

## River Trail Middle School

Dawn Melin, Principal  
Randee Nagler, 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** – River Trail Middle School demonstrated a substantial increase in the percentage of students scoring at Level 3 (“exceeds standard”) in mathematics on the Criterion-Referenced Competency Test (CRCT). Our scores increased from 48% in 2007-08 to 60% in 2008-09. We focused efforts throughout the year on identifying and meeting student needs through teacher collaboration, differentiated instruction, co-teaching and the utilization of numerous resources. In addition, we scheduled time before school, after school and during lunch to assist individual students in small group settings. These strategies will continue in 2009-10.

**Objective** – Improve student achievement in reading

**Results** – As a result of a dedicated commitment on the part of students, teachers and parents, the percentage of our students with disabilities who scored at Level 3 (“exceeds standard”) in reading on the CRCT increased from 13% in 2007-08 to 22% in 2008-09. In addition, our economically disadvantaged students increased from 18% to 47%. We will continue to focus on these subgroups as well as our English Language Learners (ELL) subgroup. Our goal is for all subgroups to achieve the same level of success as the overall school performance (60% at level 3 in Reading in 2008-09).

**Objective** – Improve student achievement in world languages

**Results** – We are proud to offer quality instruction in Chinese, French and Spanish language study to almost 80% of River Trail Middle School students. Currently, 93% of our students earn a yearly average of 80% or higher, which indicates a high level of success. Curriculum and instructional practices have been aligned across grade levels and across languages to ensure standards-based teaching and learning. For the future, we will increase our emphasis on student performance assessment tasks.

### 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.

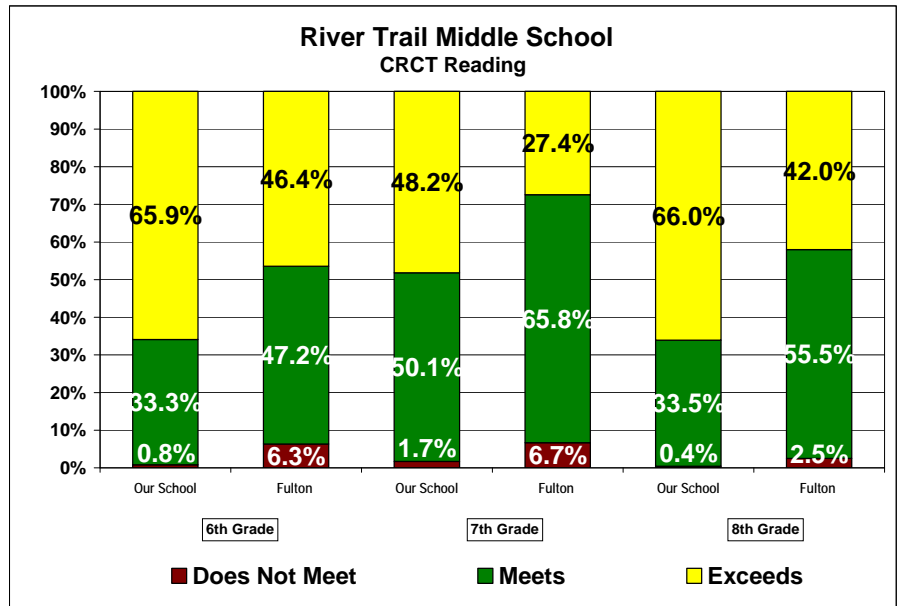
# 2008-09 Academic Achievement

## Georgia Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests

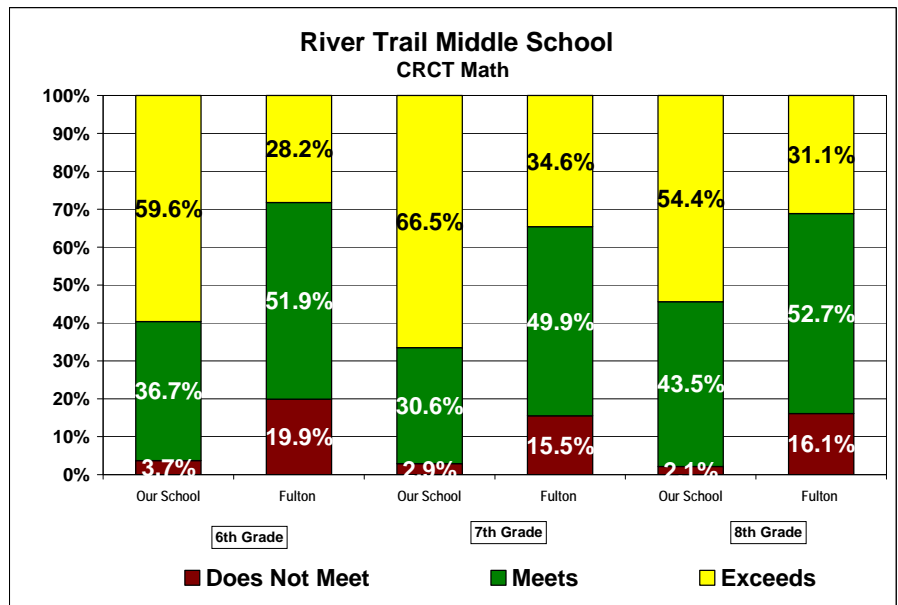
The Georgia Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests (CRCT) are given in grades one through eight. The test measures specific skills included in the Georgia core curriculum that are considered essential for continued academic progress.

