

Hillside Elementary School

Lori J. Fanning, Principal
Robert 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 – Improve student achievement in mathematics

Results – Hillside Elementary students made great gains in mathematics achievement for the 2008-09 school year. Students categorized as economically disadvantaged and English language learners made double-digit improvements in the percentage meeting or exceeding expectations. More than 65 % of all Hillside students showed significant growth in mathematics scores over one year. Student knowledge of mathematics increased because teacher knowledge and teacher understanding of standards-based instruction increased after the second year of GPS implementation. The work that teachers did in the Lesson Study professional development was a significant factor in full implementation of standards based mathematics instruction.

Objective – Improve student achievement in reading

Results – Hillside's English Language Learner students made significant gains in the area of reading on the CRCT by improving the percent passing by five percentage points. However, the Students With Disabilities subgroup of students and the general education subgroup in grades 1-5 did not progress as strongly toward. Hillside is implementing a Balanced Literacy program that uses the Georgia Performance Standards for content but provides a consistent framework for improving reading achievement for all students.

Objective – Improve student achievement in science

Results – Overall, Hillside students made significant gains in the area of science achievement by improving the percent passing by five percentage points and improving the mean score by more than 11 points. An emphasis on vocabulary development and hands-on science experiences provided the background for the improvement in the area of science achievement.

Objective – Improve student achievement in writing.

Results – There was no significant improvement in the percentage of students passing the Georgia Writing Assessment (GWA). Hillside is implementing a Balanced Literacy program that uses the Georgia Performance Standards for content but provides a consistent framework for improving writing achievement for all students.

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.

