



# Accountability Report

Results-Based Evaluation System

Issued 2010–11



## Rock Springs Elementary School

Angie Pacholke, *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 Rock Springs 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:** To increase academic performance in literacy and mathematics for all students and targeted subgroups to meet and/or exceed annual targets through collaborative planning with general education, special education, reading and math specialists, and special-area teachers; strategic staff development; peer tutoring; before- and after-school programs for targeted students; and parent involvement.

**Result:** The percentage of students in grades 2–5 performing at the Exceeds Standards level on the Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests (CRCT) increased compared to the previous year. On the math portion of the CRCT, the percentage of students performing in this top performance level increased for grades 3 and 4.

**Goal:** To increase academic performance in science for all students and targeted subgroups to meet and/or exceed annual targets through collaborative planning with general education, special education, and special-area teachers; strategic staff development; and implementation of a science lab.

**Result:** The percentage of 5th grade students performing at the Exceeds Standards level on the CRCT increased.

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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)

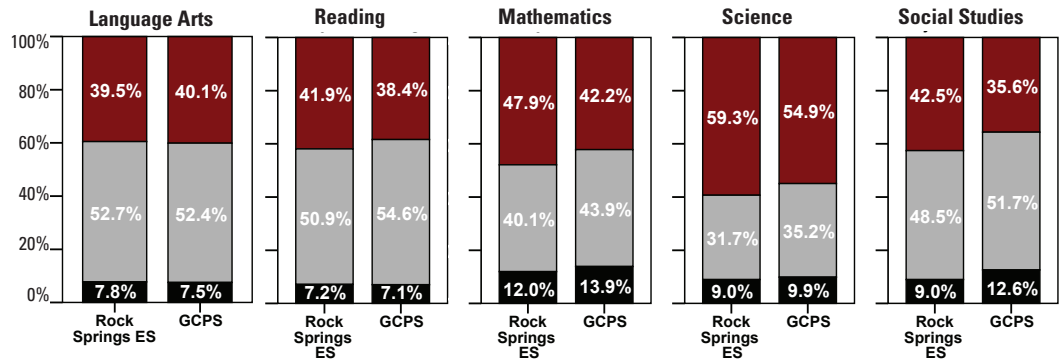
In Gwinnett, state tests taken in grades 4 and 5 are used as Gateway assessments and results are used to determine whether a student is prepared for the next grade level. Following are results for Rock Springs Elementary for these local promotion requirements.

#### 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.

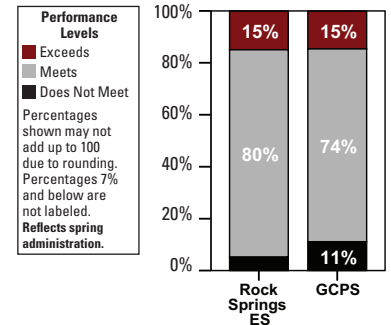
Exceeds, Meets, Does Not Meet.

**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 Rock Springs Elementary's students did on the test in 2009–10, with 95% of Rock Springs 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 Rock Springs 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*		
	Rock Springs	GCPS	State
3rd Grade Reading CRCT	93	92	90
5th Grade Reading CRCT	98	92	90
5th Grade Math CRCT	96	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 Rock Springs CRCT achievement in each AYP subgroup.

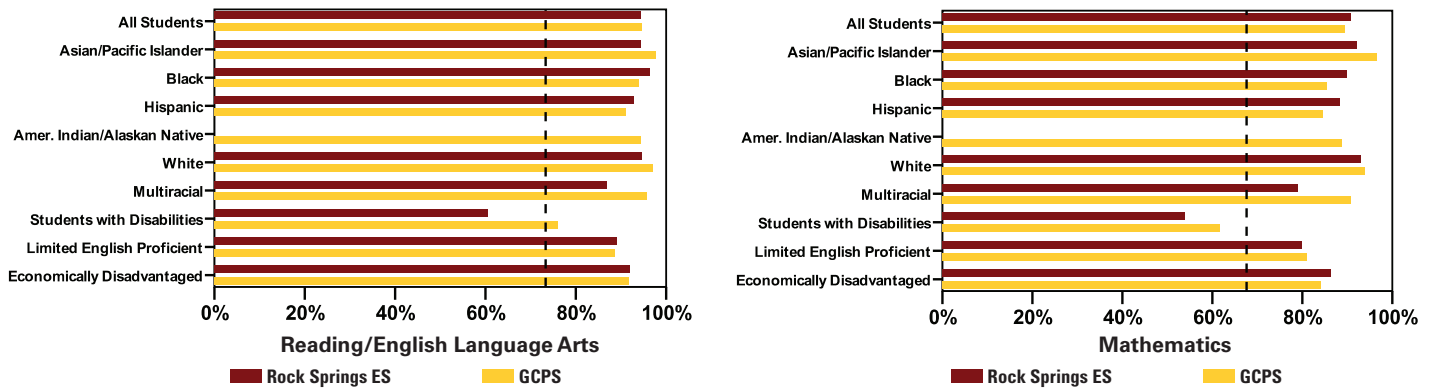
## Rock Springs Elementary AYP Results by Subgroup

Rock Springs 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	Achieved
Math Performance	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	·	Achieved	·			Achieved
Reading/ELA Participation	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	·	Achieved	·	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
Reading/ELA Performance	Achieved	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.

