

“COMMITTED TO HIGH PERFORMANCE”

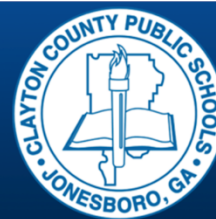
NEWS RELEASE

CLAYTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

1058 Fifth Avenue | Jonesboro, GA 30236

770-473-2700

www.clayton.k12.ga.us



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Department of Communications, Public Relations & Marketing

Jada K. Dawkins
Chief of Communications
Telephone: (770) 472-7257

August 16, 2021

UPDATED: 2020-2021 End of Grade & End of Course GMAS Data Released

JONESBORO— Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) has received its End of Grade (EOG) and End of Course (EOC) Georgia Milestones Assessments (GMAS) Data for the 2020-2021 School Year. The data, released today by the Georgia Department of Education (GADOE), includes district level and school level information. **A report on the 2020-2021 Georgia Milestones Assessment will be presented at the August 30, 2021 Work Session of the Clayton County Board of Education.**

Students began taking the Georgia Milestones Assessment System (GMAS) or Georgia Milestones in the 2014-15 school year. The comprehensive testing system spans grades three through 12 and measures how well students have mastered the knowledge and skills outlined in the Georgia Standards of Excellence in the areas of English/Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. The GMAS assesses students along four levels of achievement: Beginning Learners, Developing Learners, Proficient Learners, and Distinguished Learners.

Due to the unprecedented impact of the COVID-19 Coronavirus on instructional methodology beginning in March 2020, the data being reported by GADOE should be viewed with a proper perspective.

Background

It is important to note that no testing occurred during Spring of 2020. During the year of 2019-2020, the administration of tests such as the EOG and EOC testing were set aside resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. This decision was made by the state as school districts in Metro Atlanta, throughout Georgia and across the country were focused on providing quality instruction in a virtual environment.

During the 2020-2021 school year maximum flexibility as related to testing was implemented to ensure students were not required to come into buildings solely for the purpose of taking the Georgia Milestones during the 2020-2021. Students and families were offered broad opportunities to opt out of taking part in the GMAS process, producing in many instances, insufficient participation for a report of student performance.

As a result, there are no GMAS results from the Spring of 2020 and the results from the Spring of 2021 are limited. This is not to say that there is nothing to report. Simply put, we do not have a complete picture of the entire student population that would make the data most meaningful. But we believe that the data reported here demonstrates the resiliency of our students and their families, the innovative and dedicated work of our teachers and support staff, and the enormous efforts put forth by all employees of Clayton County Public Schools.

“It goes without saying that our work in educating our students has been and continues to be altered greatly by the COVID Coronavirus and its variants,” said Dr. Morcease J. Beasley, CCPS Superintendent/CEO of Schools. “However, in the face of this challenge, we have focused on providing our students with the instruction necessary to ensure success beyond our classrooms.”

“While the data reported here are not as complete as in the past, it tells us that we have work to do as we are committed to such initiatives as Advanced Learning for All, Clayton READS, Extending Learning Beyond the Classroom and Social Emotional Learning, which are having a positive impact,” Dr. Beasley added. “We are proud of the many students who elected to take the GMAS while displaying their continued dedication to academic excellence and a commitment to high performance.”

The Data

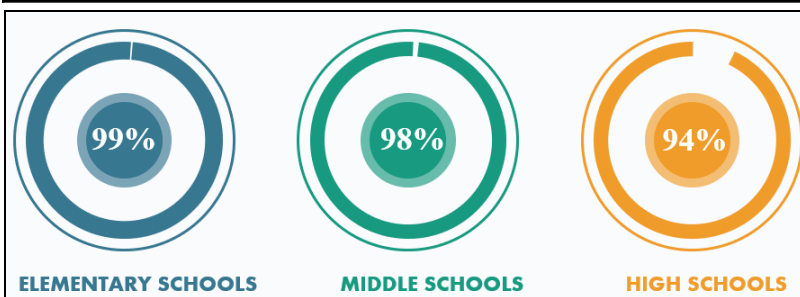
2020-2021 Test Participation Spring End of Grade (EOG) Georgia Milestones Assessment System (GMAS)						
	English Language Arts			Mathematics		
	Number of Enrolled Students	Number Tested	Percent of Enrolled Students Tested	Number of Enrolled Students	Number Tested	Percent of Enrolled Students Tested
Grade 3	3,726	1,118	30%	3,670	1,101	29%
Grade 4	3,863	1,159	30%	3,924	1,138	29%
Grade 5	4,048	1,093	27%	3,988	1,077	27%
Grade 6	4,055	811	20%	4,012	682	17%
Grade 7	4,473	671	15%	4,286	643	15%
Grade 8	4,306	646	15%	4,221	591	14%

	Science			Social Studies		
	Number of Enrolled Students	Number Tested	Percent of Enrolled Students Tested	Number of Enrolled Students	Number Tested	Percent of Enrolled Students Tested
Grade 5	4,023	1,046	26%	----	----	----
Grade 8	3,147	535	17%	4,286	600	14%

--5th Grade is not a tested grade for Social Studies

"In past administrations, the percent of eligible CCPS test takers participating in GMAS ranged from 94% to 99%."

