



Accountability Report

Results-Based Evaluation System

Issued 2010–11



Benefield Elementary School

Dr. Melissa Walker, *Principal*

Dr. Gale Hey, *Area Superintendent*

Gwinnett County Public Schools (GCPS) has developed an accountability system for improving schools 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.

The Benefield Elementary school council and school leaders collaborated on the highlights included in this accountability report, which also serves as the school’s annual report. The report provides consolidated information on the school’s effectiveness, based on multiple measures and student characteristics. **Please review this report to learn more about the school’s improvement efforts and progress.**

Key Results from 2009–10 Local School Plans for Improvement

Local School Plans for Improvement are plans developed locally by school administrators, teachers, and parent advisory groups. These plans outline school goals.

Goal: Benefield Elementary will increase academic performance in mathematics, reading, English language arts, and science for all students in order to meet or exceed annual targets.

Results: Students at Benefield showed improvement in math, reading, English language arts, and science.

- Students in all grades showed improvement in math achievement, with significant gains by our 5th grade students. The passing rate for Benefield 5th grade students improved by 18 percentage points on the math section of the state’s Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests (CRCT).
- In reading, 90% of 1st and 2nd grade students met or exceeded state standards on the CRCT, while the passing rate for 4th graders was 93%.
- In the area of English language arts, 90% of 4th graders met or exceeded state standards on the CRCT.
- Achievement in the area of science continued to increase, with the percentage of students meeting or exceeding state standards on the CRCT reaching 80% or higher for all grade levels.

Gains in all academic areas may be attributed to schoolwide initiatives, such as professional learning in math and literacy instruction, collaborative planning with and support from instructional coaches, and highly engaging instruction supported by technology. The quality staff at Benefield works diligently— with an emphasis on high-quality instructional strategies— to help every child be successful. Benefield’s focus on effective teaching and learning for all will continue.

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Tell us what you think about this report.

Click here to complete a questionnaire online.

Gwinnett schools measure student learning of the school system's curriculum—the Academic Knowledge and Skills (AKS)—in a number of ways to ensure students have learned the AKS and will be successful in the next grade. One measure is the state's Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests (CRCT), which compares student achievement to state standards in several subject areas for grades 1–8. Georgia students in grades 3 and 5 also take a state writing assessment. Test results are used by teachers to identify individual student strengths and weaknesses and by the state to gauge the quality of education throughout Georgia.

2009–10 Results: Gwinnett County Public Schools Promotion Requirements (Grades 4 and 5)

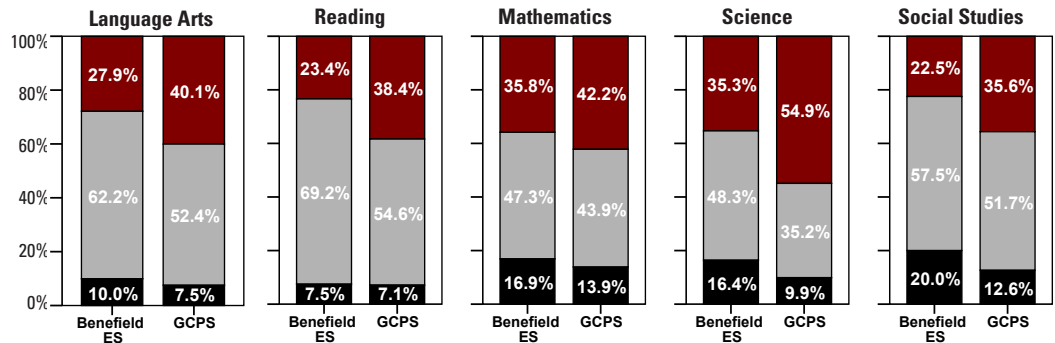
In Gwinnett, state tests taken in grades 4 and 5 are used as Gateway assessments and results are used to determine whether a student is prepared for the next grade level. Following are results for Benefield Elementary for these local promotion requirements.

