



Accountability Report

Results-Based Evaluation System

Issued 2012–13



Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science, and Technology (GSMST)

Dr. Jeff Mathews, *Principal*

Dr. Calvin Watts, *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 Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science, and Technology (GSMST) 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: GSMST will consistently lead Gwinnett County high schools in reaching exemplary graduation rates and college placement through meeting or exceeding academic performance expectations in mastery of the Academic Knowledge and Skills (AKS) curriculum, course completion, results on college-entrance exams, and educational learning opportunities within community workforce and higher education.

Results: GSMST consistently performed above local, state, and national averages on standardized assessments. Among the district's high schools, GSMST students had the highest overall results on the SAT, the ACT, GCPS' High School Gateway Assessment, Advanced Placement (AP) exams, End of Course Tests (EOCT) and the Georgia High School Graduation Tests (GHSGT).

- Our Class of 2012 achieved a 100% graduation rate and 100% college placement.
- GSMST students' SAT and ACT results continue to be among the highest in the state and remain considerably above the national average. GSMST's average SAT score was the highest in Georgia, 489 points above the state SAT average, 443 points above the national average, and 172 points above the next closest high school in Georgia.
- All GSMST juniors and seniors successfully completed an internship experience within the community workforce or higher education settings.

The GSMST community is extremely proud of the academic progress and success of this high school as well as the overall culture of support and pursuit of academic excellence.

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Tell us what you think about this report.

Click here to complete a questionnaire online.

2011–12 Senior Report

	Students Completing HS†	Number of Seniors Planning to Attend College or Postsecondary School*	Number of Honor Graduates	Number of Seniors Taking Advanced Placement (AP) Courses	Number of AP Courses Taken by Seniors	Seniors with Dual Enrollment
GSMST	95	95	53	95	226	5
GCPS	9,582	8,411	2,050	4,712	11,426	203

†Reflects system-reported data as of August 2012

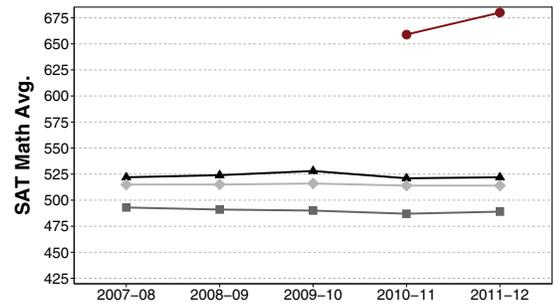
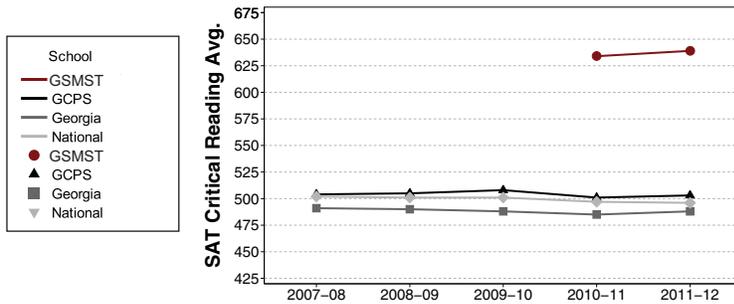
*Student information self-reported as of April 2012

2011–12 Results: SAT

A popular college-admissions test, the SAT features complex reading passages and math concepts, and a writing section. The table to the right shows average scores and percentages of students taking the SAT at our school, compared to the district, state, and nation. The graphs below compare GSMST students' scores to the Gwinnett, state, and national averages on the SAT.

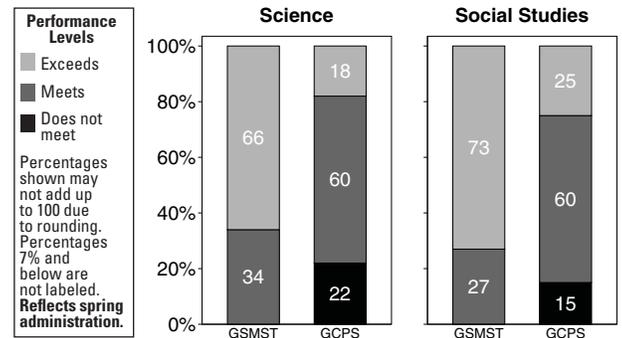
2011–12 SAT Averages

	Critical Reading	Math	Writing	Total
GSMST	639	680	622	1941
GCPS	503	522	493	1518
Georgia	488	489	475	1452
National	496	514	488	1498



2011–12 Results: High School Gateway Assessment

Gwinnett students must pass the school system's High School Gateway Assessment as a requirement for earning a regular diploma. Given in the 10th grade, the Gateway measures students' ability to write effectively about 9th and 10th grade science and 10th grade social studies AKS. Students write two essays—one on a science topic and one on a social studies topic, using both their own knowledge and document-based information. GCPS students regularly write essays and compositions to prompts, which is good practice for the Gateway assessment. Students also take assessments in class that mirror the Gateway format. This experience helps students develop proficiency in content knowledge and writing skills required for college, career, and citizenship. GCPS offers additional resources, tutorials, and practice opportunities through the school system website. While most students are successful on this writing assessment on their first try, those who are not have additional opportunities to take and pass the test before graduation.



