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 Meadowcreek 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. Meadowcreek’s 2020 NPR for 2nd graders taking the Iowa Assessments is 35, compared to the overall GCPS NPR of 60. For 2020, the Meadowcreek’s NPR for 5th graders is 28.2, 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 Meadowcreek 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 Meadowcreek ES in 2019–20 was 4.19, compared to the GCPS elementary school average of 4.24.
Other 2019–20 Highlights...

- Letricia Parks, representing a dedicated and talented group of teachers, was selected as the school’s Teacher of the Year by our staff.
- In Meadowcreek’s Dual Language Immersion (DLI) program, students spend part of the day studying math and science in Spanish and the other half of the day learning language arts, social studies, and other subjects in English. Students start the DLI program in kindergarten and continue their DLI experience each subsequent school year. Our second cohort began in the 2019–20 school year and we completed our first year in 1st grade.
- Since it began, our Play 2 Learn program has encouraged parents and their children to play, learn, and grow together. At Meadowcreek, staff and parents collaborated to build capacity in parents to be their child’s first teacher. Play 2 Learn exposed young children ages 0–5 to a high-quality school environment, providing social opportunities for children prior to enrollment in school, and increased access to books and resources for children and parents.
- We continued to strengthen the school-home connection through staff, student, and community engagement during various after-school events. These events included our Valentine’s Dance, International Festival, Literacy Night, and STEM Night (focused on science, technology, engineering, mathematics).
- Meadowcreek continued a strong partnership with Vulcan Materials Company. Proceeds from the 2020 Quarry Crusher Run event helped support initiatives of schools in the Meadowcreek Cluster.
- Meadowcreek Elementary, with the help of Campus Church in Norcross, hosted a Literacy Night for our students and parents. Students received free books to enjoy at home.
- Our Girls on the Run program mentored girls in grades 3–5.
- Meadowcreek was recognized by the Georgia Department of Education with Operational status for implementation of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) during the 2019–20 school year. PBIS encourages positive behaviors with recognition for those students who exhibited appropriate school conduct.
- The Parent Center offered parent workshops in all academic subjects as well as sessions on eCLASS and the Parent Portal.
- Meadowcreek “specials” included Art, Music, Physical Education, and STEM.
- Our Title I-funded Extended Learning Time (ELT) Program helped boost reading and math skills for nearly 100 students in grades 3–5 who were performing just below grade level.
- Meadowcreek’s LEGO Robotics team competed in the FIRST LEGO League competition.

Student Data (2017–18 to 2019–20)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Year</th>
<th>Enrollment</th>
<th>+American Indian/Alaskan Native*</th>
<th>+Asian*</th>
<th>+Black/African American*</th>
<th>+Hispanic or Latino, any race*</th>
<th>+Multiracial, two or more races*</th>
<th>+Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander*</th>
<th>+White*</th>
<th>Special Education</th>
<th>Gifted Eligible</th>
<th>Free/Reduced Lunch</th>
<th>Average Attendance***</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17–18</td>
<td>980</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18–19</td>
<td>880</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19–20</td>
<td>887</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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...

- 82.6% of students agreed or strongly agreed that they felt safe at Meadowcreek Elementary.
- 97.6% 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.

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Adrienne Tedesco, Principal

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