

NEWS RELEASE

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Majority of Gwinnett students meet state promotion requirements

Today, the Georgia Department of Education released Criterion-Referenced Competency Test (CRCT) results for school systems and individual schools. These results indicate that the vast majority of Gwinnett County students in grades 3, 5, and 8 are meeting and exceeding the state's expectations.

Georgia requires 5th, and 8th grade students to score at Performance Levels 2 or 3— meeting or exceeding the state standard— in Reading and Math in order to earn promotion to the next grade level. Students in 3rd grade must meet or exceed the standard on the reading subtest. This is the fifth year that CRCT reading scores have been a promotion criterion for 3rd graders, the fourth year that CRCT reading and math scores have been used as promotion criteria for 5th graders, and the third year that reading and math CRCT performance is required for 8th grade promotion.

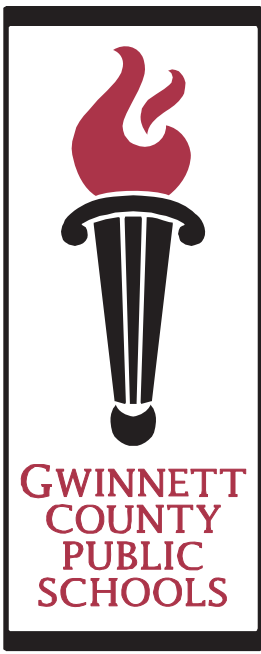
3rd Grade Results

- In the second year of increased expectations for all grades in reading, Gwinnett 3rd graders continued to excel on the CRCT. Even with the higher standards for the 12,263 Gwinnett 3rd graders tested, 90.6 percent met the reading promotion criteria, topping last year's results when 88.4 percent met or exceeded the standard.
- Gwinnett students continue to show strong reading ability with the system moving more students to higher levels of achievement. Forty percent of Gwinnett 3rd graders exceeded grade level expectations, scoring in Level 3.
- Students who scored in Level 1 were invited to participate in summer school to strengthen their reading performance prior to a retest.

5th Grade Results

- Student performance also improved in Gwinnett on the reading portion of the 5th grade test. Of the 11,862 Gwinnett 5th grade test-takers, 90.1 percent met

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the reading promotion criteria, scoring in Levels 2 and 3, with 26.7 percent achieving at the highest performance level (Level 3). In 2006-07, 89.7 percent met the reading promotion criteria.

- Just over 80 percent of Gwinnett 5th graders met the state's promotion criteria for math, compared to 72 percent statewide. This was the state's first assessment of how well students learned the more rigorous math curriculum, therefore, the results of this year's test are not comparable to the results from previous years.

8th Grade Results

- Of the 11,906 Gwinnett 8th grade students required to pass the CRCT in reading, 92.6 percent met the challenge by scoring in Level 2 or 3.
- The percentage exceeding grade level expectations in reading continues to rise with 31.5 percent scoring in Level 3 this year. (In Gwinnett, 20.2 percent scored in Level 3 in April 2006 and 26.3 percent were in Level 3 in 2007.)
- Like other systems across the state, Gwinnett experienced a dip in math scores due to the new test, which was aligned to the more rigorous Georgia Performance Standards. 77.2 percent of this year's Gwinnett test-takers met or exceeded grade-level expectations, compared to 62 percent statewide.
- Level 3 scores were achieved by almost 30 percent of the 8th graders taking the math test.

CRCT Background Information:

Gwinnett students in grades 1-8 took the state-mandated CRCT in April. The tests measure what students know and should be able to do at their grade level in three content areas— reading, English/language arts, and mathematics. Students in grades 3-8 also were assessed in science and social studies. (The state invalidated social studies results for grades 6 and 7 this year due to alignment issues.)

On the CRCT, a student's performance is expressed as a scale score. Scale scores range 650 to 950 for each grade and content area that has implemented the new, more rigorous Georgia Performance Standards (Reading). These scale scores fall into one of three performance levels:

Level 1— Does Not Meet the Standard (*Scores below 800— Student performance was not as strong as educators would expect from a student on grade-level at the end of the school year.*)

Level 2— Meets the Standard (*Scores from 800 to 849— Student performance was typical of what educators would expect from a grade-level student at the end of the school year.*)

Level 3— Exceeds the Standard (*Scores at or above 850— Performance was stronger than what a typical grade-level student would be expected to achieve at the end of the school year.*)

Information on summer school and retest for students scoring at Level 1

Students' families were notified as the school year ended of their child's CRCT results. Academic summer school offered at no charge to parents is recommended for students who were unsuccessful on a subtest required for promotion. (Some students may have been recommended for summer school based on their yearlong achievement of the AKS curriculum.)

Gwinnett's free academic summer session for elementary and middle school students begins June 26 and will run through July 17. Reading retests will be given July 11 and the 5th and 8th grade mathematics retest will be given on July 14. (Approximately 100 students opted to take a retest prior to summer school.) Students do not have to attend summer school in order to take the retest. However, it is highly recommended as students given additional, targeted instruction in their area of weakness are more likely to be successful on the retest. If a student is not attending summer school, parents should notify the school at the beginning of the summer session if their child is not attending but is planning on taking the retest.

For students who do not pass the retest, an appeal process may be conducted through a Student Support Team (SST) to determine placement. It should be noted that promotion for Special Education students who did not meet the state standards will be determined by their Individualized Education Plan (IEP) committee. English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) students' promotion will be determined after the summer retest results are reviewed by a Student Support Team (SST).

For additional information on the 3rd, 5th, and 8th grade CRCT results, contact **Linda Mitchell**, executive director of Student Accountability, Assessment, and Advisement, at (678) 301-7025.