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.

Our 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 our school’s improvement efforts and progress.

**Key Results from 2004–05 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:** Duncan Creek Elementary students will pursue excellence in the AKS areas of reading, writing, and mathematics for each student, resulting in measured improvement against local, national, and world class standards.

**Results:** On the reading section of the Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests (CRCT), 98% of the students in grades 1–5 met or exceeded standards, with 75% of students in grades 1–5 exceeding standards.

On the math section of the CRCT, 98% of the students in grades 1–5 met or exceeded standards, while 61% of students in grades 1–5 performed at the highest level.

On the 5th Grade Gateway, 83% of students scored in the Effective and Excellent ranges. The number of students who scored at the Excellent level increased by 11 percentage points, increasing to 42%.

On the math section of the 4th grade Gateway, 87% of students scored in the Effective and Excellent ranges, and 93% scored in these top two levels on the language arts section.
2004–05 Results: Grade 4 Gateway Assessment

Gwinnett’s Gateway tests are designed to show how well a student has learned the school system’s curriculum, and are used to determine whether or not a student is ready to move on to the next grade level. Students’ test performance on the Grade 4 Gateway falls into four levels of mastery: Excellent; Effective; Minimal, but passing; and Failing.

We are very pleased with our students’ performance on the language arts and math Gateway Assessment. All students who were required to do so passed both sections of the test! On both sections, the percentage of students scoring at the Excellent level increased. Improvement in both areas may be attributed to increased individualization of instruction. Guided reading and learning strategies were implemented in all classes. A math specialist and a reading specialist provided enrichment for all students as well as assistance in instructional strategies to classroom teachers. Enrichment activities are provided through Chess Club, Math Club, Math Calendars, and Problems of the Week.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Performance Level</th>
<th>Percentages shown may not add up to 100 due to rounding. Percentages 9% and below are not labeled.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effective</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Minimal, but passing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failing</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

2004–05 Results: Georgia Grade 5 Writing Assessment/5th Grade Gateway

The chart below reflects how well Duncan Creek Elementary’s students did on the state’s Grade 5 Writing Assessment. This state-required test is also used as a Gateway test for Gwinnett’s 5th graders.

Duncan Creek students continue to perform well on the Georgia Writing Test. Forty-two percent of our students scored at the highest level, an 11–point increase over the previous year. Student success is a result of a schoolwide focus on writing in all curriculum areas, targeted professional learning, and the impact of the Duncan Creek Writing Institute for students. A reading specialist provided enrichment to all students during a “weekly specials” class. Our Parent Literacy Committee worked with students who needed additional assistance.

98.9% of Duncan Creek 5th graders passed the writing Gateway on the first try.*

*Data includes all students, including special education students and students with limited English who are not required to pass the Gateway for promotion.
2004-05 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 content standards. 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.

### Duncan Creek Elementary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AYP Category</th>
<th>All Students</th>
<th>Asian/Pacific Islander</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
<th>American Indian/Alaskan</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Multi-Racial</th>
<th>Students with Disabilities</th>
<th>Limited English Proficient</th>
<th>Economically Disadvantaged</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Math Participation</td>
<td>Achieved</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math Performance</td>
<td>Achieved</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Achieved</td>
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<td>Achieved</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading/ELA Participation</td>
<td>Achieved</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Achieved</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading/ELA Performance</td>
<td>Achieved</td>
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<td>Achieved</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

**Reading/English Language Arts**

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 2005. The standards will increase to 100% by 2014.

Duncan Creek Elementary students continue to do well on the CRCT, with percentages of students meeting and exceeding standards above the system average in both reading/English language arts and mathematics. The school made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), meeting all of the state’s academic goals, testing participation requirements, and attendance standards.

Duncan Creek’s mission is to provide an environment of academic excellence. We are particularly proud of the high percentage of students who met or exceeded standards on the CRCT. At grade levels and in each subject area tested, 95% or more of the students met or exceeded standards on the CRCT. In all cases, the percent of students who met or exceeded state standards is above state and system averages. We attribute this success to the high expectations set for all students and the excellent instruction provided by our teachers.
Other 2004–05 Highlights...

• The PTA sponsored Evening Under the Stars, Reflections Contest, Cultural Arts Week, The Cardinal Host Program, Family Bingo Night and Family Dance, Book Drive, Literacy Volunteers, Parent University, School Yearbook, and New Family Welcome Tours and Breakfasts.

• The PTA raised $30,000 for a school marquee, theater lights, teacher wish list items, and professional development books.

• Teaching aids—“Learning Focused Schools” and “Good Questions for Math”—were purchased for and studied by all teachers.

• Duncan Creek supported the community by donating more than $22,000 to the American Cancer Society, in addition, students and staff members contributed $6500 to the United Way.

• An electronic school newsletter was emailed to 1,200 families twice each month.

• Academic assemblies were held three times a year to recognize student achievement in grades 2–5.

• 1st, 3rd and 5th grade students participated in an annual musical production.

• Enrichment opportunities provided for students included the following: Math Club, Chess Club, Tumbling Team, Intramurals, math enrichment classes, Math Problem of the Week, Bookworms, Student Council, DCNN News, Junior Achievement, Lit Blitz Book Club, Accelerated Reader, and the Duncan Creek Summer Writing Institute.

• Additional opportunities to master the curriculum included the following interventions: Before School Tutoring, PTA Literacy Volunteers, monthly math activity calendars, Mill Creek HS peer helpers, Eagle Reading, ESOL and Special Education classes, the SuccessMaker Computer program, and before school instructional maintenance work.

School Safety Perceptions

Based on responses to the 2004–05 RBES Perception Survey...

• 92% of students agreed or strongly agreed that they felt safe and secure at Duncan Creek Elementary.

• 93% of parents agreed or strongly agreed that their child’s school was safe and secure.

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.

Duncan Creek Elementary School
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Chris Emsley, Principal