



Clayton County Public Schools

Building A Better Tomorrow, Today!

1058 Fifth Avenue, Jonesboro, GA, 30236 | Tel: 770-473-2700 | Web: www.clayton.k12.ga.us

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Division of Communications, Public Relations, Marketing & Strategic Improvement

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CCPS Achieves Growth in Most Content Areas and Grade Levels

CCPS Experiences Gains in Nearly All GMAS-Tested Content Areas and Grade Levels

JONESBORO - Information released as part of the Georgia Milestones Assessment data release shows that the performance of Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) test takers during the 2023-2024 End of Grade (EOG) and End of Course (EOC) tests reflect improvements in academic growth. Overall, **Clayton County students made gains or remained the same in 19 out of 20 tested grade levels and subjects** in the data released for the End of Grade (EOG) and End of Course (EOC) tests.

The data released also shows that CCPS test-takers in the lowest level of achievement, Beginning Learners, experienced growth in all content areas for the End of Courses tests, and in almost all grades, and subjects for the End of Grade (EOG) tests. Clayton County Public Schools is outpacing the state's growth in moving students out of the lowest level of achievement.

"The GMAS data for 2023-2024 provides this administration with evidence that our focus on improving student academic performance district-wide is showing positive results," said Dr. Anthony W. Smith, CCPS Superintendent/CEO of Schools. "While we are encouraged by the improvement data representing student performance on GMAS testing during the 2023-2024 school year, we are fully aware and prepared to take the next steps necessary to ensure all our students reach or exceed proficiency to be better equipped for college, careers, and life beyond our classrooms."

"Last year, we challenged our instructional staff to make a greater commitment to meet our students where they are and to ensure that they have what they need to perform at a higher level in the classroom," Dr. Smith added. "I am proud of our staff and students for this year's outcomes, which signal we are moving in the right direction."

"I also challenged our parents and community members - to partner with us, get involved, and ensure high expectations and greater support for all students, and I challenged our students to be present and prepared for learning every day in every subject," The superintendent said. "And based on this data, I believe these different stakeholders listened and moved in this direction. But, more movement is needed."

"We knew building a better tomorrow, today would not be easy or immediate, but we also knew that with the support of our educators, families, and communities, we could advance in our academic outcomes," Dr. Smith said. "Working together, our students will graduate career-ready and life-ready, and they will make a difference in the years to come."

About Georgia Milestones Assessment System (GMAS)

Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) has received its End of Grade (EOG) and End of Course (EOC) Georgia Milestones Assessments (GMAS) Data for the 2023-2024 School Year. The data results released on Friday, July 26, by the Georgia Department of Education (GADOE) include district-level and school-level information for the areas of English Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies. This school year, the math assessments were updated to align with the new statewide K-12 Mathematics Standards, first implemented during the 2023-24 school year, and therefore, the Georgia Milestones math scores for all districts will be available for release later this fall.

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. The four achievement levels on Georgia Milestones are Beginning Learner, Developing Learner, Proficient Learner, and Distinguished Learner. The levels describe to what degree students can demonstrate proficiency in the knowledge and skills necessary at their grade level or course of learning, as specified in Georgia's content standards. The general meaning of each of the four levels is provided below:

- *Beginning Learners* do not yet demonstrate proficiency, and need substantial academic support to be prepared for the next grade level or course and to be on track for college and career readiness.
- *Developing Learners* demonstrate partial proficiency, and need additional academic support to ensure success in the next grade level or course and to be on track for college and career readiness.
- *Proficient Learners* demonstrate proficiency, and are prepared for the next grade level or course and are on track for college and career readiness.
- *Distinguished Learners* demonstrate advanced proficiency, and are well prepared for the next grade level or course and are well prepared for college and career readiness.

2023-2024 End of Grade (EOG) RESULTS

In the 2023-2024 school year, CCPS test takers experienced improvements or growth on the EOG in Most content areas and all grade levels. The overall district performance in each content area on the 2023-2024 in language arts, general science, physical science, and social studies EOG results reflect improvements ranging from 1 percentage point to 16 percentage points. Overall, 25 percent of CCPS test-takers in grades 3 through 8 were identified as proficient in English language arts compared to 22 percent last year. Our growth in all grade levels matched the state's growth. Georgia increased 3 percentage points from 39 percent to 42 percent. In general science, 17 percent of the district's students were proficient compared to the state's 34 percent. In physical science, 40 percent of the district's students were proficient compared to the state's 51 percent, with growth from 2022-2023 to 2023-2024 showing a 15-percentage point increase. Social studies also showed a 1 percentage point increase from 18 percent proficient in 2022-2023 to 19 percent proficient in 2023-2024. Table 1 summarizes the overall 2023 and 2024 EOG GMAS performance. Each chart shows CCPS district increases highlighted in green.

Table 1: Percent of EOG GMAS Proficient and Distinguished Test-Takers for All Grade Levels

Percent Proficient Plus EOG All Grades								
	Language Arts		Science		Physical Science		Social Studies	
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024
District	22	25	14	17	25	40	18	19
State	39	42	34	34	52	51	36	38

Table 2 shows the level of performance in all grades. The pass rates include the percent of students performing at the two highest performance categories, proficient plus distinguished learner levels. Because of a new test, mathematics scores will be available in late September.

