



## LCSS TEACHING & LEARNING NEWS OCTOBER 2019

We Provide Rigor, Relevance, and Relationships to  
Every Student, Every Teacher, Every Day!

### The Laurens County School District Continues to be More than Just an Average School System

*All district level CCRPI scores are  
above the state averages!*



### The Laurens County School System is the highest scoring school system in the Heart of Georgia RESA District.

CCRPI scores are comprehensive scores of a school district's performances in various areas. Some of the factors calculated in CCRPI reports include student achievement, student academic growth, academic growth of subgroups of students such as students with disabilities, attendance, student and parent surveys, high school graduation rate, and students' completion of fine arts and world language courses or pathways.

Laurens County School District	2018	2019
Elementary Schools	84.1	85.1
Middle Schools	72.7	82.4
High Schools	78.6	81
All Schools	79.7	83.2

The district demonstrated improvement at every grade span over the prior year's scores. 2019 and 2018 CCRPI scores **are** directly comparable. **Scores from prior years are NOT comparable because the state made improvements to the CCRPI calculation as part of its [State ESSA Plan](#).** The 2018 CCRPI was the first to use the new calculation.

**In addition to all scores being above state averages and the achievement of the highest school system score in the HGRESA District, there are other highlights of success for Laurens County Schools:**

1. Literacy rates at each grade span showed improvement when compared to last year's scores.
2. Every school achieved either a 4 star or 5 star Climate Star Rating. The School Climate Star Rating assesses the climate of a school – each school in Georgia receives a one- to five-star rating, with five stars representing an excellent school climate and one star representing a school climate most in need of improvement. *School climate* refers to the quality and character of school life – the “culture” of a school. A sustainable, positive school climate fosters youth development and student learning, which are essential elements for academic success, career-skill improvement, and overall quality of life.

3. The CCRPI Score consists of Closing Gaps Scores. This component reports how well the school system is doing in meeting the needs of subgroups of students such as students with disabilities, English Language Learner students, as well as economically disadvantaged students.

Elementary Schools Closing Gaps Scores	
96.7	Laurens County Schools
73.8	State of Georgia
Middle Schools Closing Gaps Scores	
95.0	Laurens County Schools
50.0	State of Georgia
High School Closing Gaps Scores	
87.5	Laurens County Schools
80.0	State of Georgia

**There are many factors that affect the rise in a school district's performance on CCRPI. We firmly believe the #1 reason is our teachers and staff who remain firmly committed to seeing our students succeed! We are blessed in the Laurens County School District to have an incredibly high # of teachers and staff who are dedicated far beyond the average commitment.**



East Laurens Middle School was recognized in The Advocate for their work with summer reading. Read the article here:

<https://www.theedadvocate.org/3-keys-to-a-successful-summer-reading-program/>

PreK Week was this month! Students and teachers had fun listening to guest readers from Fairview Park Hospital and GA Power's Bill Glisson. Each student received a copy of GA Power's Learning Power book and a copy of the official PreK Week book, Llama Llama Red Pajamas. We made it a 2 week event and had Pete the Cat visit and give away books as well!

It has been said, ***"If we create a culture where everyone is a learner and we all work to continuously improve, not because we aren't good enough but because we can be even better, there is no limit to what we can achieve together!"***

This practice is consistently demonstrated in the Laurens County School System. This month, a group of teachers participated in Empowering Writers professional learning. High school science teachers participated in a session hosted by Pearson Science. In addition, Cohort 2 of district-wide alignment of instruction began this month.

The Laurens County Community Literacy Task Force met this month to share the wonderful work taking place with Literacy in Laurens. Each Task Force partner shared celebrations, initiatives, and future plans of literacy with the group. Reading in the Park events, Fairview Park Hospital events, Teletherapy with Babies Can't Wait, GA Power reading to PreK and Learning Power materials, new resources from the Oconee Regional Library, summer and after school events with Family Connections, #OFTC Reads, Adult Ed. at OFTC, Books at the Pumpkin Patch provided by retired teachers, The Chamber of Commerce efforts with Quality Rated childcare, and book vending machines in Laurens County Schools were just some of what was shared.



