

Palmetto Elementary School

Maureen Wheeler, Principal
Emmett Shaffer, Area Superintendent

505 Carlton Road, Palmetto, GA 30268
770-463-6100 • www.fultonschools.org/school/palmetto/

Key Results from 2008-09 School Improvement Plans

Improvement plans, which outline current and ongoing school goals, are developed by each Fulton County school. These guide school administrators and teachers toward improving student achievement and overall school success.

Objective – Improve student performance in reading/language arts.

Results – 86.8% of Palmetto Elementary School's students met or exceeded the standards on the 2008-09 English/language arts subtest of the CRCT. This score was a 6.2% increase from the previous year. Departmentalized classes, frequent Test Talks and data meetings, and collaboration among teachers contributed to these gains. We will continue to find ways to expand these efforts during the 2009-10 school year.

Objective – Improve student performance in math.

Results – 65.6% of Palmetto Elementary School's students met or exceeded the standards on the 2008-09 math subtest of the CRCT. This score was a 3.2% increase from the previous year. Additionally, students in fifth grade demonstrated a 10% gain on the math subtest of the ITBS, as 44% of students met or exceeded standards. Math continues to be our primary focus area schoolwide. All resources are aligned to support math instruction. Acquisition of basic facts continues to be a weakness for students. Many initiatives such as Family Math Nights and Math Facts Competitions during lunch have been implemented to support achievement in math.

Objective – Increase the percentage of third through fifth grade students with disabilities who meet or exceed expectations on the CRCT.

Results – The percentage of students with disabilities meeting or exceeding standards on the CRCT increased in both reading and math. Students demonstrated an 8.1% increase in reading/language arts and a 7.6% increase in math. We will continue to examine our data and instructional strategies to find ways to improve these students' performance.

Objective – Improve student performance in writing.

Results – Palmetto Elementary School did not achieve its goal of improving student achievement in writing. Fifth grade students' performance on the Georgia Writing Assessment decreased by 5% during the 2008-09 school year. After examining the instructional setting and strategies, it was determined that changes to the departmentalized fifth grade may have contributed to this decline in performance, as limited time was available to teach writing. As a result, we have adjusted the instructional time and setting for a maximized focus on writing.

About this Report

The Fulton County School System uses a framework – called the **Value-Added Performance System** – that guides school leaders in raising student achievement by measuring academic growth as well as performance and by comparing or “benchmarking” against similar schools achieving excellent results.

The system helps answer the questions:

- **How effective are our schools?**
- **How much difference do our schools and teachers make?**
- **How much added value do our schools offer over other schools and school systems?**
- **How can we improve in order to better help each and every student reach his or her fullest potential?**

The Value-Added Performance System uses analytical tools to isolate data that reflects the school's impact on student learning. It enables the school to focus on factors over which they have control to better focus improvement initiatives.