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



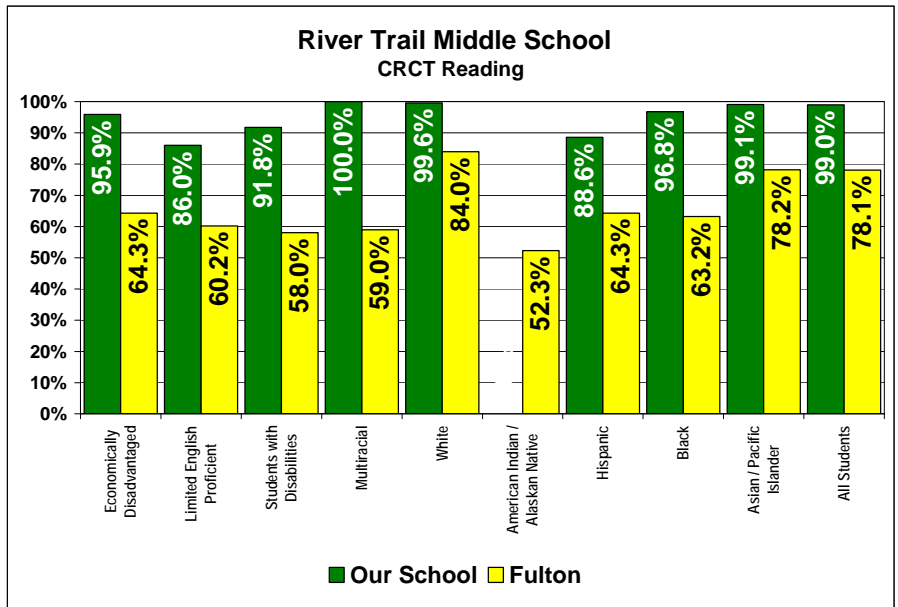
### Math Achievement – Our School vs. Fulton County Averages



**Reading Achievement –**

**Separated by Our School’s Student Demographics**

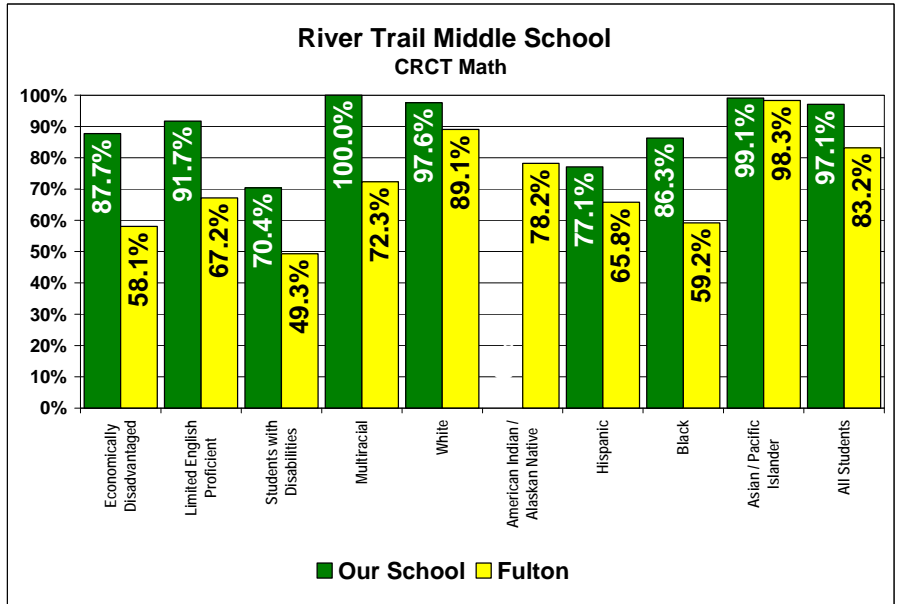
If there are fewer than ten students in a group, data is not shown for that specific demographic