Grade 4 Gateway: Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Reading CRCT Subtests

For 2009–10, a Gwinnett 4th grader was required to meet grade-level expectations on the CRCT in five subject areas—language arts, reading, mathematics, science, and social studies—in order to earn promotion. Students' test performance on the Grade 4 Gateway falls into three levels of mastery of the state's curriculum: Exceeds, Meets, Does Not Meet.

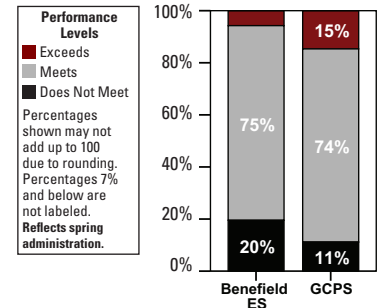
Exceeds, Meets, Does Not Meet.

Performance Levels
 ■ Exceeds
 ■ Meets
 ■ Does Not Meet
 Percentages shown may not add up to 100 due to rounding. Percentages 7% and below are not labeled. Reflects spring administration.



Grade 5 Gateway: Georgia Grade 5 Writing Assessment

In addition to earning passing grades, GCPS 5th graders were required to make a passing score on the Georgia Grade 5 Writing Assessment, which is a Gateway test in Gwinnett. This chart reflects how well Benefield Elementary's students did on the test in 2009–10, with 80% of Benefield 5th graders passing the writing Gateway on the first try. (Data reflects achievement of all students, including special education students and students with limited English who were not required to pass the Gateway for promotion.)



2009–10 Results: State Promotion Requirements (Grades 3 and 5)

The state also has established promotion requirements for selected grade levels. The table at the right reflects the percentage of Benefield Elementary students in grades 3 and 5 who met grade-level expectations on the state's CRCT in order to earn promotion.

% of Students Who Passed CRCT Subtests Required for Promotion*

	Benefield	GCPS	State
3rd Grade Reading CRCT	85	92	90
5th Grade Reading CRCT	84	92	90
5th Grade Math CRCT	81	87	82

*Reflects spring administration

2009–10 Results: Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests and Adequate Yearly Progress

Schools earn Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) status by meeting a series of performance goals that every school, system, and the state as a whole must achieve under the federal No Child Left Behind Act. In Georgia, AYP for elementary schools is determined using results from the Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests (CRCT) in reading/English language arts and mathematics. These tests measure the knowledge and skills of students by assessing how well students have learned the state's curriculum. To make AYP, elementary schools must meet state-set student achievement goals and attendance standards for all students, and for all subgroups that have 40 or more students or 10% of the students in grades 3–5, whichever is greater (with a 75-student cap). In addition, schools must test 95% of all students and of all subgroups with 40 or more students. Georgia reports achievement scores for every subgroup with 10 or more students. However, the state only considers results for subgroups that meet the state-set minimum number of students in determining a school's AYP status.

See the table at the top of the next page for a detailed breakdown of Benefield CRCT achievement in each AYP subgroup.

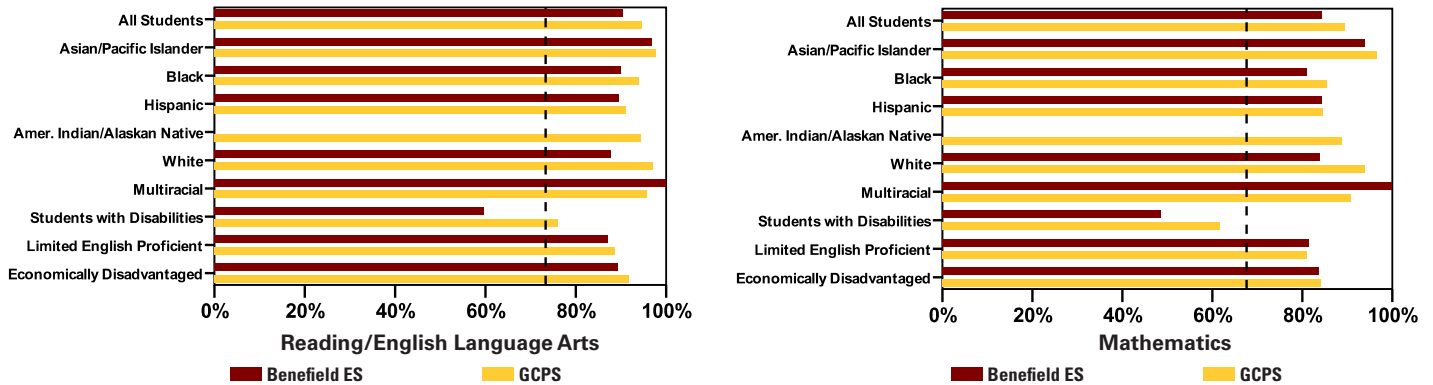
Benefield Elementary AYP Results by Subgroup

