

Accountability Report

Issued 2020–21

Norton Elementary School

Melanie Lee, *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 Norton 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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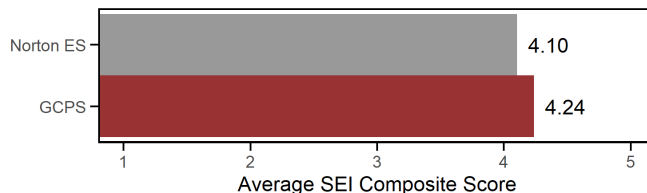
2019–20 Results: Norm-referenced Assessments: The Iowa Assessments

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. Norton's 2020 NPR for 2nd graders taking the Iowa Assessments is 52, compared to the overall GCPS NPR of 60. For 2020, the Norton's NPR for 5th graders is 43, 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 Norton 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 Norton ES in 2019–20 was 4.10, compared to the GCPS elementary school average of 4.24.

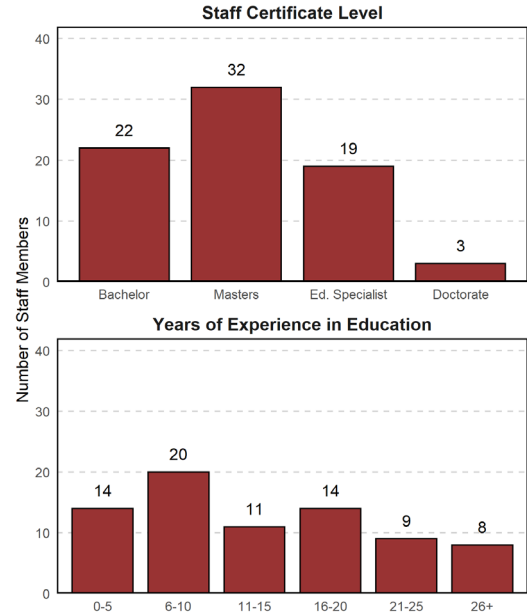


Norton Elementary School

Other 2019–20 Highlights...

- For the third consecutive year, Norton’s Robotics Team competed with other elementary and middle schools in the state-level FIRST LEGO League program. The team built and programmed a robot to complete specific challenges and researched how to make Norton’s playground more accessible to people with disabilities. Norton’s team continued its streak of advancing to the State Super Regional level for the third year in a row.
- During the annual Gwinnett County Public Schools’ Tapestry event, Norton proudly displayed 36 pieces of art. In addition, Norton’s young artists also submitted work to the Georgia Department of Education Christmas Ornaments Project, to the United Ebony Society of Gwinnett County in celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, and for Norton’s annual holiday card.
- On February 22, 2020, a team of 10 students in grades 4 and 5 traveled to Peachtree Ridge High School to participate in the Readers Rally competition with coaches Allison Luton, Debbie Moeller, and Beth Watkins.
- Norton’s Sign Language Choir, led by Mrs. Buford, was invited to perform at Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Fla., during Spring Break. While the trip was cancelled, due to COVID-19, to be selected was an honor.
- Norton’s instructional coaches supported teaching and learning by providing instruction to students via a Literacy “special.” They also facilitated staff development with teachers throughout the school year.
- Students pursued extracurricular interests through participation in after-school clubs, which included Cheerleading, Chorus, Geography Bee, Girls On The Run, Math Club, Spring Musical, Readers Rally, Robotics Team, Science Club, Sign Language Choir, Student Council, and Young Ladies of Norton.
- Norton staff engaged parents and students in content-based events to increase parent involvement, support teaching and learning outside of the classroom, and further students’ understanding of the curriculum. Events included Literacy Night, Math Night, and STEAM Night.
- Norton continued the 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.

2019–20 Staff Data



Student Data (2017–18 to 2019–20)

	School Year		
	17–18	18–19	19–20
Enrollment	1138	1086	1032
+American Indian/Alaskan Native*	0%	0%	0%
+Asian*	2%	1%	2%
+Black/African American*	70%	70%	69%
+Hispanic or Latino, <i>any race</i>	16%	17%	18%
+Multiracial, <i>two or more races</i> *	4%	4%	3%
+Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander*	0%	0%	0%
+White*	7%	8%	8%
Special Education	12%	13%	16%
English Learner**	16%	17%	17%
Gifted Eligible	7%	8%	8%
Free/Reduced Lunch	76%	76%	76%
Average Attendance***	96%	96%	96%

*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...

- 74.8% of students agreed or strongly agreed that they felt safe at Norton Elementary.
- 100% 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.

Norton Elementary School

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