

Accountability Report

Issued 2020–21

Walnut Grove Elementary School

Dr. Dale Pugh, *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 Walnut Grove 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



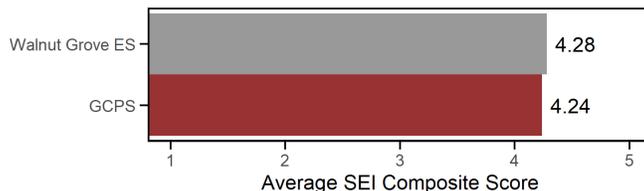
2019–20 Results: Norm-referenced Assessments: The Iowa Assessments

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. Walnut Grove's 2020 NPR for 2nd graders taking the Iowa Assessments is 62, compared to the overall GCPS NPR of 60. For 2020, the Walnut Grove's NPR for 5th graders is 61.2, 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 Walnut Grove 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 Walnut Grove ES in 2019–20 was 4.28, compared to the GCPS elementary school average of 4.24.

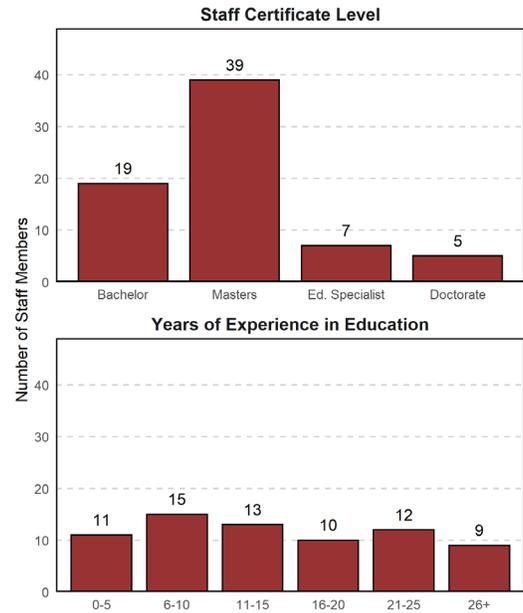


Walnut Grove Elementary School

Other 2019–20 Highlights...

- The Walnut Grove PTA is actively involved in the school, supporting all aspects of teaching and learning as well as providing funding for educational resources. The PTA sponsored our Reflections Contest, Eaglefest, cultural arts programs, staff appreciation events, and family events.
- Ashton Simpson, a 4th grade teacher, was selected by her peers to represent our school as Walnut Grove’s Teacher of the Year. She also was one of 25 semifinalists for Gwinnett County Teacher of the Year.
- The following staff members received Collins Hill Education Foundation (CHEF) grants: Laurie Rundqwist for “STEM—Hit Refresh” and Lynn Fagan and Carol Kinney for “Positively Uplifting and Encouraging Student Restroom Makeover.”
- Walnut Grove Elementary was recognized as a Taking Action Green & Healthy School in the Environmental Achievement Awards sponsored by Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful.
- Walnut Grove participated in the KIDS HOPE USA mentoring program in partnership with North Metro Baptist Church, which served 14 students.
- With the help of its PTA, Walnut Grove renovated its gymnasium with new paint and a new gym floor.
- Georgia United Foundation’s School Crashers program awarded Walnut Grove with a facilities improvement grant that renovated and updated our special needs playground space and equipment. The organization received more than 200 nominations and Walnut Grove was one of five schools selected across the state of Georgia to receive this grant.
- Walnut Grove raised \$4,400.08 for United Way and \$1,815.72 for the American Heart Association.
- Walnut Grove’s FIRST LEGO League Robotics Team qualified for the Super Regionals.
- Walnut Grove was recognized by the Governor’s Office of Student Achievement as a Greatest Gains School at the Gold level under Georgia’s Single Statewide Accountability System.
- Walnut Grove finished at 23 out of 80 elementary schools in the county on the Weighted School Assessment (WSA).

2019–20 Staff Data



Student Data (2017–18 to 2019–20)

	School Year		
	17–18	18–19	19–20
Enrollment	870	858	844
+American Indian/Alaskan Native*	1%	0%	0%
+Asian*	15%	14%	14%
+Black/African American*	20%	19%	18%
+Hispanic or Latino, <i>any race</i>	28%	32%	30%
+Multiracial, <i>two or more races</i> *	6%	6%	7%
+Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander*	0%	0%	0%
+White*	30%	30%	30%
Special Education	18%	18%	18%
English Learner**	26%	26%	25%
Gifted Eligible	6%	9%	10%
Free/Reduced Lunch	45%	44%	39%
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...

- 91.1% of students agreed or strongly agreed that they felt safe at Walnut Grove 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.

Walnut Grove Elementary School
 75 Taylor Road • Suwanee, GA 30024
 (770) 513-6892 • <https://www.gcpsk12.org/WalnutGroveES>
 Dr. Dale Pugh, 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