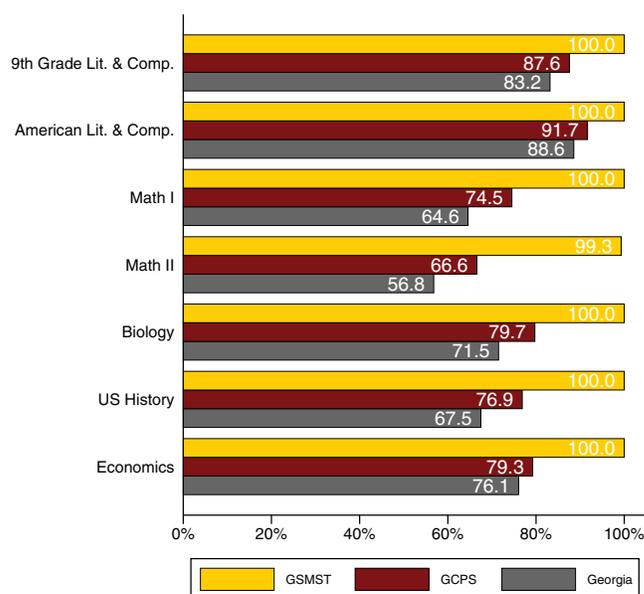
2011–12 Results: Advanced Placement (AP) Exams

Advanced Placement (AP) courses are challenging, college-level classes taught by specially trained high school teachers. Students have the option of taking an AP exam at the end of the school year. Many colleges award credit for passing the exams or allow a student to be exempt from certain college courses. Students exposed to the demanding AP curriculum are well prepared for the rigors of college coursework. The table below shows the percentage of classes taken at GSMST that were designated as AP classes, compared to the county average. The chart also shows the percentage of optional, course-specific AP exams taken, as well as the percentage of AP exams scored 3 or better (on a 5-point scale). In 2011–12, 65.5% of GSMST students took one or more AP courses, compared to 29.8% of all GCPS high school students.

	2009–10		2010–11		2011–12	
	GSMST	GCPS	GSMST	GCPS	GSMST	GCPS
AP as Percentage of Total Classes Taken	23.7	8.8	31.0	8.5	21.9	8.4
% AP Exams Taken	85.9	77.0	81.0	75.6	89.8	77.6
% AP Exams Scored 3+	82.1	57.5	89.6	57.8	90.0	59.1

2011–12 Results: End of Course Tests (EOCT)

Georgia high school students are required to participate in state-mandated End of Course Tests (EOCT) to earn credit for eight designated high school courses. EOCTs— required for two courses in each core subject area— are designed to hold students statewide to the same learning standards. The chart to the right reflects the percentage of test-takers who met or exceeded state standards on the EOCT for seven designated courses— for the school, the county, and the state. (The majority of high school students are not enrolled in the eighth course, Physical Science.) While students are not required to pass the EOCT to pass the course, the EOCT does count 20% of the semester grade, so a failing score on an EOCT would have a significant impact on a student’s final grade. *For 2011–12, Math I represents the results on the EOCT for Integrated Algebra II/Accelerated Integrated Algebra I, a course typically taken by 9th graders. Math II reflects results on the EOCT for Integrated Geometry/Accelerated Integrated Geometry, a junior-level course.*



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, graduation rate, and preparation for college or career. 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.

A Message from the Principal About Student Achievement and Academic Initiatives

The GSMST community, faculty, and staff are extremely proud of the journey and accomplishments of our second graduating class and its unwavering desire to successfully place GSMST on the global platform as a leader in innovation and accomplishment in the critical areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). For the Class of 2012, 90% declared majors focused in STEM fields, a slightly higher rate than last year’s inaugural class. Every GSMST student is involved in our integrated STEM curriculum. All STEM courses are taught at an advanced/honors, Advanced Placement (AP), or college-prep level, including 19 non-traditional STEM electives. GSMST uses project-based, technology-enhanced instruction along with a schoolwide Partnership Program that requires student research and internships.

