

8/13/2026,
10:38:10 AM

Accountability and flexibility are hallmarks of Gwinnett County Public Schools' success. Key to that success is ensuring that each school community understands the progress being made by its schools, as well as what plans will drive improvement. Each school creates a collaborative Local School Plan for Improvement (LSPI) to increase student achievement results, with targeted goals based on the four strategic priorities within the district's [Blueprint for the Future](#): **Empathy, Equity, Effectiveness, and Excellence**. All schools across the district will focus on goals **2A- Multi-tiered Systems of Support and 2B- Opportunity and Access**. Additionally, schools are required to select one goal from each of the other strategic priorities. LSPI goals are dynamic, like our schools, and are updated to reflect changes that occur in schools. Multiple data points are used to determine areas needing improvement and to identify specific, measurable, annual objectives. Schools then determine how to use research-based strategies to achieve these goals, using flexibility as needed. The LSPI development process involves teachers, parents, students, and community members, so the entire school community has the opportunity to be involved in conversations about school improvement.

2026 - 2027 Local School Plan for Improvement (LSPI)

School: RICHARDS MIDDLE

Principal: Felisha Caldwell

District Strategic Priorities/Goals	Rationale	Action Steps (Implementation Design)	How will you measure growth? Growth Factors (Baseline & Targets)
Empathy 1.B - Staff and Student Well Being	To maximize the teaching and learning experience, Richards Middle School will prioritize the well-being of our staff and	1. Richards Middle School administrators will meet with 6th-8th grade Student Advisory Council members, Peer Leaders, and/or Student Council members to increase opportunities for student voice throughout the school.	*Richards Middle School will decrease the chronic absenteeism rate from 11% to the continuous benchmark of 10%.

students, so they are in their optimal physical, mental, and emotional frame of mind while in the classroom each day.

2. Richards Middle School administrators will meet with members of the Teacher Advisory Council, Instructional Leadership Team, and Collaborative Learning Teams to increase opportunities for teacher voice throughout the school.

3. Student clubs and extracurricular activities will continue to expand to support the needs and desires of our students.

4. Weekly advisement Character Strong lessons and PBIS programming will target students' social and emotional learning, self-management, and character development. Navigate 360 will continue as a behavioral support intervention for students who receive school suspension. In-school suspension will be renamed to the "Restoration Room" and include opportunities for restorative discussions with students.

5. The wellness space is dedicated to staff as a quiet place for physical, mental, and emotional renewal.

6. A robust counseling program supports students and staff at each grade level. Counselors teach guidance lessons for every classroom during the school year as well design and monitor student chronic absenteeism. Attendance incentives and signage will be displayed throughout the school to encourage student attendance.

Person Responsible:

		Felisha Caldwell, LaTasha Cook, Nickeva Jones, Yvonne Jordan, Angela Fisher, Celeste Lizama, Patrick Mugan, Venita Ogletree From Time Line: 08-01-2026 00:00:00.000 To Time Line: 05-31-2027 00:00:00.000 Budget Implication: Local School Budget, Title I Budget	
Equity 2.A - Multi-tiered System of Supports	Reduce variability and increase the fidelity of High-Quality Tier I instruction implementation for all students, including targeted small groups, grade level curriculum, ongoing formative assessments, and progress monitoring.	1. A full-time MTSS Coordinator will continue to provide leadership in organizing and facilitating academic and behavioral interventions, student progress data management, SSTs, and RTI referrals. 2. Richards Middle School will utilize data from iReady and Imagine Learning to place students in the CQI Remedial Education Program and/or identify for possible gifted program eligibility. 3. Teachers will be provided student data profiles, so they have quick access to prior year achievement and assessment performance levels. Teachers will participate in monthly MTSS Kid Talks to review student	*Richards Middle School will increase the % of students meeting 1st semester typical i-Ready Growth targets in ELA from 46% to the continuous benchmark of 52%. *Richards Middle School will increase the number of students who are eligible to be reclassified in the ML program from 60 to 65 based on ACCESS testing scores. **Richards Middle School will increase from 44% to 47% the

