

Accountability Report

Issued 2020–21

Sycamore Elementary School

Dr. Crystal Cooper, *Principal*

Dr. Kelli McCain, *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 Sycamore 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.**

CONTENTS

About School Improvement

2019–20 Iowa Assessment Results

2019–20 Student Engagement

2019–20 Highlights



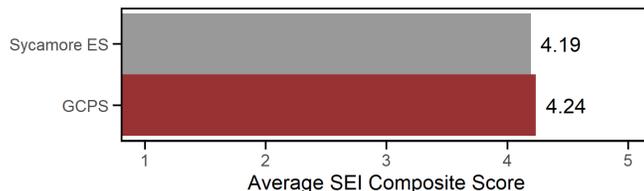
2019–20 Results: Norm-referenced Assessments: The Iowa Assessments

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. Sycamore's 2020 NPR for 2nd graders taking the Iowa Assessments is 57, compared to the overall GCPS NPR of 60. For 2020, the Sycamore's NPR for 5th graders is 43.9, 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 Sycamore 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 Sycamore ES in 2019–20 was 4.19, compared to the GCPS elementary school average of 4.24.

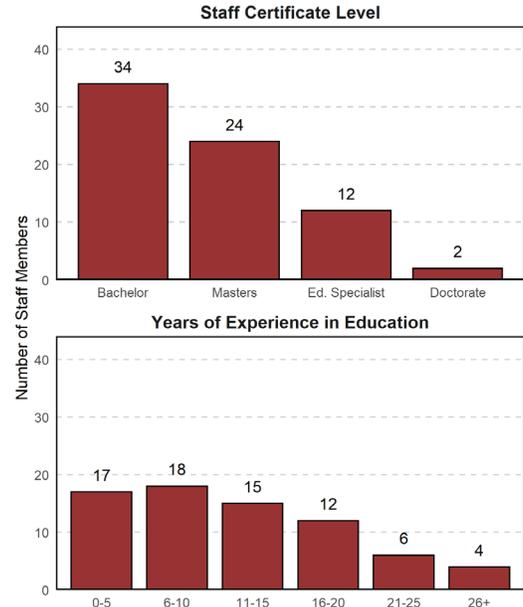


Sycamore Elementary School

Other 2019–20 Highlights...

- Student leaders attended the 6th annual Lanier Cluster Student Leadership Conference.
- Sycamore held its 4th annual International Day event for the school and community.
- Sycamore held its 5th Annual Literacy Palooza.
- Coach Gibby led the students' efforts to raise \$5,602 for the American Heart Association in the Jump Rope for Heart competition.
- Sycamore raised \$302 for Relay For Life.
- Sycamore received a grant for \$5,800 from the Lanier Education Foundation for various school projects.
- Sycamore raised \$5,543 to support school initiatives with its World's Finest Chocolate Fundraiser.
- Literacy and STEM Nights were supported by Sycamore's Title I program.
- Extracurricular activities for students included Art Club, Orffestra, Dance Team, National Junior Beta Club, Broadcast Club, Kindness Club, Math Club, Spanish Club, and Student Council.
- Sycamore held a Holiday Jam Dance to benefit the United Way.
- Sycamore held a Valentine's Day Dinner and Dance for Sycamore families.
- Sycamore's PTA promoted the home-school-community connection through instructional activities and programs, including Bingo Night, Fall Festival, and school celebrations and field trips for all students.
- Sycamore led a strong digital learning experience from March to May. Teachers encouraged digital students with a car parade through their neighborhoods.
- Sycamore Elementary was recognized as a Reaching Higher Green & Healthy School in Environmental Awards sponsored by Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful.
- Sycamore's Media Center hosted Scholastic Book Fairs in September and February.

2019–20 Staff Data



Student Data (2017–18 to 2019–20)

	School Year		
	17–18	18–19	19–20
Enrollment	787	814	844
+American Indian/Alaskan Native*	0%	0%	0%
+Asian*	4%	4%	5%
+Black/African American*	15%	17%	18%
+Hispanic or Latino, <i>any race</i>	44%	43%	43%
+Multiracial, <i>two or more races</i> *	3%	4%	4%
+Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander*	0%	0%	0%
+White*	34%	32%	31%
Special Education	17%	18%	19%
English Learner**	34%	35%	34%
Gifted Eligible	3%	4%	5%
Free/Reduced Lunch	59%	57%	57%
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...

- 84.4% of students agreed or strongly agreed that they felt safe at Sycamore 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.

Sycamore Elementary School

5695 Sycamore Road • Sugar Hill, GA 30518
(678) 714-5770 • <https://www.gcpsk12.org/sycamorees>
Dr. Crystal Cooper, *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