Table 2: 2023 and 2024 EOG Georgia Milestones Assessment System Performance by District and State

Link for the individual schools' End of Grade information: [link](#)

Table 2: 2023 and 2024 Georgia Milestones Assessment System Performance by District and State

Source of Data: GaDOE Test Reports-Content Summary

BL - Beginning Learner % DL - Developing Learner % PL - Proficient Learner % DSL - Distinguished Learner %

% Passed - % of Proficient Learners plus the % of Distinguished Learners

	GMAS Language Arts			GMAS Language Arts		
	2023			2024		
	Total Tested	% Not Passing	2023 % Passing	Total Tested	% Not Passing	2024 % Passing
District	23,101	78	22	22,317	75	25
State	765,370	61	39	761,182	58	42
Grade 3	3,679	82	18	3,545	80	20
Grade 4	3,838	82	18	3,585	82	18
Grade 5	3,814	77	23	3,880	71	29
Grade 6	3,787	78	22	3,698	76	24
Grade 7	3,879	74	26	3,728	76	24
Grade 8	4,103	73	27	3,881	70	30

	GMAS General Science			GMAS General Science		
	2023			2024		
	Total Tested	% Not Passing	2023 % Passing	Total Tested	% Not Passing	2024 % Passing
District	6,701	86	14	7,212	83	17
State	220,897	66	34	215,477	66	34
Grade 5	3,801	83	17	3,877	79	21
Grade 8	2,900	91	9	3,335	87	14

	GMAS Social Studies			GMAS Social Studies		
	2023			2024		
	Total Tested	% Not Passing	2023 % Passing	Total Tested	% Not Passing	2024 % Passing
District	4,081	82	18	3,880	81	19
State	132,854	64	36	129,695	62	38
Grade 8	4,081	82	18	3,880	81	19

	GMAS Physical Science			GMAS Physical Science		
	2023			2024		
	Total Tested	% Not Passing	2023 % Passing	Total Tested	% Not Passing	2024 % Passing
District	1,197	75	25	552	60	40
State	38,645	48	52	41,074	49	51
Grade 8	1,197	75	25	552	60	40

End of Course (EOC) Results

In the 2023-2024 school year, CCPS test takers experienced improvements or growth on the 2023 EOC in all available content areas. The overall district performance in American Literature, Biology, and U.S. History reflects improvements ranging from 1-percentage point to 4 percentage points growth. Overall, the percent of students in American Literature demonstrating proficiency is 24 percent, with a pass rate reflecting a 2-percentage point increase from 2023 to 2024. The proficiency rate in U.S. History is 25 percent, with a 1-percentage point increase from 2023. The highest performance is in Biology, with 27 percent of students demonstrating proficiency. Biology also had the highest increase in pass rates of 4-percentage points from 2023 to 2024. The chart below shows CCPS district increases, which are highlighted in green. Algebra scores will be available in late September.

Table 3: 2023 and 2024 EOC Georgia Milestones Assessment System Performance by District and State

2022, 2023, and 2024 Georgia Milestones Assessment System Performance by District, MRESA, and State																																	
Source of Data: GaDOE Test Reports-Content Summary																																	
BL - Beginning Learner % DL - Developing Learner % PL - Proficient Learner % DSL - Distinguished Learner %																																	
% Passed = % of Proficient Learners plus the % of Distinguished Learners																																	
Content Area	2022-2023															2023-2024															Change in Proficient/Distinguished		
	District					Metro RESA					Georgia					District					Metro RESA					Georgia					District	MRESA	Georgia
	BL	DL	PL	DSL	% Passing	BL	DL	PL	DSL	% Passing	BL	DL	PL	DSL	% Passing	BL	DL	PL	DSL	% Passing	BL	DL	PL	DSL	% Passing	BL	DL	PL	DSL	% Passing	2023 to 2024	2023 to 2024	2023 to 2024
American Literature	43	35	20	2	22	25	32	35	7	43	26	35	33	6	39	41	35	21	3	24	25	29	35	12	47	26	32	33	9	42	2	4	3
Algebra I	56	28	13	3	15	30	27	27	15	42	34	31	25	10	36																		
Biology	51	26	20	4	23	29	23	32	17	49	30	24	32	13	46	46	28	23	4	27	28	24	34	15	48	30	26	33	12	45	4	-1	-1
US History	42	35	20	3	24	28	35	31	8	38	28	35	30	7	37	41	34	21	4	25	27	34	31	9	40	28	34	30	9	39	1	2	2
Due to rounding, achievement level percentages may not total 100%																																	

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Link for the individual schools' End of Course information: [link](#)

“These results indicate that the district is moving in the right direction, however, there is still more important work to do,” said Dr. Delphia Young, Deputy Superintendent - Teaching and Learning/Strategic Improvement. “We must continue the joint collaborative effort between district and school-based staff to obtain successful outcomes.”

“Last year, in an effort to provide support for our staff, our families and our students to obtain and maintain academic achievement, and to accelerate our commitment to improvement, the district returned its roots so to speak by going back to basics,” said Dr. Young. “Back to the B.A.S.I.C.S. - Building Academic Success through Intentional Classroom Strategies provided the following focus of all aspects of teaching and learning is:

- Provide leaders and teachers with enhanced training to implement quality instruction and the Science of Reading strategies.
- Use data to provide more personalized instruction for students.
- Enhance our parent and community-involvement efforts to support at-home learning.
- Revitalize our community-wide reading initiatives to promote reading across Clayton County.
- Implement an Instructional Framework that fosters consistency in planning, delivering, and monitoring lessons.
- Create classrooms that reflect a positive learning culture and intentional best practices.

- Afford teachers more time to teach and students time to learn by reducing the number of student assessments and superfluous resources.
- Host county-wide community meetings to share our progress, receive feedback, and provide helpful strategies and resources for at-home learning.

“We are continuing and deepening our implementation of this initiative as a key instructional practice in the coming school year,” Dr. Young added.

-An official document from the Clayton County Public School System-

About Clayton County Public Schools: Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) is fully accredited by 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 50,000 students, Clayton County Public Schools is ranked among the 100 largest school districts in the U.S. and is the sixth-largest school system in Georgia.

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