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 Puckett’s Mill 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. Puckett’s Mill’s 2020 NPR for 2nd graders taking the Iowa Assessments is 79, compared to the overall GCPS NPR of 60. For 2020, the Puckett’s Mill’s NPR for 5th graders is 75.6, 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 Puckett’s Mill 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 Puckett’s Mill ES in 2019–20 was 4.42, compared to the GCPS elementary school average of 4.24.
Puckett’s Mill Elementary School

Other 2019–20 Highlights...

- Puckett’s Mill Elementary is pleased with the high academic achievement of our students on local, county, and national assessments. Our achievement scores continually place us among the top-performing schools in each category. Our 2019 mid-year data showed all grade levels exceeding expectations. Students in 4th grade had the highest percentages in the district, and students in grades 2 and 5 increased their level of performance on the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills compared to previous years.

- Puckett’s Mill was named among the top 6% of schools in the state, according to Niche.com.

- Puckett’s Mill Elementary was recognized by the Governor’s Office of Student Achievement as a Highest Performing School at the Silver level under Georgia’s Single Statewide Accountability System.

- Puckett’s Mill Elementary was recognized as a Reaching Higher Green & Healthy School in the Environmental Achievement Awards sponsored by Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful.

- All students participated in STEM experiences with a Project-Based Learning (PBL) focus through the integration of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.

- The Puckett’s Mill PTA continued to be a strong advocate for teaching and learning. Because of the PTA’s support, teachers and students benefited from numerous cultural arts programs throughout the year. The PTA continued to have a strong membership among parents and 100% staff membership.

- Our PTA raised more than $20,000 to fund technology and media resources for the school. The PTA also supported the Reflections competition, Cultural Arts programs, and many special events for staff, students, and families.

- Puckett’s Mill teachers continued to provide opportunities for Project-Based Learning to ensure K–12 continuity in the Mill Creek Cluster.

- Our school’s head custodian and Building Services Team were recognized for exemplary performance for the 2019–20 school year with county-level awards.

- Puckett’s Mill inducted 36 5th graders into National Junior Beta Club.

- The Puckett’s Mill Robotics Team competed in the FIRST LEGO League County Competition.

- Students placed at the county level in the Gwinnett Science, Engineering + Innovation Fair and Young Georgia Authors Writing Competition. Many students won county and state awards for their artistic and literary talents.

- More than half of our students participated in one of 16 clubs and enrichment opportunities.

- Puckett’s Mill continued to cultivate student leaders through its Peer Leader Program.

- Hundreds of Puckett’s Mill fathers and father figures participated in our All Pro Dad program.

- PMES raised more than $8,000 for Relay For Life.

- Community service continued to be a priority for Puckett’s Mill students. Food drives, and sock and winter coat collections were among projects that benefited the community throughout the school year.

2019–20 Staff Data

**Student Data (2017–18 to 2019–20)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enrollment</th>
<th>School Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>17–18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian/Alaskan Native*</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian*</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black/African American*</td>
<td>13%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hispanic or Latino, any race</td>
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<tr>
<td>Multiracial, two or more races*</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander*</td>
<td>0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>White*</td>
<td>71%</td>
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</table>

Special Education 14% 17% 18%
English Learner** 6% 6% 7%
Gifted Eligible 13% 12% 14%
Free/Reduced Lunch 13% 15% 13%
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...

- 94.4% of students agreed or strongly agreed that they felt safe at Puckett’s Mill Elementary.

- 98.8% 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.

Puckett’s Mill Elementary School
2442 S. Pucketts Mill Road • Dacula, GA 30019
(678) 765-5110 • https://www.gcpsk12.org/PucketsMillES
Ruth Westbrooks, Principal

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

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