**Math Achievement –**

**Separated by Our School’s Student Demographics**

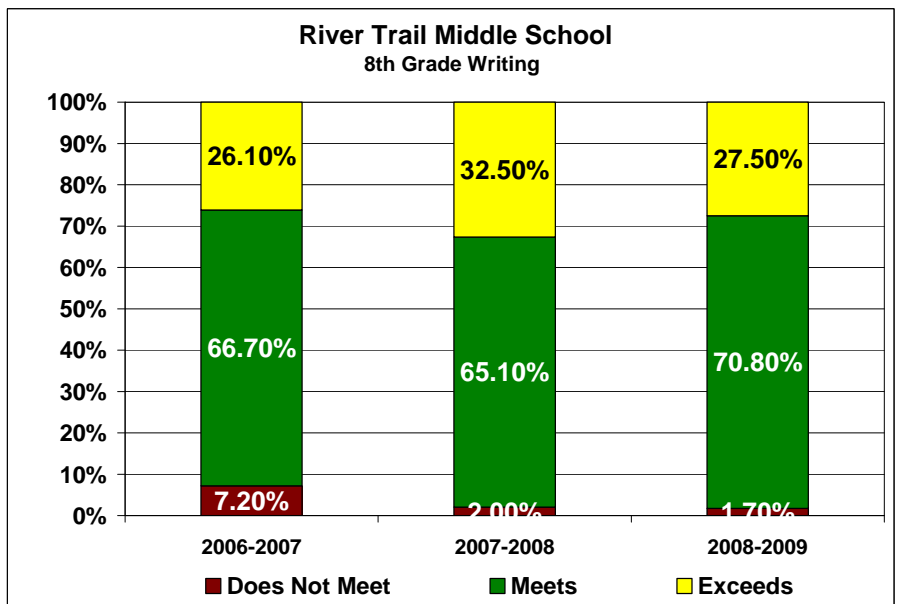
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**Grade Eight Writing Assessment**

Part of the Statewide Testing Program, this writing assessment consists of an evaluation of the student’s response to an assigned topic. The topic type may be narrative, persuasive, or expository.

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

- Received a State Superintendent's Distinguished Achievement awards for CRCT performance in seven different areas
- Received a Silver Award in the Single Statewide Accountability System for 96% of students performing at or above standard on all sections of CRCT
- Science Fair – two first place state winners, two third place state winners
- Technology Fair – two first place state winners, one third place state winner, six first place county winners, one second place county winner and one third place county winner
- Three state-level student winners in the PTA Reflections contest
- Math Counts team – first place regional competition
- Seventeen state winners and seven national winners at Junior Beta Club state and national conventions
- One seventh grade student earned perfect score on mathematics ACT
- Academic Bowl – eighth place in state
- Chess Team – fifth place in state
- Fifty-eight seventh graders, through Duke TIP (Talent Identification Program), received state recognition for SAT or ACT scores at or above the national average, and four seventh graders received Grand Recognition for scores as well or better than 90% of high school juniors and seniors
- Twelve students selected for All-State orchestra
- Eight students selected for All-State band
- Two students selected for All-State chorus
- Twenty students selected for District V Honor band
- Four students selected for UGA Midfest Honor band
- Three students selected for Sixth Grade State Honor chorus
- All band, chorus and orchestra performing groups earned Superior ratings at district LGPE (Large Group Performance Evaluation)
- Two students won third and fourth place in the state essay contest sponsored by the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust
- Student-produced film "Trackers" named one of 25 finalists (the only middle school finalist) in national "Technology in Motion" competition; received \$10,000 worth of Sony products
- Orchestra selected to perform at Georgia Governor's mansion
- Thirty-two students received Junior Beta Presidential Service awards for community service hours
- Students and staff collected 5,000 books to establish five libraries in Africa

### Other Notable Achievements

- Teacher recognized as national Edyth May Sliffe Award winner for excellence in mathematics teaching
- PTA named Outstanding Local Unit – first place in the state
- Principal awarded second place in state for PTA Outstanding Principal
- "Compassion in Action" national award from African Library Project
- Charter for Tri-M music honor society
- Johns Creek Relay for Life – school recognized for most money raised and individual student raising most money
- Student finalist in Prudential "Spirit of Community" program
- Received "Better Aerobic Achievers" award for student involvement in training for the ING Atlanta marathon
- PTA awarded "Golden Apple" for number of volunteer hours
- Largest chapter of Junior Beta Club in the state
- Seventh grade boys basketball team undefeated season
- 100% faculty and staff members of local PTA
- Two teachers selected for Fulton County Schools' inaugural ALPHA leadership course
- Recognized for participation in national Math-a-Thon
- Selected for participation in the "Alliance for a Healthier Generation" project

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

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