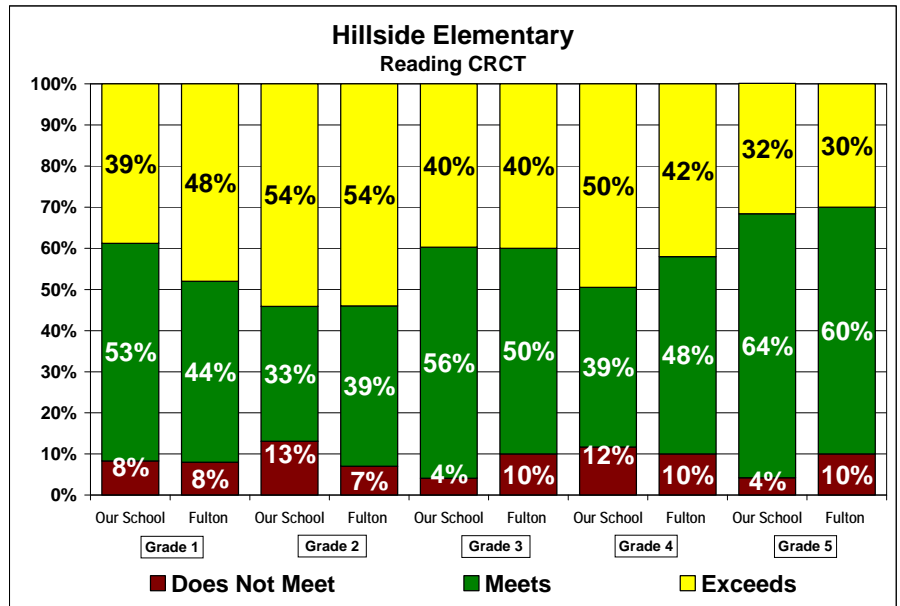
2008-09 Academic Achievement

Georgia Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests

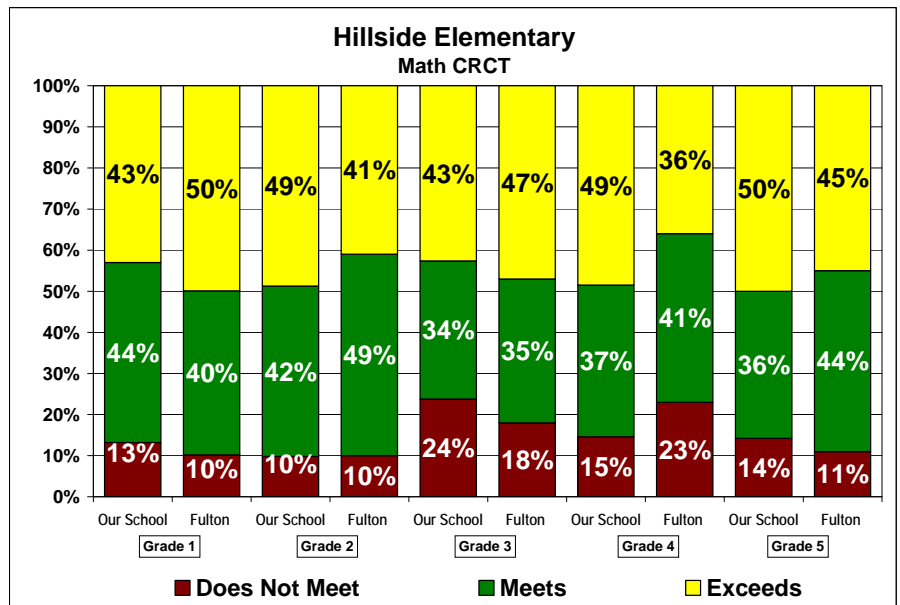
The Georgia Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests (CRCT) are given in grades one through eight. The test measures specific skills included in the Georgia core curriculum that are considered essential for continued academic progress.

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



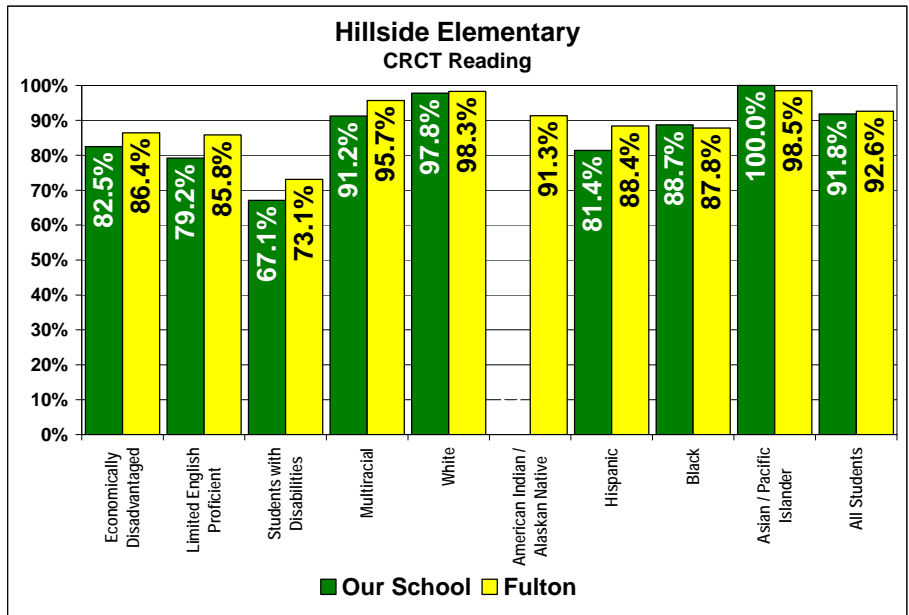
Math Achievement – Our School vs. Fulton County Averages



