



NEWS RELEASE

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8th Grade Writing Test: Gwinnett schools top list of students exceeding state standards

Gwinnett County Public Schools (GCPS) students continue a tradition of excelling on the Grade 8 State Writing Test. A comparison of the percentage of students scoring in the “Exceeds” category placed 11 Gwinnett middle schools within the state’s 25 top performers. **With 33.4% of Osborne Middle’s test takers performing in the “Exceeds” category, the school was the highest ranking middle school in the state. The next top Gwinnett performer was Twin Rivers Middle in the Mountain View Cluster with 24.8% of its eight graders exceeding the standards.** Other Gwinnett middle schools in the top 25 in the state are:

School	% of Students Exceeding Standard	How Does % “Exceeding” Compare Statewide?
Osborne Middle	33.4%	1
Twin Rivers Middle	24.8%	9
McConnell Middle	22.1%	10
North Gwinnett Middle	21.3%	15
Couch Middle	21.2%	16
Pinckneyville Middle	20.0%	17
Trickum Middle	20.0%	18
Berkmar Middle	18.5%	20
Jones Middle	18.0%	21
Crews Middle	17.9%	23
Creekland Middle	17.8%	24

More than 12,600 students took the test in January of 2013. Overall, the district’s average passing rate remains high, increasing to 94 percent from 93 percent in 2012. Fifteen percent of Gwinnett students scored in the “Exceeds” performance level compared to six percent statewide.

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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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This writing assessment represents essential literacy skill development in the four domains for ideas, organization, style, and conventions from either an expository 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.