**The Latest with Literacy in Laurens**  
**Community Partnerships Matter!**



**Monster Dash**

Laurens County Schools partnered with the Pilot Club to provide books in the bags of kids participating in Monster Dash! Many students from our schools participated and great fun was had by all!



**Movie on the Lawn**

We partnered again this year with Fairview Park Hospital's Movie on the Lawn event. Children had fun with sensory boxes that included things like "Werewolf Brains and Goblin Eyeballs." Of course, they also received a book for their bravery! The most fun was had with the Disney Princesses and Super Heroes who read to the students, helped them pick out books, and posed for pictures. A special "Thank You" to West Laurens High School's Anchor Club students for assisting with this event.



**REACH GA:** On November 5, we will hold the signing ceremony for our REACH Scholars. REACH Scholars for the 2019-2020 school year are Gavin Warnock (ELM), Kahleel Lewis (ELM), Zakayla Stanley (ELM), and Kellen Culpepper (WLM).

**Governor's Honors:** A total of 16 students have been nominated as potential candidates for the 2020 Governor's Honors Program. Our district can send in 10 nominees to the state level for consideration. The students nominated at the school level are in the process of completing a preliminary application that will be scored locally, and the top 10 candidates will be submitted to the next level for further consideration.



**Gifted Education:** Schools have received their budget for gifted students based on an additional \$150 per FTE. Elementary schools have chosen to use most of their funds for resources and STEM supplies for the gifted identified students. Middle schools want to allot a large portion of their funds for student participation in academic contests and events. Dr. Bourassa shared an extensive list of options that teachers could consider having students participate.

**MTSS:** On October 22, the MTSS contacts from both high schools and Dana Hall attended a training specific to RTI at the secondary level in Atlanta, GA. We plan to use information obtained during the session to help guide our planning for how to best support high school students. The state will also host multiple MTSS training sessions throughout the year. Mrs. Hall encourages principals to send their MTSS school level contact to the trainings that are being made available. The next training is November 7 at the Anderson Conference Center, and the topic is progress monitoring.

**PBIS:** State recommendations for levels of operation have been released. Shifts in administration, new "behavior trends" such as vaping, and continued use of limited corporal punishment resulting in increases in ISS days led to most schools either staying at the same recognition level or dropping when compared to the previous year. With the stability in administration assignments and schools using alternate strategies to address behaviors, we should see our overall implementation effectiveness continue to increase. Our school climate ratings are NOTHING to complain about. 🎉 The state is still continuing to seek input on determining recognition levels, so again, do not focus highly on the level of recognition assigned. What Mrs. Hall does see is our schools taking an active stand to promote school safety, consistent discipline practices, and recognition of student success, thus improving our school culture even more.

Northwest Laurens and Southwest Laurens will be participating in the state training for Early Learning. This training will share best practices for implementing a solid Tier 1 framework within the classroom setting. The classroom training is the next step to promoting a positive culture throughout the school. Students spend the majority of their day in the classroom setting, so it is crucial to have systems in place that support the social-emotional needs of all learners while creating an environment conducive to maximum learning for the student.



Special education has had an exciting year so far! Many of our students with disabilities enjoyed Middle Georgia's 2nd Annual Easterseals Pro Rodeo a few days ago. Special education paraprofessionals participated in professional learning that focused on the characteristics of disabilities. Mrs. Nicole Nelson, our district behavior specialist, provided training on autism to several groups of

teachers. Mrs. Allison Oxford, a consultant, provided professional learning in the area of co-teaching for several co-teaching teams. Special education teachers participated in professional learning that focused on IEP goal writing and re-evaluations. We are looking forward to Middle Georgia Buddy Ball that is scheduled for November 16!