

Accountability Report

Issued 2020–21

Suwanee Elementary School

Mary B. Taylor, *Principal*

Clifton Alexander, *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 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 Suwanee 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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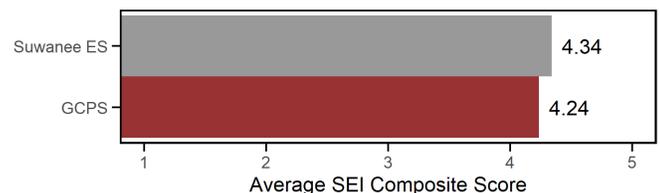
2019–20 Results: Norm-referenced Assessments: The Iowa Assessments

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. Suwanee's 2020 NPR for 2nd graders taking the Iowa Assessments is 85, compared to the overall GCPS NPR of 60. For 2020, the Suwanee's NPR for 5th graders is 64, 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 Suwanee 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 Suwanee ES in 2019–20 was 4.34, compared to the GCPS elementary school average of 4.24.

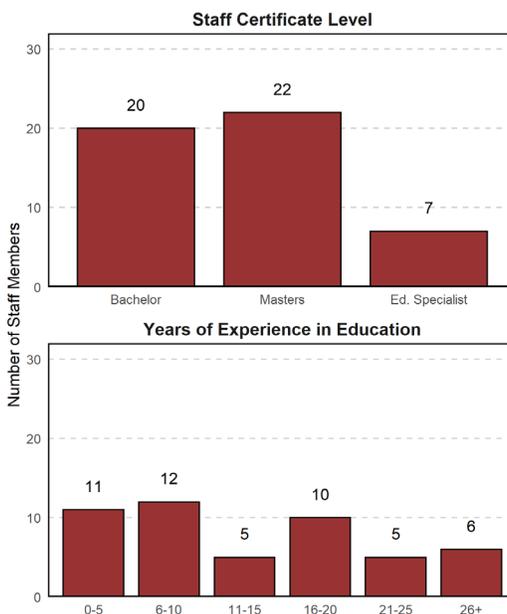


Suwanee Elementary School

Other 2019–20 Highlights...

- All Suwanee students participated in “Specials” instruction in PE, Art, Music, and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics).
- Family Learning Nights included our STEM Night, Story Night, and an Arts and International Night.
- Our school provided extracurricular opportunities in the form of before- and after-school clubs to support various student interests, including fine arts, athletics, and community service.
- Our Robotics team earned an award for Core Values, which is an award for teamwork, at the FIRST LEGO League competition.
- Suwanee Earned a STEM grant of more than \$11,000, which provided resources to enrich science and technology education. The grant also will provide an opportunity for an after-school camp.
- Our media specialist earned a grant from the North Gwinnett Foundation to purchase a book vending machine, which is used to promote literacy and student leadership. Students are recognized every month for showing their “Jaguar” positive characteristic like perseverance and select a free book from the machine. Our book vending machine is the first in Gwinnett County Public Schools.
- The Suwanee PTA is a strong advocate for teaching and learning. Through the PTA’s support, teachers and students benefited from classroom grants, the addition of Chromebooks for classrooms, and books for our new book vending machine. Suwanee teachers and staff are very thankful for their commitment and support.
- Suwanee offered Advanced Content Math for qualifying students in grades 2–5.
- Artwork of one of our 5th grade students was selected for the Gwinnett County Public Schools Exhibition at the High Museum of Art in Spring 2020.
- Our student chorus performed at Suwanee Fest, the Gladiators Sing for Santa event, the Gwinnett County Justice and Administration Building for the school showcase, and at Jolly Holly Day at the Suwanee Town Center.
- Eight students participated in the statewide Elementary Honor Choir.
- The All Pro Dad group increased school involvement. Each month, participants attend a breakfast before school with their student. All Pro Dad volunteers supported improvement efforts in our Suwanee Outdoor Classroom, removing debris, laying pine straw, and creating a clean learning space.

2019–20 Staff Data



Student Data (2017–18 to 2019–20)

	School Year		
	17–18	18–19	19–20
Enrollment	611	657	681
+American Indian/Alaskan Native*	0%	0%	0%
+Asian*	28%	29%	29%
+Black/African American*	13%	12%	14%
+Hispanic or Latino, <i>any race</i>	10%	10%	10%
+Multiracial, <i>two or more races</i> *	6%	8%	8%
+Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander*	0%	0%	0%
+White*	44%	41%	38%
Special Education	10%	11%	11%
English Learner**	18%	19%	19%
Gifted Eligible	15%	16%	15%
Free/Reduced Lunch	16%	15%	17%
Average Attendance***	97%	97%	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...

- 90.5% of students agreed or strongly agreed that they felt safe at Suwanee Elementary.
- 98.4% 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.

Suwanee Elementary School

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