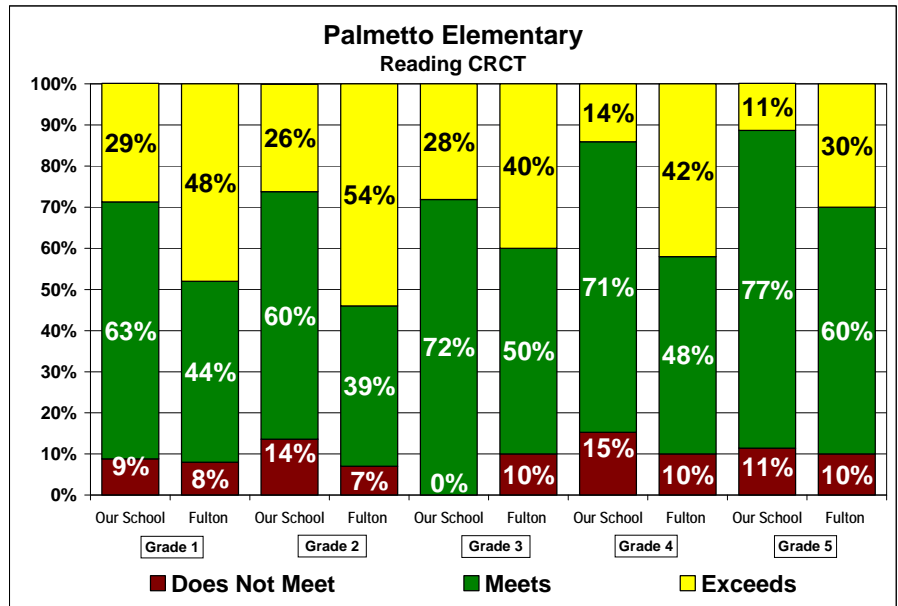
2008-09 Academic Achievement

Georgia Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests

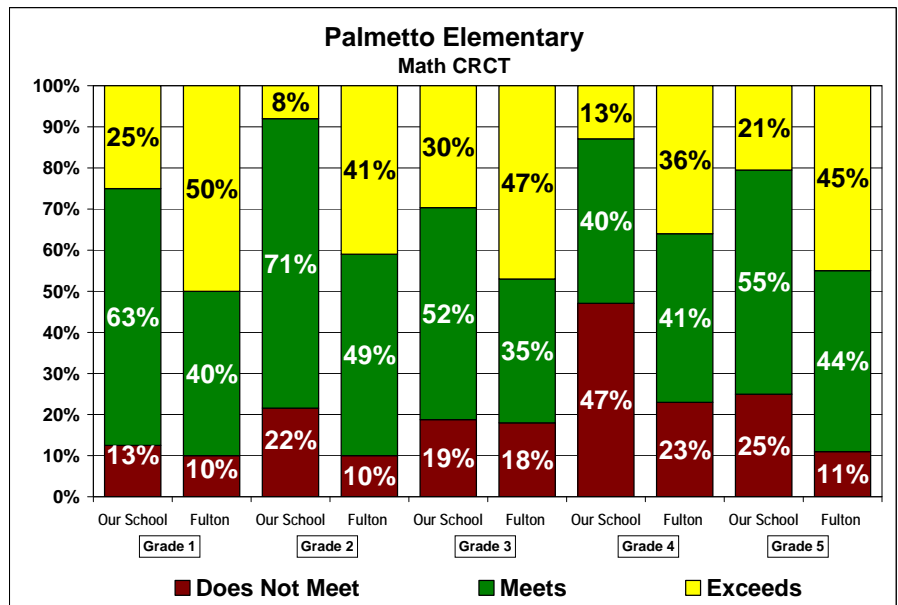
The Georgia Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests (CRCT) are given in grades one through eight. The test measures specific skills included in the Georgia core curriculum that are considered essential for continued academic progress.

CRCT scores are reported as levels. Level I indicates students do not yet meet expectations. Students scoring at Level 2 meet the state's expectations of being on grade level, and students at Level 3 exceed expectations, or are above grade level. Scores are reported by the percent of students in a school scoring at or above grade level.

Reading Achievement – Our School vs. Fulton County Averages



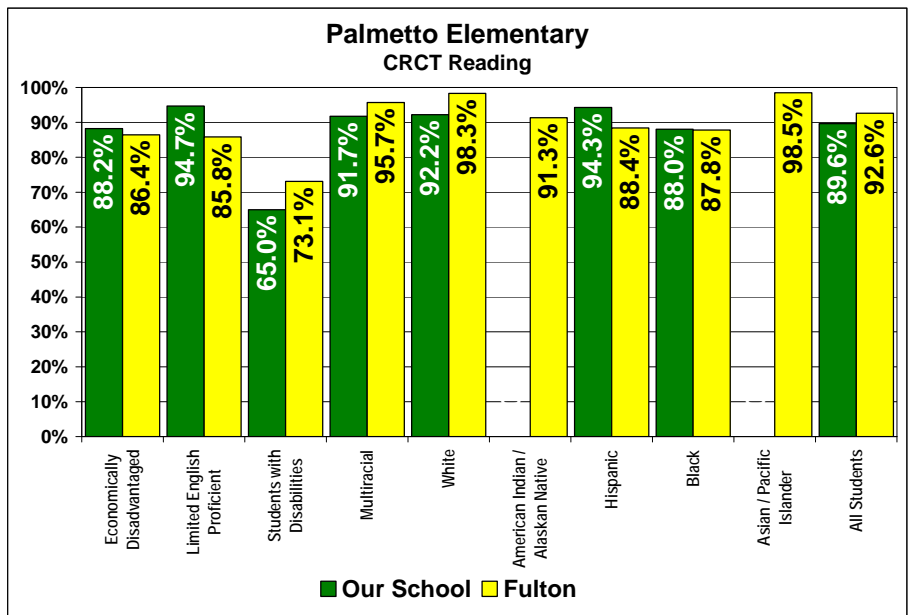
Math Achievement – Our School vs. Fulton County Averages



Reading Achievement –

Separated by Our School's Student Demographics

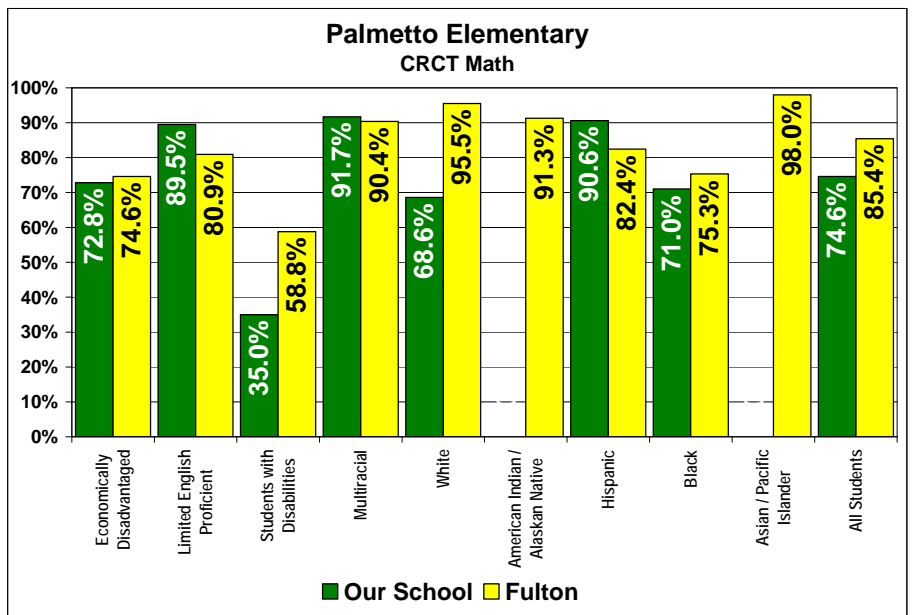
(no data is shown if our school has less than 10 students in a specific demographic category)