2018-2019 Test Participation Georgia Milestones Assessment System (GMAS)



**2020-2021 Test Participation Spring End of Course (EOC)
Georgia Milestones Assessment System (GMAS)**

Course Name	Number of Enrolled Students	Number Tested	Percent of Enrolled Students Tested
American Literature & Composition	3,465	1,906	55%
Algebra I	4,784	1,771	37%
Biology	5,007	2,704	54%
U.S. History	3,358	1,612	48%
Physical Science	1,085	152	14%

**2020-2021 Spring End of Grade (EOG)
Georgia Milestones Assessment System Scores GMAS Performance
Source of Data: GaDOE Aggregate Full Year Summary Reports**

	English Language Arts	Mathematics	Science	Social Studies
Grade	% Proficient Learner & Above	% Proficient Learner & Above	% Proficient Learner & Above	% Proficient Learner & Above
Grade 3	13.9%	8.0%	----	----
Grade 4	16.4%	12.7%	----	----
Grade 5	18.2%	6.6%	8.5%	----
Grade 6	27.3%	10.3%	----	----
Grade 7	26.4%	18.8%	----	----
Grade 8	20.1%	7.8%	9.3%	9.8%

--Science is only tested in grades 5 and 8, Social Studies is only tested in grade 8

**2020-2021 End of Course (EOC)
Georgia Milestones Assessment System Scores GMAS Performance**

Course Name	Number of Students Tested	% Proficient Learner & Above
American Literature & Composition	1,906	17.5%
Algebra I	1,771	9.2%
Biology	2,704	16.2%
U.S. History	1,612	14.7%
Physical Science	152	24.3%

The data from the 2020-2021 school year confirm that the pandemic disrupted the learning of our students district-wide. Given the low participation, and that this is a one point in time measure of

mastery, we use this data cautiously as part of our data trend studies over time. It is our focus to use our internal district assessments that allow us to monitor student learning and growth through the school year.

Looking ahead

When offering a comment on how Clayton County Public Schools intends to get kids back on track and account for any gaps in education after a year of virtual school, Dr. Ebony Lee, CCPS Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, said, “The district is using a collaborative, comprehensive, and multi-year approach to help students demonstrate growth and grade-level proficiency in order to get back on track.”

“The main focus areas for our plan are: (1) ensuring that schools are operating in professional learning communities to determine best practices for recovering student learning; (2) ensuring effective, rigorous, and relevant instruction every day; (3) using various student assessments to inform instruction and schoolwide actions; (4) providing students with real-time; just right supports, such as ongoing tutoring and intervention; (5) networking with our community and engaging and equipping parents as partners in the process; and (6) ensuring a continued focus on social emotional learning and mental wellbeing,” Dr. Lee added.

“It is critical that we have support and collaboration within the community to reinforce efforts in making sure students are spending a portion of after school time on Monday through Thursday studying, doing homework when assigned, reading books, writing in journals, practicing math problems and growing their vocabulary by learning and using new words,” said Dr. Beasley. “Parents/guardians must continue to challenge their children to high expectations and to consider participation in challenging course offerings such as Honors Courses and Dual Enrollment.

“Every day, our students should be expected and required to READ something, WRITE something, and SOLVE something. These are indispensable skills for school and for life beyond the K-12 classroom,” Dr. Beasley said.

“Everyone – students, families, teachers and administrators – must understand and accept that continued, sustained improvement must be our expectation,” said Dr. Beasley. “It is essential to our mission of our continued work to establish a culture of high performance in Clayton County and to closing the gap with MRESA and Statewide student EOC and EOG performance.”

“We will continue to implement and accelerate all strategies that ensure our students are high performers and achieving at the proficient level and higher at a rate that equals or exceeds the state.” Dr. Beasley added. “This is how we, as a school district and as a community, will advance and deepen our Commitment to High Performance.”

About Clayton County Public Schools

Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) is fully accredited through Cognia. The district offers a focused world-class program based on a challenging curriculum which is taught from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. Serving over 51,000 students, Clayton County Public Schools is ranked among the 100 largest school districts in the U.S. and is the fifth-largest school system in Georgia.

###