



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 16, 2012

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GCPS 5th graders improve already high scores on writing test

Traditionally, **Gwinnett County Public Schools (GCPS)** 5th graders have excelled on the Grade 5 State Writing Test, ranking Gwinnett elementary schools among the top in the state. More than 12,600 Gwinnett students took the test in March of 2012. Overall, the school system's average passing rate was 93 percent, which is an increase over last year's average. Of particular interest is the success of Gwinnett students in scoring at the highest performance level. Twenty-four percent of Gwinnett students scored in the "Exceeds" performance level compared to eleven percent statewide. Locally, this represents an increase of two percentage points over the previous year's results in this highest performance level.

Student Passing Rates

	Percent Performance Level					
	2010		2011		2012	
	Meets	Exceeds	Meets	Exceeds	Meets	Exceeds
GCPS	74%	15%	70%	22%	69%	24%
State	66%	7%	69%	10%	70%	11%

This writing assessment represents essential literacy skill development in the four domains for ideas, organization, style, and conventions from a narrative, informational, or persuasive prompt. Therefore, GCPS views the results as a reflection of academic rigor across the curriculum through integration of comprehension, creativity, and fluency of written expression, incorporating analysis, synthesis, and critical thinking. These fundamental literacy skills are an essential part of an academic program of college and career readiness. The skills reflected in the content of the test are included in the GCPS Academic Knowledge and Skills curriculum (AKS).

In Gwinnett, the state writing test serves as a local promotion requirement for 5th grade students. They must "meet" or "exceed" state standards in order to earn promotion to 6th grade. In addition, Gwinnett 5th graders must pass the Reading and

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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.

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2010 Winner of



Mathematics subtests of the CRCT and successfully master the current grade level AKS to earn promotion.

Students who did not pass this first administration of the Grade 5 Writing Test have the opportunity to receive extra help in preparation for a retest. The results from the retest will be available prior to the beginning of summer school. If a student is not successful on the retest, he or she could attend summer school to improve their writing skills in preparation for another retest at the end of summer school.

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