Rock Springs Elementary continue to make progress on the CRCT, with percentages of students meeting and exceeding standards above the system average in mathematics and close to the system average in reading/English language arts. The school 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

Rock Springs Elementary remains focused on teaching and learning, with an emphasis on learning! We are committed to reaching our goals and increasing student achievement. We are happy to report that we made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)! We continue to carefully review our student data. It guides our decision-making as we plan our staff development, student academic programs, and parent support programs.

Based on this year's CRCT data, the percentage of grade 2 students performing in the highest level of performance in language arts and reading increased. For grades 3 and 4, we observed an increase in the percentage of students achieving in the Exceeds Standards range in reading, language arts, math, and social studies. For grade 5, the percentage of students achieving at the top performance range increased in the areas of science and social studies. We are excited to report that 93% of our grade 3 students passed the reading portion of the CRCT on the first try. This is a slight increase compared to the previous year. Also, on the Georgia Grade 5 Writing Assessment, which is used as a Gateway test for promotion in Gwinnett, 98% of the students required to pass for promotion were successful on the first try, and 96% of 5th graders passed the math portion of the CRCT. This is a significant gain compared to the previous year!

Our emphasis on writing in all content areas continues to be a focus at Rock Springs. While we did see a slight decrease in the percentage of grade 5 students performing in the Exceeds Standards range on the Georgia Grade 5 Writing Assessment, 95% of all 5th grade students passed this writing assessment on the first attempt and 100% passed after the retest.

Rock Springs will continue to focus on identifying areas for improvement for both students and teachers while celebrating our successes. We remain committed to implementing and using Quality-Plus Teaching Strategies. These research-based teaching techniques have been proven effective with all types of learners across grade levels and subject areas.

Our goal is to move students from the Meets Standards level to the Exceeds Standards level on the CRCT. We know that as we continue to build positive relationships with our stakeholders, our overall success will continue to grow.

# Rock Springs Elementary School

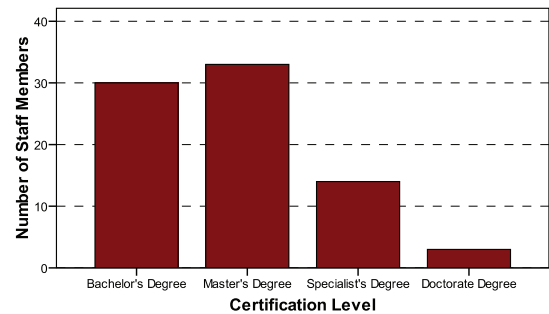
## Other 2009–10 Highlights...



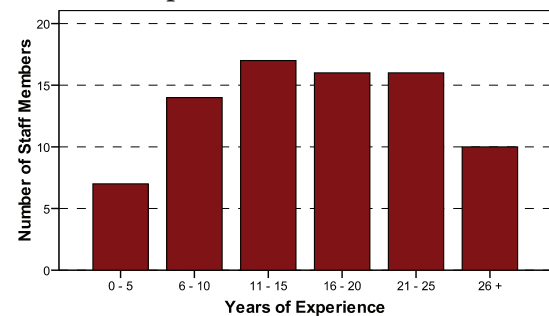
*Gwinnett County Public Schools is the 2010 winner of The Broad Prize for Urban Education, the country's most prestigious honor for K–12 education.*

- Rock Springs hosted a Math Night and Literacy Night for all students and parents.
- Our school raised more than \$5,000 to support United Way, and more than \$10,000 to support the American Cancer Society.
- Student Council sponsored a canned food drive and the school collected nearly 1,000 cans to donate to a local charity.
- Parent volunteers enhanced all aspects of our school program.
- Writing Lunch and Learn Sessions were offered to qualifying 5th grade students as preparation for the Georgia Grade 5 Writing Assessment.
- After-school tutoring was available for qualifying students in grades 3–5.
- Club Exceeds was offered before school four times each week to qualifying students in grades 3–5. Nearly 100 students participated in this program.
- The Zane Collins Foundation provided additional funding for the Zane Zone Science Lab.
- Science Day was held in January. Science presentations and programs were provided for all students.
- A parent informational meeting on assessments was held in February to help parents learn more about the spring standardized tests and how to help prepare their student for testing success.
- We appreciate the continued support of our business partners: Publix Super Market, Kroger, Target, Gwinnett Gladiators, Stevi B's Pizza, Chick-fil-A, and Moe's Southwest Grill.
- Rock Springs' PTA continues to be actively involved in the school, providing funding for educational resources as well as sponsoring the following activities: Fall Festival, Reflections Contest, staff appreciation activities, Cultural Arts programs for all students, Pizza Bingo Night, and Movie Night.

## 2009–10 Staff Data Staff Certification Level



## Experience in Education



## 2009–10 Student Data

	School Year
	09–10
<b>Enrollment</b>	922
+American Indian/Alaskan Native*	0%
+Asian*	14%
+Black/African American*	22%
+Hispanic or Latino, any race	21%
+Multiracial, two or more races*	3%
+Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander*	0%
+White*	40%
Special Education	9%
ESOL	5%
Free/Reduced Lunch	39%
Average Attendance	97%

*+ 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...

- 95.8% of students agreed or strongly agreed that they felt safe at Rock Springs Elementary.
- 92% 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.*

### Rock Springs Elementary School

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Angie Pacholke, Principal

### Gwinnett County Public Schools

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