GSMST’s average ACT composite score increased to 29.4 and GSMST led the state of Georgia with an average SAT score of 1941, an increase of 27 points over last year. Our PSAT index remained steady, resulting in seven National Merit semifinalists. We continue to encourage a high number of students to take the PSAT. Of all freshmen, sophomores and juniors, 93% attempted the PSAT, a jump from 92% in 2010–11. We look forward to the challenge of exceeding such a high baseline for these standardized tests. GSMST’s emphasis on reaching high levels of rigor in every classroom for all students has had a positive impact on learning. All of our students will take more than one AP course while at GSMST and of the total exams taken, 90.0% posted passing results (a score of 3 or better). Our AP scholar results also reflect this achievement as 36% of our entire student body earned the recognition of AP Scholar for 2010–11 achievement. GSMST’s performance on the Georgia High School Graduation Tests, Georgia High School Writing Tests, and End of Course Tests reveal similar positive results, exemplifying a firm foundation for our students as they enter the postsecondary level.

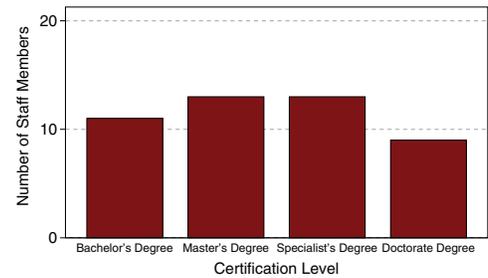
The GSMST community has much to celebrate. We attribute our success to a sustained focus on a school culture of collaboration, support, a community that values education, a dedicated faculty and staff and a student body that values the GSMST culture and takes a tremendous amount of pride in academic success.

Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science, and Technology

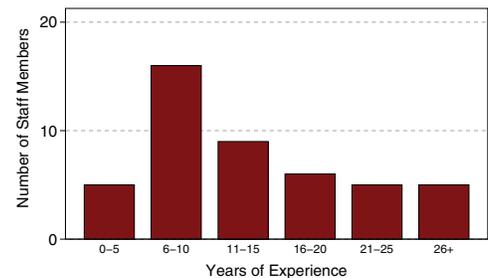
Other 2011–12 Highlights...

- The Class of 2012 posted a 100% graduation rate and 100% were accepted into college. This group of graduates posted the highest public school average SAT score in the state.
- All GSMST juniors and seniors successfully completed academic, research, or industry-related internships.
- Based on results from 2011–12 AP classes and exams, GSMST was acknowledged by the Georgia Department of Education as a 2013 Advanced Placement (AP) Honor School in four of five categories— AP Merit School, AP Challenge School, AP STEM School, and AP STEM Achievement School.
- Strong performance on AP tests in 2010–11 resulted in 2012 honors for 75 AP Scholars, 38 AP Scholars with Honor, and 83 AP Scholars with Distinction. Of those AP Scholars, 33 students also were honored as National AP Scholars.
- Fourteen students were finalists for Governor’s Honors Program, a prestigious, residential summer program for academically and artistically talented Georgia students, funded by the state.
- The GSMST Science Olympiad team advanced to the national competition for the second straight year.
- GSMST had a regional finalist in the 2011–12 Siemens Competition.
- Three GSMST orchestras earned Superior ratings at the GMEA Large Group Performance Evaluation, with three students selected for All-State Orchestra. The symphonic band earned several straight Superior ratings with two perfect scores.
- Our VEX Robotics teams won numerous regional awards, multiple prestigious Judges Awards, Excellence Awards, and Drivers Awards with five teams advancing to the world competition in California where GSMST won the Energy Award.
- A GSMST senior was awarded the FIRST Robotics Scholarship from Drexel University, one of just five awarded in the U.S.
- Six students advanced to the USA Biology Olympiad, designating these students among the top 10% nationwide.
- Three students were national runners-up for the NCWIT (Women in Technology) Award for Aspirations in Computing.
- Six GSMST students won at the International Media Festival.
- Work of three students was selected for All-State Art Symposium.
- Three GSMST debate students received national bids.
- The GSMST yearbook was selected as a national sample.

2011–12 Staff Data Staff Certification Level



Experience in Education



2011–12 Student Data

	School Year	
	10–11	11–12
Enrollment	596	696
+American Indian/Alaskan Native*	0%	0%
+Asian*	40%	41%
+Black/African American*	18%	21%
+Hispanic or Latino, <i>any race</i>	8%	9%
+Multiracial, <i>two or more races</i> *	3%	3%
+Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander*	0%	0%
+White*	29%	25%
Special Education	1%	1%
ESOL	0%	0%
Free/Reduced Lunch	26%	30%
Average Attendance	98%	98%

*Not Hispanic or Latino

School Safety Perceptions

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

- 99.1% of students agreed or strongly agreed that they felt safe at GSMST.
- 99.4% 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 measured improvement against local, national, and world-class standards.

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