

Sweet Apple Elementary School

Lenny Forti, Principal
Bob Lynch, Area Superintendent

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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 – Increase percentage of third grade students who perform at the “exceeds expectation” level in mathematics on the Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests.

Results – Sweet Apple increased the percentage of students performing at the “exceeds expectation” level at all but one grade level. Second and third grade had 15% and 19% increases in the number of students “exceeding expectations.” New curriculum resources and implementation of continuous achievement levels had a positive impact on student performance. Also, ActivBoards that allocated to all second through fifth grade classrooms have enhanced math instruction. Further attention will be provided to students with disabilities who did not meet their performance measure. School initiatives for 2009-10 will continue to target increasing the performance of this student population. Data from Checkpoints, unit assessments and state testing will be used throughout the year to guide instruction and identify students who need further assistance.

Objective – Increase percentage of second and fourth grade students who perform at the “exceeds expectation” level in language arts on the CRCT.

Results – All grades had more than 40% of their students scoring in “exceeds expectation” in language arts. First and third grade had more than a 10% increase in the number of students scoring at this level. We will continue our focus on increasing the number of students scoring at “exceeds expectation” this year. Grade levels will be integrating language and writing skills together to promote increased student achievement.

Objective – Increase percentage of fifth grade students who perform at the “exceeds expectation” level on the State Writing Assessment and increase the percentage of fifth grade students with disabilities who “meet expectations” on the writing assessment.

Results – Writing performance measures were below expectation on the fifth grade writing assessment. School initiatives for the 2009-10 year will address improving writing across all grade levels. A writing committee with representation from all grade levels and special education will provide recommendations for implementation during the school year. Use of writing portfolios, anchor papers and teacher-student conferencing will be implemented to improve student achievement. Fourth and fifth grade students will participate in a practice writing assessment offered by the University of Georgia. Individual student results will be used to assist individual student performance and plan further writing instruction. Planned writing initiatives for the year should positively impact writing achievement.

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 answers 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 improve to better help each and every student reach their 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.