Reading Achievement –

Separated by Our School’s Student Demographics

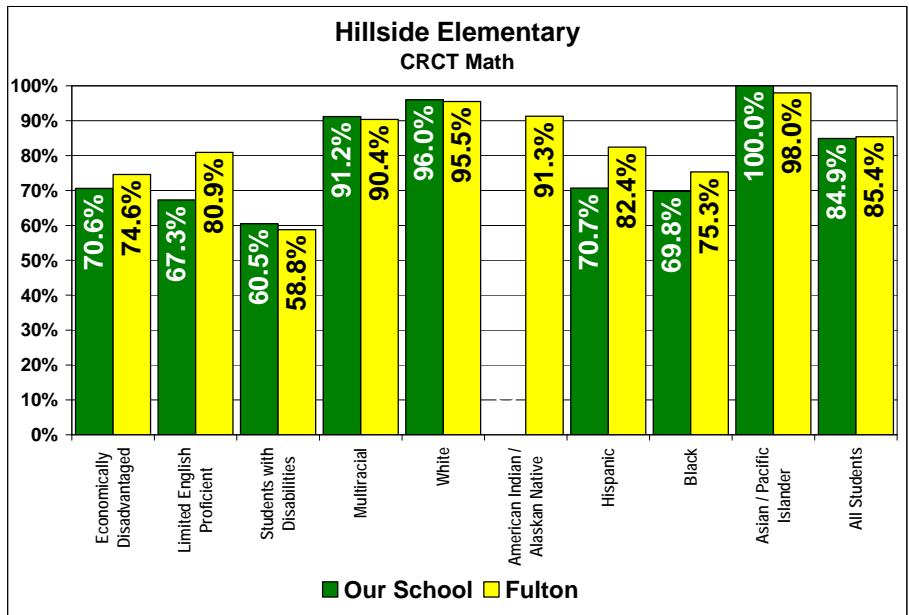
(no data is shown if our school has less than 10 students in a specific demographic category)



Math Achievement –

Separated by Our School’s Student Demographics

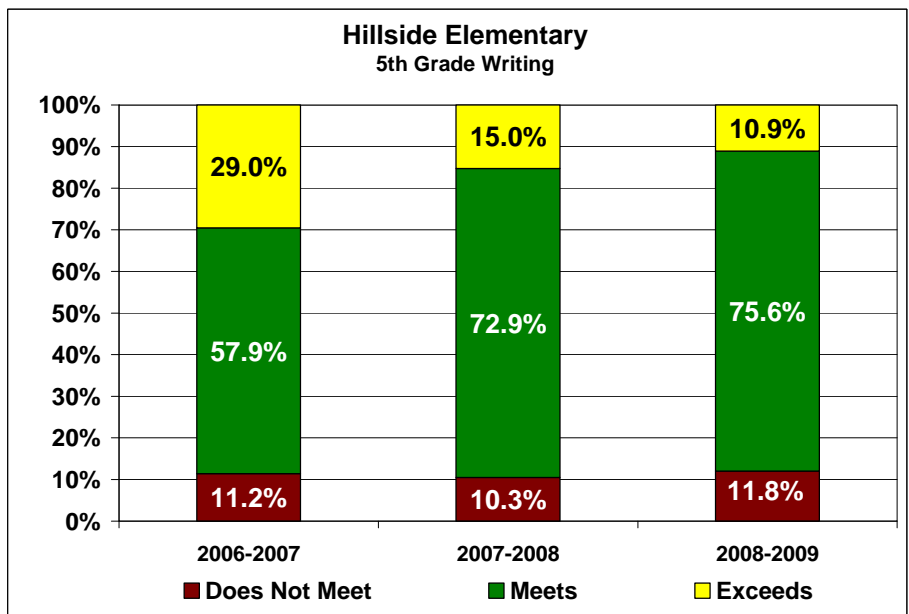
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Grade Five Writing Assessment

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

- Newcomers Breakfast
- PTA Golden Apple Award
- Read for the Record with State Superintendent Kathy Cox and Fulton Superintendent Dr. Cindy Loe
- Iditarod Reading Program
- Read Across America Day
- Jacket to Jacket Reading Program
- PTA Reflections winners
- Implement RTI – Victory Teams for teachers
- Science Olympiad Day
- Artist Day
- Band, Orchestra, and Chorus performances
- Spring musical
- Grade-level performances
- PTA Caring and Sharing
- Bear the Burden program
- Family Game Night
- International Festival
- Field Days
- Redistricting transition activities
- Cyber Bullying Lunch and Learn
- Red Ribbon Week
- BMX Bike Show
- Chick-fil-A Character Counts
- School spirit days
- Student Council
- Civic Club
- School Ambassadors
- Square One Art
- Book Fairs
- Principal's Community Chats

Other Notable Achievements

- TAG student Summer Camp scholarship winners
- Over \$10,000 in grant funding from Smart Technologies for interactive white board hardware, software, and training.
- Georgia Pre-Kindergarten Teacher of Excellence

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

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