Math Achievement –

Separated by Our School's Student Demographics

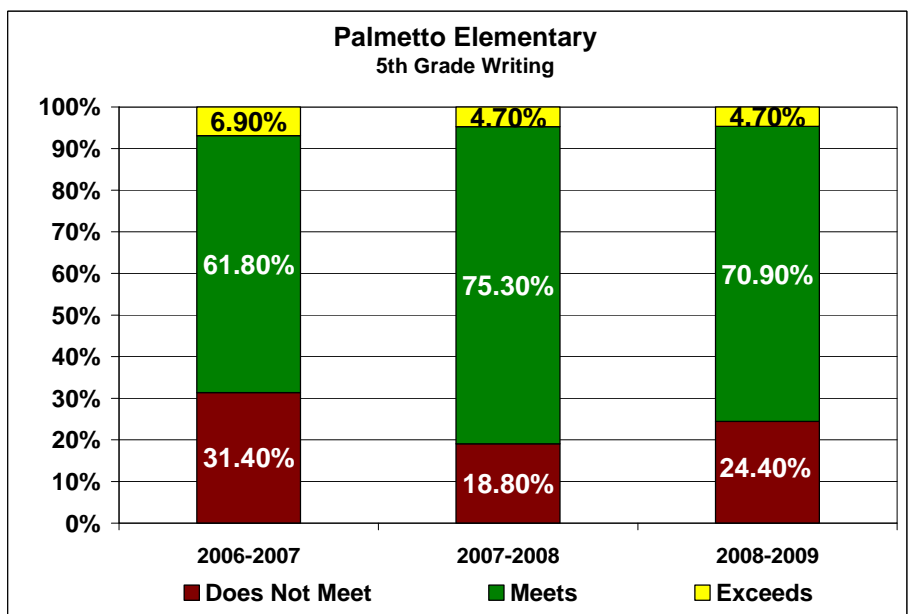
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Grade Five Writing Assessment

Part of the Statewide Testing Program, fifth grade students are assigned an essay topic in one of three genres: narrative, informational, and persuasive. Students are allowed approximately 120 minutes to write their essays. Papers are scored by trained raters using a standardized scoring system.

Similar to the CRCT, scores are reported as Does Not Meet, Meets and Exceeds Standards.



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2008-09 Highlights and Achievements

Academics and Activities

- Sixth consecutive year making Adequate Yearly Progress
- Fifth consecutive year recognized as a Title I Distinguished School
- Recognized as a 2009 State Superintendent's Achievement Award winner for improving third grade reading achievement
- 100% of all third grade students passed the reading subtest of the 2009 CRCT
- Third grade students participated in the 2008-09 Fulton County Youth Leadership Program
- Atlanta Journal-Constitution's Golden Carrot award winner
- Featured on CNN's Medical Minute for participation with the Reading Paws program
- Alliance for a Healthier Generation/William Clinton Foundation – national Bronze award winner
- Fulton County Board of Commissioners Proclamation granted for Healthy Kids Smart Kids Initiative
- First South Fulton elementary school to begin a National Junior Beta Club program
- Recognized as an All Exceeds Pre-K program by Bright from the Start for two consecutive years
- Pre-K teachers recognized as state Mentor Teachers for two consecutive years
- Data support specialist recognized as a state Mentor Teacher
- Energy Star award designated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy
- Media Services Show Stopper award in 2007 and 2009
- Partnership with the Atlanta Falcons FitnessGram program
- South Fulton PTA Reflections winner 2009
- Partnership with Palmetto Police Department and the Junior Cadet Program
- Participants in the Fulton Arts Council grant for "Our Lives, Our Legacy: A Photographic Expression of Life in Palmetto"
- Collaborative Partnership with the City of Palmetto, University of Virginia, Hill County Montessori, and Serenbe Organic Farm to develop a Community Garden

Other Notable Achievements

- \$5,000 Lowes Toolbox for Education to improve outdoor recreation and learning facilities
- \$500 Target grant to purchase new books

This report was produced by the Fulton County School System with the assistance of our school.

Equal opportunity agency. Compliance Coordinator. 404-763-4585. TTY 1-800-255-0135

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