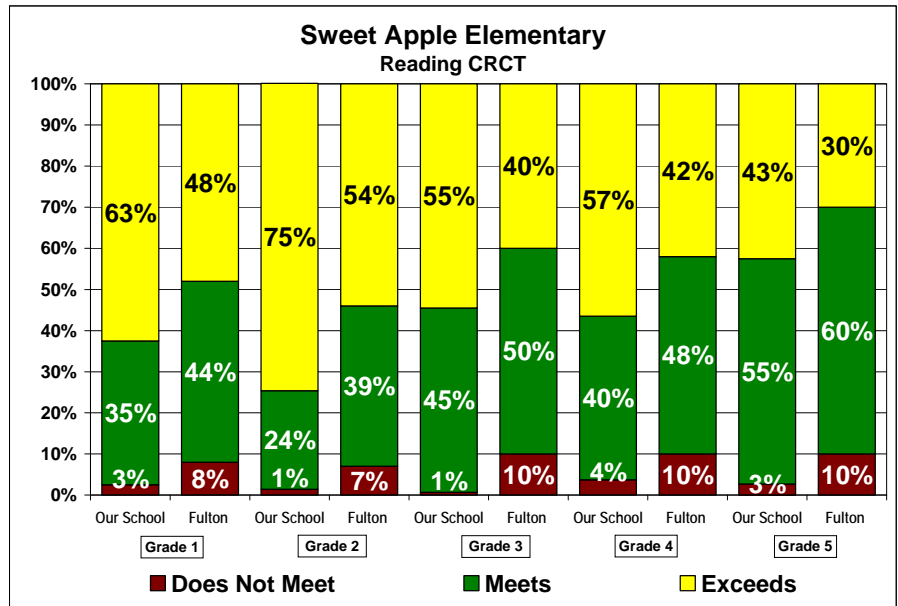
2008-09 Academic Achievement

Georgia Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests

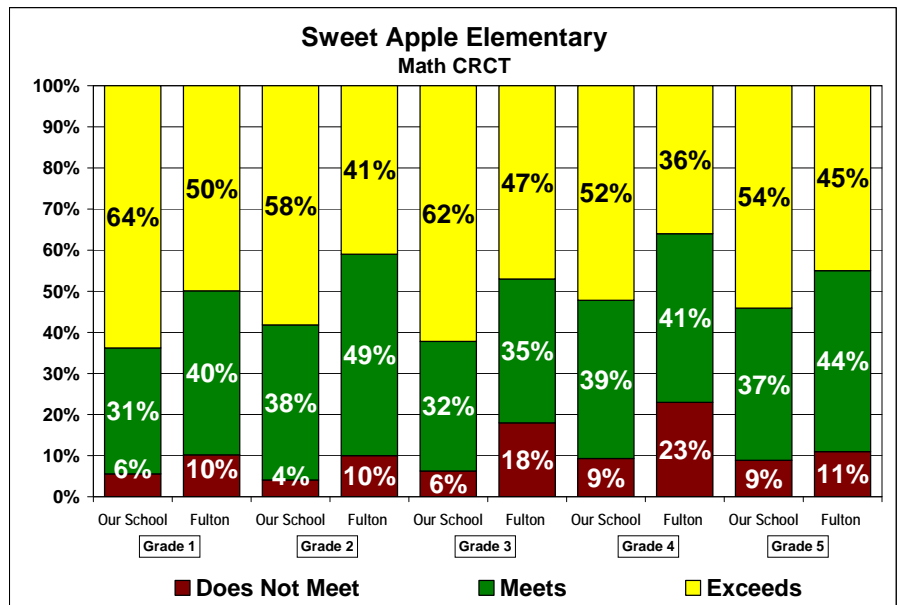
The Georgia Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests (CRCT) are given in grades one through eight. The test measures specific skills included in the Georgia core curriculum that are considered essential for continued academic progress.

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



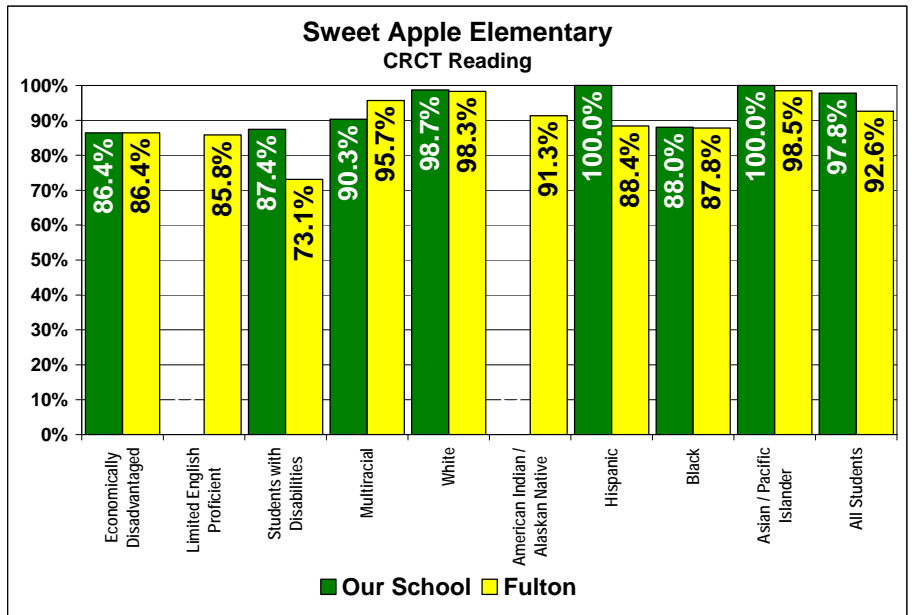
Math Achievement – Our School vs. Fulton County Averages



Reading Achievement –

Separated by Our School's Student Demographics

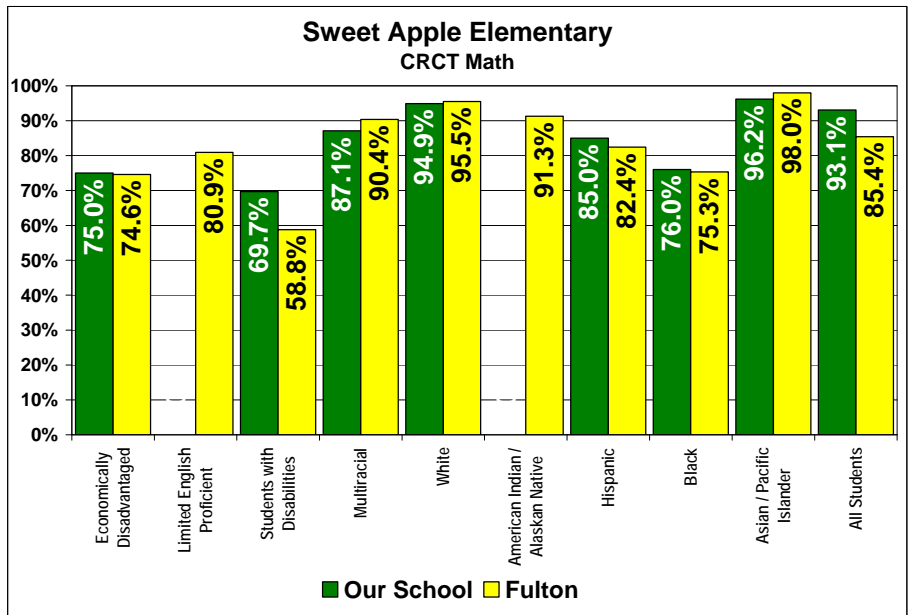
(no data is shown if our school has less than 10 students in a specific demographic category)