Benefield Elementary achieved AYP	All Students	Asian/Pacific Islander	Black	Hispanic	American Indian/Alaskan	White	Multi-Racial	Students with Disabilities	Limited English Proficient	Economically Disadvantaged
Math Participation	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	.	.	.	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
Math Performance	Achieved	.	Achieved	Achieved	.	.	.	.	Achieved	Achieved
Reading/ELA Participation	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	.	.	.	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
Reading/ELA Performance	Achieved	.	Achieved	Achieved	.	.	.	.	Achieved	Achieved

This school **achieved** the state's attendance standard for all students.

• In the table above, only results for subgroups that meet the state-set minimum number of students are used to determine AYP

Percentage of Students Meeting or Exceeding State Standards



Note: In charts above, only subgroups with 10 or more students are reported. Results for groups smaller than the state minimum are not considered for AYP. The dotted line on each graph represents the state's AYP standard in 2010. The standards will increase to 100% by 2014. The charts above reflect spring and summer test administrations.

Benefield Elementary made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), meeting all of the state's academic goals, testing participation requirements, and attendance standards.

A Message from the Principal About Student Achievement and Academic Initiatives

Teaching and learning is the focus of Benefield Elementary School. We believe that all students should meet or exceed state standards. To realize our belief in all students, we have implemented a number of student-centered and teacher-focused initiatives.

Benefield teachers employed the Quality-Plus Teaching Strategies during their lessons. These 13 research-based teaching strategies have been proven to increase student achievement for all types of learners across grade levels and subject areas. Teachers were active participants in a variety of professional learning opportunities offered at the local school, within the district, and from national conferences.

We also extended the learning time for our students through a multitude of interventions. Benefield provided after-school and Saturday programs to extend learning programs in the areas of reading, mathematics, writing, and language arts. During the school day, students who were eligible participated in the Early Intervention Program (EIP), Reading Recovery, English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), the transition acceleration program, gifted education, and special education programs. We focused on providing more time and opportunities for students so they could make academic progress at a faster rate.

Our literacy and math instructional coaches worked with both students and teachers to continue the quest to improve student achievement, with a focus on supporting all students so they achieve at their highest potential. Parents and students participated in a Family Literacy Night at Benefield with tremendous community response. Our Parent Center hosted classes to assist parents who were learning English and to help parents improve their own academic skills through computer-based instruction from SkillsTutor. The Center also offered parent workshops on a number of topics to encourage and support parent involvement in their child's education.

At Benefield, we believe that students, parents, and teachers must work collaboratively to support the academic development of each and every child. Benefield Elementary is focused on providing quality-plus learning experiences for every child through active and engaging lessons rich in literacy, writing, and higher-order thinking and problem-solving skills.

We look forward to the continued success of all Benefield students!

Benefield Elementary School

Other 2009–10 Highlights...

