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 Beaver Ridge 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 2011–12 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 Reading and Language Arts for all students.

**Results:** Last year, 90% of our students in grades 3–5 met or exceeded standards on the Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests (CRCT) in reading and language arts. Among our 3rd grade students, 91% achieved at the Meets Standards and Exceeds Standards ranges, while 90.5% of our 4th graders and 92% of our 5th grade students also met or exceeded standards. A third of our students in grades 3–5 performed at the Exceeds Standards level. Also, on the Georgia Grade 5 Writing Assessment, which is used as a Gateway test for promotion in Gwinnett, 100% of the students required to pass for promotion were successful.

**Goal:** To increase academic performance in mathematics for all students.

**Results:** Last year, 83% of our students in grades 3–5 met or exceeded standards on the CRCT in mathematics: 83%—3rd grade, 80%—4th grade, and 87%—5th grade. We saw a gain of 7 percentage points in the percentage of 3rd graders meeting or exceeding grade-level expectations.

**Goal:** To increase academic performance in science for all students.

**Results:** Last year, 81% of our students in grades 3–5 met or exceeded standards on the CRCT in science: 78%—3rd grade, 84%—4th grade, and 80%—5th grade. A high percentage of students performed at the highest level—41.5% of 4th graders and 37% of 5th graders.
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 3–8. 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.

2011–12 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 Beaver Ridge Elementary for these local promotion requirements.

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

For 2011–12, Gwinnett 4th graders were 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.

Grade 5 Gateway: Georgia Grade 5 Writing Assessment

In addition to earning passing grades, GCPS 5th graders were required to earn a passing score on the Georgia Grade 5 Writing Assessment, which is a Gateway test in Gwinnett. This chart reflects how well Beaver Ridge Elementary’s students performed on the test in 2011–12, with 89% of Beaver Ridge 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 proficiency.)

2011–12 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 Beaver Ridge Elementary students in grades 3 and 5 who met grade-level expectations on the state’s CRCT in order to earn promotion.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% of Students Who Passed CRCT Subtests Required for Promotion*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Grade Reading CRCT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th Grade Reading CRCT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th Grade Math CRCT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Reflects spring administration
A Message from the Principal About Student Achievement and Academic Initiatives

Students and staff at Beaver Ridge Elementary worked hard throughout the year to increase the achievement levels of all students, and our students' performance on the CRCT indicates that the work resulted in many successes.

Beaver Ridge Elementary is a community that is focused on quality teaching and learning to ensure academic success for all students. We know that the greatest impact on student achievement is the classroom teacher. Our teachers collaborate weekly as grade-level teams to produce engaging lessons and activities focused on increasing student achievement. Our staff development is designed to improve teacher instruction based on our schoolwide data.

We continue to incorporate the Balanced Literacy Framework and Guided Math model across all grade levels. We also have continued the Academic Knowledge and Skills-Continuous Quality Improvement (AKS-CQI) model of instruction for 30 minutes daily. AKS-CQI incorporates data analysis, a yearlong instructional calendar, team time, target lessons, and frequent informal assessments to gauge students’ progress in mastering objectives. Our teachers analyze their classroom data and continuously adjust instruction to meet the needs of their students during this time. Beginning in January, our 5th grade teachers use this CQI time to reteach and review writing skills and strategies.

Beaver Ridge is committed to closing the achievement gap through rigorous instruction and ongoing professional development. Our teachers improve instruction by employing a model classroom method in which master teachers model effective strategies for their peers. We attribute our school’s success to dedicated and committed staff members who focus on teaching and learning and believe that all students can achieve. We will continue to use data to drive our instruction and provide interventions to help students achieve at the highest learning potential. We will incorporate more technology into the daily lessons. The new Common Core Georgia Performance Standards brings a more rigorous curriculum in language arts and math, and we have adjusted our staff development to meet these more rigorous standards and assessments. With the support of the parents, our community, and a committed staff, Beaver Ridge Elementary will continue to strive for excellence.

Georgia Moves to Performance Index as Measure of Progress

In February 2012, federal education officials approved Georgia’s newly developed College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) to replace the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) measure under the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act. Under the waiver granted by the U.S. Department of Education, Georgia’s new performance index replaces provisions of NCLB. (The formal name for federal education reform is the Elementary and Secondary Education Act or ESEA.) Starting with 2013 results, the index will measure progress on accountability indicators such as content mastery, student attendance, and preparation for the next school level. Indicators vary by grade and school level and align with measures of college- and career-readiness. While the waiver removes the requirement that all students be proficient in reading and math by 2014, the CCRPI will assess how well students are prepared for college and careers and ensures that schools will be focused on improving achievement among all students. Parents will learn more about how our school measures up on the new index with next year’s school accountability report.

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Other 2011–12 Highlights...

• Beaver Ridge was recognized as a Reaching Higher Green & Healthy School in the Environmental Achievement Awards sponsored by Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful.

• The school was recognized by the Clean Air Campaign as a Clean Air School for taking action to improve air quality and create a healthier environment for Georgia students.

• Beaver Ridge was awarded the Platinum Star Award for Exemplary Data Verification for the 2nd straight year.

• Our Chess team participated in the Metro Atlanta Regional Tournament.

• The school received the Daisy Award presented by the Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta.

• For the 3rd consecutive year, the League of Latin American Citizens sponsored a Young Readers Club, designed to help students improve their reading skills.

• Our 5th grade broadcast team produced a live, closed-circuit news program daily. Principal’s Honor Roll, Student Achievement, and Students of the Month awards were recognized quarterly.

• Ten Beaver Ridge students participated in the Gwinnett Readers Rally competition.

• The Great Time Travel Adventure, a schoolwide reading program, involved 70% of our students as participants.

• Students used technology to research and publish informational writing.

• The Norcross Cluster Schools Partnership donated many children’s books to the school and awarded more than $2,000 in grants to help purchase playground equipment.

• Beaver Ridge staff and students committed to building stronger communities by contributing to United Way, Norcross Co-op Cans-for-food, and Great Days of Service.

• In a workshop, parents of preschool children learned how to help their students for the kindergarten experience, and a Kinder Camp was held in June to help prepare pre-K students for kindergarten.

• Beaver Ridge students participated in the Student Council, Student Safety Patrols, Chess Club, Math Club, and many other activities.

• Beaver Ridge Elementary would like to thank our parents and community for always being so supportive. We recognize that the success of the school is due to the partnership that exists between the school, home, and community.

School Safety Perceptions

Based on responses from those with an opinion who responded to the 2011–12 RBES Perception Survey...

• 78% of students agreed or strongly agreed that they felt safe at Beaver Ridge Elementary.

• 88.5% of parents agreed or strongly agreed that their child’s school was safe.

The mission of Gwinnett County Public Schools is to pursue excellence in academic knowledge, skills, and behavior for each student, resulting in improved performance against local, national, and world-class standards.

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