



Results-Based Evaluation System

Accountability Report

Issued 2020–21



Phoenix High School

Niki Ross, *Principal*

Debbie Dees, *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 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 Phoenix 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 Highlights and Programs

Phoenix High School continues to exist as a complement to the traditional high school program within Gwinnett County Public Schools. Phoenix is organized much like a community college, with students being allowed to choose their classes, instructors, and schedules. Students on this campus also are advised at least once a mini-semester by a faculty member who will make certain that each student remains on the appropriate course of study to complete graduation as quickly as desired by the student. Phoenix has two formal graduations each year— one in December and one in May. A full-day childcare program is on site to serve young mothers desiring to complete their high school program of study and earn a diploma.

The course of study at Phoenix is organized into four mini-semesters, with all courses offered that complete a college preparatory diploma as well as honors-level coursework. These classes are offered in blocks of time that run from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Students

excel in photography, art, and digital media classes at Phoenix. The work produced has earned awards at the county, state, and national levels. Among them are Scholastic Art Awards as well as Congressional Art Awards. In years past, Phoenix had exhibits at the Atlanta Dogwood Festival as well as the Metro Atlanta High School Exhibit at the High Museum.

Community service is an important element to students’ program of study, with many students completing hundreds of hours of volunteer service to the community in the form of tutoring, working at local elementary schools, providing support at festivals, and supporting faith-based community programs for the needy. Students attending Phoenix also have the opportunity to participate in Work-Based Learning, allowing students to receive high school credit for career-focused work. This program is very popular at Phoenix and has an average enrollment of 30 students per mini-semester.

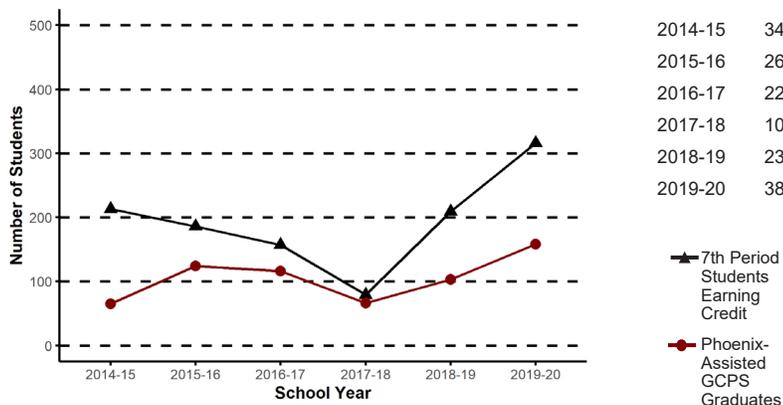
Phoenix HS Graduates by Graduation Year, Number of Years to Graduate, and Total Graduates

Graduation Cohort	# and (%) Graduated within 4 years	# and (%) Graduated within 5 years	# and (%) Graduated within 6 years	# and (%) Graduated within 7 years	# and (%) Graduated within 8+ years	Total Number Graduates
2015	20 (11%)	89 (48%)	36 (19%)	25 (13%)	17 (9%)	187
2016	38 (17%)	112 (49%)	44 (19%)	19 (8%)	16 (7%)	229
2017	30 (14%)	102 (49%)	42 (20%)	23 (11%)	12 (6%)	209
2018	30 (14%)	96 (45%)	49 (23%)	19 (9%)	17 (8%)	211
2019	47 (24%)	75 (39%)	43 (22%)	19 (10%)	9 (5%)	193
2020	65 (25%)	122 (47%)	41 (16%)	19 (7%)	13 (5%)	260

7th Period (Part-time) Students Earning Credit Toward Graduation

Students don't have to attend Phoenix full time to get the benefit of the flexible format. Students from other Gwinnett high schools may attend Phoenix (afternoon or evening) to take one or more classes. In the chart at right, note the number of students (represented by red line) from other Gwinnett high schools who earned credit toward graduation by attending Phoenix. More than 90% of seniors taking 7th period classes (black line) graduated from their home school in four years ("on-time") by completing coursework at Phoenix.