Math Achievement –

Separated by Our School's Student Demographics

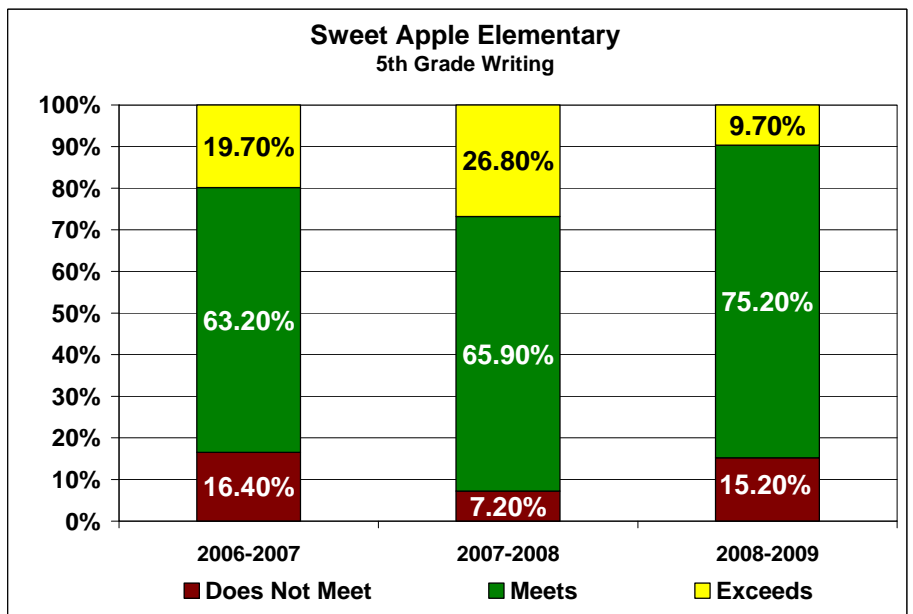
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Grade Five Writing Assessment

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

- Governor's Office of Student Achievement, Bronze Award, for high student performance on the CRCT
- PTA Oak Tree Award for 100% staff membership
- PTA Council Membership Award for 5% membership increase
- PTA Business Partnership Certificate for business partnership involvement
- PTA National Healthy Lifestyles Recognition Award 2008
- City of Roswell's Environmental School of the Year
- Recipient of the Mayor's Cup for the 58th Annual Roswell Youth Day Parade
- Third place state level Reflections contest winner in the area of Dance/Choreography
- Keep Roswell Beautiful Environmental Film Festival – second place for the elementary and middle school division
- Selected as a Roswell Evergreen School
- Student artwork displayed at the Electronic Art Show at the Georgia Art Education Association Fall Professional Learning Conference
- Energy Star award from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for superior energy efficiency
- Three students honored by the Roswell City Council for their winning artwork being featured in a water conservation coloring book distributed throughout the city
- Three students were honored at a reception for artwork displayed in the Capitol Art Exhibit at the Twin Towers Building in Atlanta
- Four students honored for three Superior scores at the Georgia Music Education Association Performance Evaluation
- Musical performances presented by all grade levels. Ten shows performed at student assemblies and evening performances for parents and friends
- Third Grade Famous Americans Showcase in April attended by parents and visitors. More than 130 famous Americans were featured in authentic dress.
- More than 600 visitors for our first Grandparents' Day in March sponsored by the PTA. Visitors were involved in mathematics lessons.
- March was Nutrition Month, which focused on recognizing healthy, happy kids and culminated with the third annual Fun Run
- Outdoor classroom created with science lessons linked to Georgia Performance Standards
- 40 Cool Summer Readers recognized for participating in the Summer Reading Program

Other Notable Achievements

- Principal received the National PTA Lifetime Achievement Award
- Art teacher awarded Georgia Art Education Special Needs Art Educator of the Year
- Counselor co-presented at the American School Counselors Association National Conference
- More than \$12,000 awarded to teachers through PTA teacher mini-grants

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

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