



NEWS RELEASE

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Gwinnett students outperform peers on Georgia Milestones

System and school scores from the 2017-18 administration of the Georgia Milestones Assessment System (Georgia Milestones in grades 3-8 and Georgia Milestones EOCs in grades 9-12) were released today. Overall, Gwinnett students demonstrated higher achievement with fewer students scoring in the beginning category when compared to the previous year.

Georgia Milestones assesses student learning along four levels of performance. These designations aim to shift the focus away from just test scores, instead capturing the progression of students' learning:

- **Beginning Learners** do not yet demonstrate proficiency in the knowledge and skills necessary at this grade level/course of learning, as specified in Georgia's content standards. The students need substantial academic support to be prepared for the next grade level or course and to be on track for college and career readiness.
- **Developing Learners** demonstrate partial proficiency in the knowledge and skills necessary at this grade level/course of learning, as specified by Georgia's content standards. The students need additional academic support to ensure success in the next grade level or course and to be on track for college and career readiness.
- **Proficient Learners** demonstrate proficiency in the knowledge and skills necessary at this grade level/course of learning, as specified in Georgia's content standards. The students are prepared for the next grade level or course and are on track for college and career readiness.
- **Distinguished Learners** demonstrate advanced proficiency in the knowledge and skills necessary at this grade level/course of learning, as specified in Georgia's content standards. The students are well prepared for the next grade level or course and are well prepared for college and career readiness.

“In this fourth year of the Georgia Milestones we continue to focus on moving more students to the top two performance levels,” says **Dr. Jonathan Patterson**, associate superintendent for Curriculum and Instructional Support. “The information we gain through assessments is key to the teaching and learning process. We will review the 2018 results, looking particularly at what we can do to raise achievement among our students— those who struggle as well as those who have shown advanced proficiency. Our goal is to have more students performing not just at grade

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level but above grade level. This focus, along with our teachers' tireless efforts to meet our students' needs, will help us prepare students for college and careers in today's world."

Gwinnett Elementary and Middle School EOG Results:

At the elementary school level, across all subject areas and grade levels, GCPS had a greater percentage of students in the top two performance levels (proficient and distinguished) than the state. Middle school results were similar with the exception of 8th grade math and science as many of our 8th grade GCPS students took more rigorous courses and were assessed by the high school EOC assessment.

English Language Arts

- In grades 3-7, the percentage of Gwinnett students scoring in the "Beginning" category remained consistent or improved.
- 3rd grade scores increased with 47% scoring proficient and distinguished compared to 43% from the previous year. The state percentage in the proficient and distinguished categories increased 1 percentage point to 37%.
- 4th grade scores remained consistent with 51% scoring in the proficient and distinguished range. State scores in these categories decreased from 42% to 41%.
- 5th grade scores increased from 46% proficient and distinguished to 51%. The state also saw increases from 38% to 41%.
- GCPS 6th grade scores decreased from 51% proficient and distinguished to 50%. The state saw a similar decrease moving from 40% to 39% in these top two categories.
- 7th grade scores in the top two categories increased from 48% proficient and distinguished to 51%. The state increased from 37% to 38%.
- In Gwinnett, we saw an increase in the percentage scoring in the top two levels at 8th grade, moving from 52% proficient and distinguished to 56%. The state also saw an increase in these top levels, moving from 42% to 43%.

Mathematics

- In grades 3, 4, 5, 6, and 8, the percentage of Gwinnett students scoring in the "Beginning" category remained consistent or improved.
- Additionally, a higher percentage of students scored in the combined "Proficient" and "Distinguished" categories in grades 3, 4, 5, 7, and 8.
- 3rd grade scores increased from 52% scoring proficient and distinguished to 56%. The state saw an increase in these top two categories, moving from 42% to 46%.
- The percentage of GCPS 4th graders scoring in the proficient and distinguished categories increased from 57% to 59%. The state's increase in these categories was 45% to 47%.