		academic, attendance, and behavioral progress. 4. Students will continue to be offered opportunities for morning tutoring one days per week, as well as Saturday tutorial support on chosen dates throughout the school year. Select students will be scheduled for small group tutoring during daily CQI Titan Time class. 5. Academic instructional interventions will be offered on select Saturdays throughout the school year. 6. The GCPS Behavioral Coach, MTSS Coordinator and Behavioral Interventionist will be utilized to support students and staff. 7. Students demonstrating a need for behavioral support will receive tiered interventions through an individualized Check In/Check Out system to strengthen positive behavior, increase engagement, and support student growth. Person Responsible: Felisha Caldwell, LaTasha Cook, Nickeva Jones, Yvonne Jordan, Angela Fisher, Celeste Lizama, Patrick Mugan, Venita Ogletree, Betsy Klein From Time Line: 08-01-2026 00:00:00.000 To Time Line: 05-31-2027 00:00:00.000	percentage of students who increase their performance band on ACCESS testing. *Richards Middle School will decrease the number of students in Tier III behavioral Check In/Check Out intervention program from ____ to ____. *Richards Middle School will decrease the number of students attending Summer Enrichment and Acceleration (SEA) by ____%. 8th grade from ____ to ____. 7th grade from ____ to ____. 6th grade from ____ to ____.
--	--	--	---

		Budget Implication: Local School Budget, Title I Budget	
Equity 2.B - Opportunity and Access	Richards Middle School will increase students' opportunities to learn and achieve by consistently implementing a high-quality curriculum that reflects grade level expectations, focusing on early literacy and science of reading.	1. Richards Middle School will continue to expand extracurricular clubs and activities for students to increase opportunities for school engagement, peer socialization, and personal enrichment. Girls Flag Football is a new GCPS sports opportunity where Richards Middle students will be able to participate. 2. Students will be offered a wide range of rigorous and enriching CTAE and fine arts courses to build relevant and meaningful connections to technology, engineering, computer science, business, music, and art. 3. The GCPS 1:1 device initiative will enable each Richards Middle student to have digital access at school and home and will enable access to targeted instructional interventions for Tier II and Tier III students. 4. Screening assessments will be utilized to help identify students for gifted program testing in order to increase opportunity and access for a greater number of Richards Middle School students. Person Responsible: Felisha Caldwell, LaTasha Cook, Nickeva Jones, Yvonne Jordan, Angela Fisher, Celeste Lizama, Patrick Mugan, Venita Ogletree, RMS Counselors	

		From Time Line: 08-01-2026 00:00:00.000 To Time Line: 05-31-2026 00:00:00.000 Budget Implication: Local School Budget, Title I Budget	
Family Engagement/Building Parent Capacity -	We will build our parents' capacity to support their children's academic achievement by implementing the activities identified in The Plan/The Promise.	1. Richards Middle School will offer multiple opportunities for families to attend and participate in school-wide open house/community fair, parent curriculum night, Title I parent workshops, cultural celebrations, fine arts presentations, feedback meetings, and competitive sports events. 2. To create a more comprehensive family support system, Richards Middle School will offer a community engagement fair to foster relationships with community partners who offer services to support families and children in various areas, such as social, physical, emotional, academic, and mental well-being. 3. Richards Middle School will attempt to communicate all information with parents in a language and format they understand, and whenever possible, we will provide interpreters during parent workshops and	*Richards Middle School will increase family participation in the EES surveys from 403 to 488, representing 25% of the school's population. *Family survey responses will increase from 83.9% to 87% on the EES survey question, "This school communicates effectively with my family".

academic events⁴. A parent outreach liaison will facilitate communication, outreach, resources, and training opportunities for parents to foster greater parent engagement with their child's education.⁵ Richards Middle School will keep parents informed throughout the year about what their child is learning through parent meetings, conferences, eCLASS, ParentSquare, social media and other communication methods.

7. Richards Middle School will provide academic curriculum resources for families, as well as resources to support the social, physical, emotional, and mental well-being of all students, as needs arise during the school year.

Person Responsible:

Felisha Caldwell, LaTasha Cook, Angela Fisher, Nickeva Jones, Yvonne Jordan, Celeste Lizama, Patrick Mugan, Venita Ogletree

From Time Line: 08-01-2026
00:00:00.000

To Time Line: 05-31-2027
00:00:00.000

Budget Implication:

Local School Budget, Title I Budget