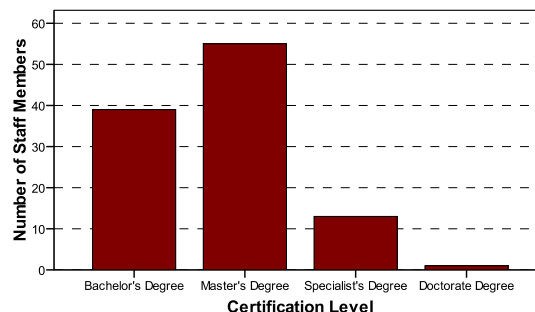


Gwinnett County Public Schools is the 2010 winner of The Broad Prize for Urban Education, the country's most prestigious honor for K–12 education.

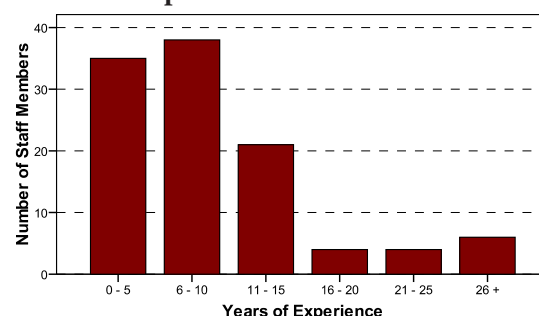
- Once again, Benefield Elementary qualified as a Georgia Title I Distinguished School for making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for four consecutive years.
- Benefield Elementary has highly qualified teachers who continue to enhance their teaching strategies. During the 2009–10 school year, three teachers completed master's degrees in Reading and in Teaching and Learning, four teachers completed specialist's degrees in Brain Research and in Educational Leadership, and one teacher completed a doctoral degree in Educational Leadership and Curriculum Development.
- During the summer, Benefield Elementary hosted GCPS Vision 2016, a literacy initiative filled with professional learning for teachers. Four Benefield teachers were presenters for this professional learning. We hosted more than 600 teachers for this event, with 24 teachers from Benefield participating.
- Two Benefield teachers were presenters for countywide staff development sessions in mathematics and science, while two other educators were GCPS Math Institute trainers. Five Benefield teachers participated in the summer Math Institute.
- Benefield 5th graders participated in a week-long Yellowstone Survivor activity. Students focused on science, writing, and math AKS; participated in hands-on experiments; and learned more about birds and survival with a visit from a falconer. The school's local school technology coordinator planned and implemented this activity, which received media recognition.
- Each day, Benefield 4th and 5th grade students produced a live news show, BBC, and created videos for public service announcements and vocabulary studies.
- More than 75 volunteers from Cisco Systems, Inc., donated more than 750 hours to support Benefield students as part of Junior Achievement Week.
- Family Literacy Night engaged students, teachers, and parents in interactive reading circles with shared text. Each child was provided a book to take home.

2009–10 Staff Data

Staff Certification Level



Experience in Education



2009–10 Student Data

	School Year
	09–10
Enrollment	1,389
+American Indian/Alaskan Native*	1%
+Asian*	7%
+Black/African American*	35%
+Hispanic or Latino, any race	48%
+Multiracial, two or more races*	2%
+Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander*	0%
+White*	7%
Special Education	9%
ESOL	17%
Free/Reduced Lunch	83%
Average Attendance	96%

+ Reflects changes in ethnic and racial designations set by the federal government. As a result, 2009–10 data is not comparable to ethnic and racial categories from previous years and is reported for one year only.

*Not Hispanic or Latino

School Safety Perceptions

Based on responses* to 2009–10 RBES Perception Survey...

- 87% of students agreed or strongly agreed that they felt safe at Benefield Elementary.
- 92.8% of parents agreed or strongly agreed that their child's school was safe.

*Reflects voluntary responses to parent and student perception surveys.

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.

Benefield Elementary School

1221 Old Norcross Road • Lawrenceville, GA, 30046
(770) 962-3771 • <http://www.benefield.org/home.html>
Dr. Melissa Walker, Principal

Gwinnett County Public Schools

437 Old Peachtree Rd., NW • Suwanee, GA 30024-2978
www.gwinnett.k12.ga.us

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