Number of Part-time Students Earning Credit Toward Graduation



Number of Classes Passed by Part-time Students

2014-15	344
2015-16	261
2016-17	229
2017-18	100
2018-19	236
2019-20	388

2019-20 Senior Report

	Students Completing HS†	Number Who Enrolled in College or Postsecondary School (Fall 2018)*	Number of Honor Graduates†	Seniors with Dual Enrollment†
Phoenix	246	31	0	14
GCPS	11,887	7,966	3,672	1,928

*Based on the National Student Clearinghouse enrollment records

†Reflects system-reported data as of August 2018

Student Data (2017-18 to 2019-20)

	School Year		
	17-18	18-19	19-20
Enrollment	499	555	767
+American Indian/Alaskan Native*	0%	0%	0%
+Asian*	2%	2%	3%
+Black/African American*	35%	31%	29%
+Hispanic or Latino, any race	51%	54%	58%
+Multiracial, two or more races*	2%	4%	3%
+Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander*	0%	0%	0%
+White*	10%	9%	7%
Special Education	0%	0%	1%
English Learner**	9%	8%	12%
Gifted Eligible	0%	0%	0%
Free/Reduced Lunch	68%	68%	64%
Average Attendance***	94%	96%	92%

*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...

- 89.7% of students agreed or strongly agreed that they felt safe at Phoenix High.
- Full-time security personnel are on campus 13 hours each day and a School Resource Officer is on call.
- Phoenix High School students continue to demonstrate strong ownership of our academic program each year.

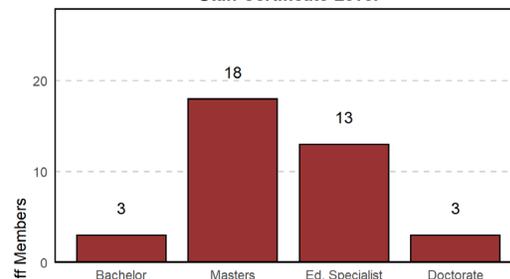
About Our Staff

Phoenix High School is staffed with 100% highly qualified teachers. Each teacher at Phoenix High is committed to:

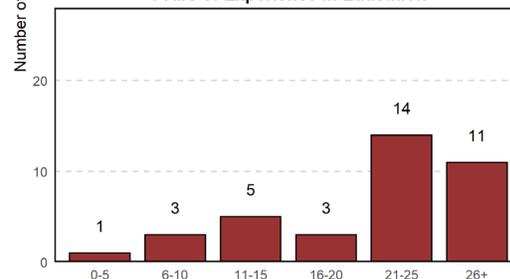
- personalizing learning for each student,
- planning for student-centered learning,
- using consistent criteria for learning, and
- developing and using assessments that are criterion- and performance-based.

This commitment ensures that each Phoenix teacher takes the time to get to know each student on an individual basis. Students also are expected to meet specific standards on the essential knowledge and skills in order to earn course credit. Our philosophy of shared teaching commitments is why students at Phoenix High School are successful on local, county, state, and national tests.

Staff Certificate Level



Years of Experience in Education



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.

Phoenix High School
501 West Pike Street • Lawrenceville, GA 30046
(770) 513-6862 • www.gcpsk12.org/phoenixhs
Niki Ross, Principal

Gwinnett County Public Schools

437 Old Peachtree Rd., NW • Suwanee, GA 30024-2978
www.gcpsk12.org

2020 Gwinnett County Board of Education

Louise Radloff (District V), 2020 Chairman; Carole C. Boyce (District I), 2020 Vice Chairman; Steven B. Knudsen (District II); Dr. Mary Kay Murphy (District III); and Everton Blair, Jr. (District IV)

J. Alvin Wilbanks, CEO/Superintendent