplifying the qualities of being Respectful, Responsible, and Ready. Recognition included All A's Breakfast, Star Patriot, A/B Honor Roll, daily recognition on the morning announcements, and prizes such as gift cards from community sponsors.
- Berkmar Middle continued to offer 8th graders an opportunity to take five classes for high school credit (Carnegie units): Algebra I, Accelerated Algebra I, Physical Science, Biology, and Spanish.
- Four Berkmar Middle School teachers were selected as GCPS Special Education Mentors.
- Berkmar Middle School's 7th and 8th grade orchestras earned Superior ratings at the Large Group Performance Evaluation event.
- Berkmar Middle School's 7th and 8th grade choirs earned Superior ratings at the Large Group Performance Evaluation event.
- 6th grade chorus earned Excellent ratings at the Large Group Performance Evaluation event.
- The PTSA continued to align its events with the school's Title I Family Engagement Calendar.
- We hosted Title I Family Engagement events focused on supporting the academic achievement of our students.
- One Berkmar Middle School teacher was designated as a Jackson EMC grant winners.
- Five Berkmar Middle Schools students participated and placed in the Gwinnett Science, Engineering + Innovation Fair.
- Georold Rogers was our school's 2019–20 Teacher of the Year.
- Berkmar Middle's School Council worked to identify and develop additional community partnerships.
- We strengthened the home-school partnership through a weekly interactive newsletter and a newly established social media presence.
- Through the purchase of additional Chromebooks, Berkmar Middle reached its goal of one-to-one technology, increasing opportunities during classroom lessons and activities.

2019–20 Staff Data



Student Data (2017–18 to 2019–20)

	School Year		
	17–18	18–19	19–20
Enrollment	1153	1187	1167
+American Indian/Alaskan Native*	0%	0%	0%
+Asian*	9%	8%	7%
+Black/African American*	22%	20%	19%
+Hispanic or Latino, <i>any race</i>	63%	67%	70%
+Multiracial, <i>two or more races</i> *	2%	1%	1%
+Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander*	0%	0%	0%
+White*	4%	3%	3%
Special Education	19%	18%	18%
English Learner**	41%	47%	52%
Gifted Eligible	8%	9%	10%
Free/Reduced Lunch	89%	90%	90%
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...

- 78.3% of students agreed or strongly agreed that they felt safe at Berkmar Middle.
- 99.2% 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.

Berkmar Middle School

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