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 Level Creek 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.

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. Level Creek’s 2020 NPR for 2nd graders taking the Iowa Assessments is 85, compared to the overall GCPS NPR of 60. For 2020, the Level Creek’s NPR for 5th graders is 80, 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 Level Creek 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 Level Creek ES in 2019–20 was 4.34, compared to the GCPS elementary school average of 4.24.
Other 2019–20 Highlights...

- Level Creek Elementary was recognized by the Governor’s Office of Student Achievement as a 2019 Highest Performing School and as a 2019 Greatest Gains School at the Platinum level under Georgia’s Single Statewide Accountability System.

- Level Creek Elementary School (LCES) continued Dual Language Immersion (DLI) with two classes of kindergarten students and two classes of 1st graders. DLI allows students to learn half of the day in English and half of the day in Spanish. Students will continue learning in both languages through high school graduation and are expected to graduate fully fluent in Spanish. They also will be eligible for a college minor in Spanish upon high school graduation.

- Gifted students received one full day of pull-out instruction per week. Additionally, 98% of grade 1–5 teachers are gifted certified.

- Advanced Content Math was offered for qualifying students in grades 2–5.

- Our 4th and 5th grade students at LCES had the opportunity to participate in the Be The Leader (BTL) Council, the school’s student leadership team.

- Incoming kindergarten students had the opportunity to participate in a week-long KinderDaze Summer Camp that helps the children familiarize themselves with our school prior to their first day.

- All LCES students received Specials instruction in Art, Music, PE, Technology, Leadership, and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics).

- Students at LCES had the opportunity to participate in the following clubs: Art, Chess, Chorus, Fitness, Good News, Guitar, Orchestra, Readers Rally, Robotics, Safety Patrol, Spanish, STEM, Taekwondo, Technology, and Tennis.

- Students received lessons, studied, collaborated and sent work to their teacher through eCLASS, the county’s digital learning platform.

- LCES students set and tracked academic and personal goals through their data notebooks. Many also created community service projects (Giving Myself Away projects).

- Teacher teams met bi-weekly for common instructional planning to design quality learning experiences for students.

- Our staff and students participated in community outreach programs, including Great Days of Service, United Way, and Relay For Life.

- Level Creek Elementary earned a bronze 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.

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**School Safety Perceptions**

Based on responses from those with an opinion who responded to the 2019–20 RBES Perception Survey...

- 93.9% of students agreed or strongly agreed that they felt safe at Level Creek Elementary.

- 100% of parents agreed or strongly agreed that their child’s school was safe.

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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.

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