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- Gwinnett 5th grade scores increased from 47% scoring in the proficient and distinguished categories to 49%. The state saw increases in the top two categories, from 37% to 39%.
- GCPS 6th graders scoring in the top two levels decreased slightly from 53% to 52%. State results at these levels remained consistent at 38%.
- The percentage of Gwinnett 7th graders scoring at the proficient and distinguished levels increased from 55% to 56%. State results at these levels increased from 42% to 43%.
- Gwinnett saw an increase in the percentage of 8th graders scoring at the proficient and distinguished levels, moving from 23% to 26%. The state remained consistent with 34% scoring at these higher levels. *(It should be noted that the majority of Gwinnett students now take the Algebra EOC in place of the 8th grade Math EOG, and those results are not included in this calculation.)*

Science

- Gwinnett Science results showed improvement over the previous year's results with more students scoring at the proficient and distinguished levels.
- At the 5th grade level, the percentage of students scoring at the top two levels increased from 49% to 52% and fewer students scored in the Beginning level. State results at these levels remained consistent at 39%.
- In 8th grade the increase of Gwinnett students scoring proficient and distinguished increased from 16% to 19%. The state increased at these levels from 29% to 30%. *(It should be noted that in 8th grade the majority of students now take the HS Physical Science EOC in place of the 8th grade Science EOG.)*

Social Studies

- The percentage of 5th grade scores in the proficient and distinguished categories decreased from 40% to 39%. The state saw a slight increase in these top categories, moving from 29% to 30%.
- Gwinnett 8th graders scoring in the proficient and distinguished ranges decreased from 58% to 57%. The state saw a slight increase in these top categories moving from 39% to 41%.

High School EOC Results:

On the high school EOCs, students in Gwinnett, overall, demonstrated improved results with fewer students scoring in the beginning category when compared to last year's results for the majority of courses. GCPS percentages of students in the proficient and distinguished performance levels were above the state in all subjects.

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Language Arts

- The percentage of Gwinnett students scoring proficient and distinguished in 9th Grade Literature and Composition was 60%, down from 62% in 2017. The state percentage of students scoring in proficient and distinguished decreased from 53% in 2017 to 52% in 2018. (*Note: Of the 14,206 students taking the 9th Grade Literature and Composition EOC in Gwinnett, 329 were middle school students.*)
- American Literature and Composition scores in GCPS decreased from 57% of students scoring in proficient and distinguished to 56%. The percentage of students across the state scoring in these top performance levels also decreased, moving from 49% to 47%.

Mathematics

- The performance of GCPS students in the top two performance categories in Algebra I remained consistent with 47% scoring proficient and distinguished. Statewide there was an increase at these levels from 35% in 2017 to 38% in 2018. (*Note: Of the 16,724 students taking the Algebra I EOC in Gwinnett, 8,337 were middle school students.*)
- Forty-five percent of GCPS students scored in the proficient and distinguished categories on the Geometry EOC in 2018, compared to 42% in 2017. The state also saw an increase in the percentage of students scoring in these two categories with 39% in 2018 compared to 38% in 2017. (*Note: Of the 12,692 students taking the Geometry EOC in Gwinnett, 207 were middle school students.*)

Science

- Of the 10,766 students taking the Physical Science EOC in Gwinnett, 10,722 were middle school students. Scores increased with 58% scoring in the proficient and distinguished categories compared to 52% in 2017. The state also saw an increase in students scoring in the top two levels—43% in 2018 compared to 39% in 2017.
- Fifty-eight percent of GCPS Biology students scored proficient and distinguished, up from 55% the previous year; the state saw an increase from 45% to 49%.

Social Studies

- Gwinnett's U.S. History scores in the proficient and distinguished categories increased from 51% to 57%. State scores also increased with 47% scoring at these levels in 2018 compared to 45% in 2017.
- Economics scores for the spring administration also improved in 2018 with 55% of GCPS students earning scores of proficient and distinguished; state scores increased to 49%.