

## Sandtown Middle School

Kiné Geathers, Principal  
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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 performance in mathematics on the Criterion-Referenced Competency Test (CRCT).

**Results** – Sandtown Middle School achieved its goal of increasing the percentage of students scoring in Level 2 or 3 on the CRCT. In particular, our eighth grade math scores increased by 21% from the previous year. We attribute the gains in our math scores to the bi-weekly homeroom math challenges, math family night, the eighth grade March Madness CRCT sessions and a host of other collaborative activities. Our plan is to continue our efforts to offer a variety of tutorial opportunities throughout the year.

**Objective** – Improve students with disabilities performance in mathematics on the Criterion-Referenced Competency Test (CRCT).

**Results** – The percentage of Sandtown Middle School students with disabilities meeting or exceeding expectations in math decreased from last year. This subgroup has experienced challenges in all content areas and continues to be a primary focus at Sandtown Middle School. Our plan is to offer greater opportunities for remediation during the day as well as before and after school for this subgroup of students.

**Objective** – Improve economically disadvantaged students' performance in mathematics on the Criterion-Referenced Competency Test (CRCT).

**Results** – The results on the CRCT indicate that this subgroup met or exceeded the standards by 72.3% (which increased from 63.6% last year). Sandtown Middle School made extensive efforts to engage parents and students by offering tutoring, family nights, as well as before-, during and after-school tutorials. We will continue most of these efforts this year in order to maintain and/or increase our performance level in this area.

**Objective** – Improve students with disabilities performance in reading/language arts on the Criterion-Referenced Competency Test (CRCT).

**Results** – The percentage of Sandtown Middle School students with disabilities meeting or exceeding expectations in reading/language arts decreased from last year. This subgroup has experienced challenges in all content areas and continues to be a primary focus at Sandtown Middle School.

### 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.

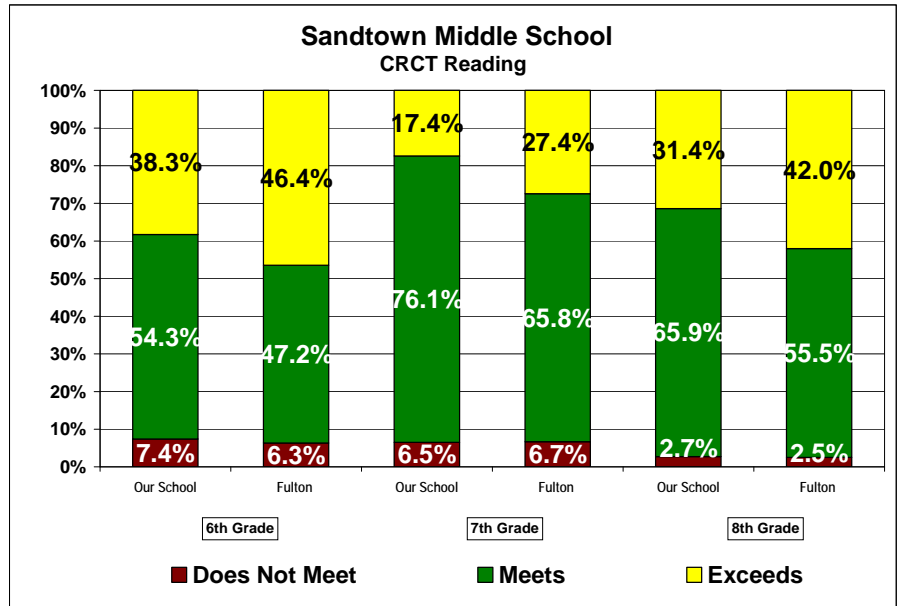
# 2008-09 Academic Achievement

## Georgia Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests

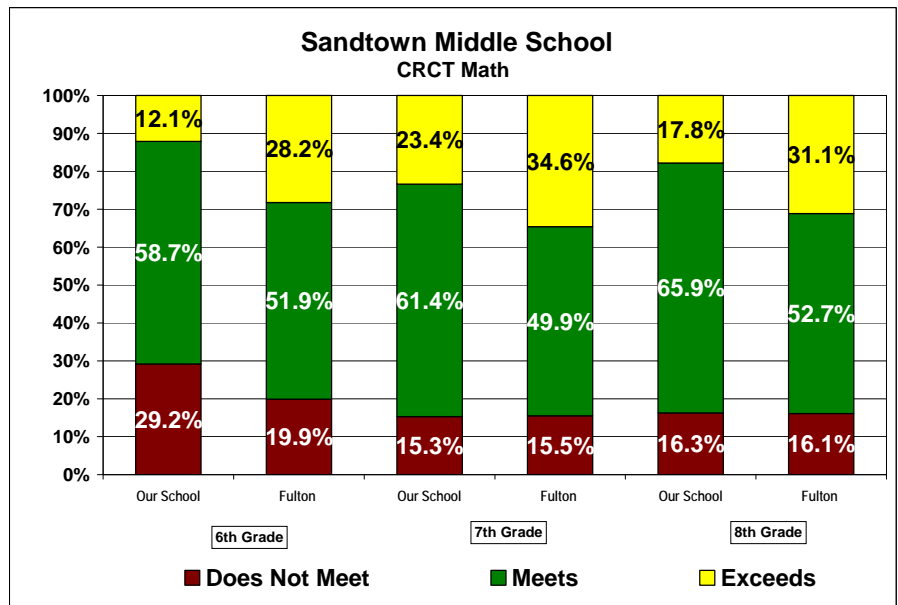
The Georgia Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests (CRCT) are given in grades one through eight. The test measures specific skills included in the Georgia core curriculum that are considered essential for continued academic progress.

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



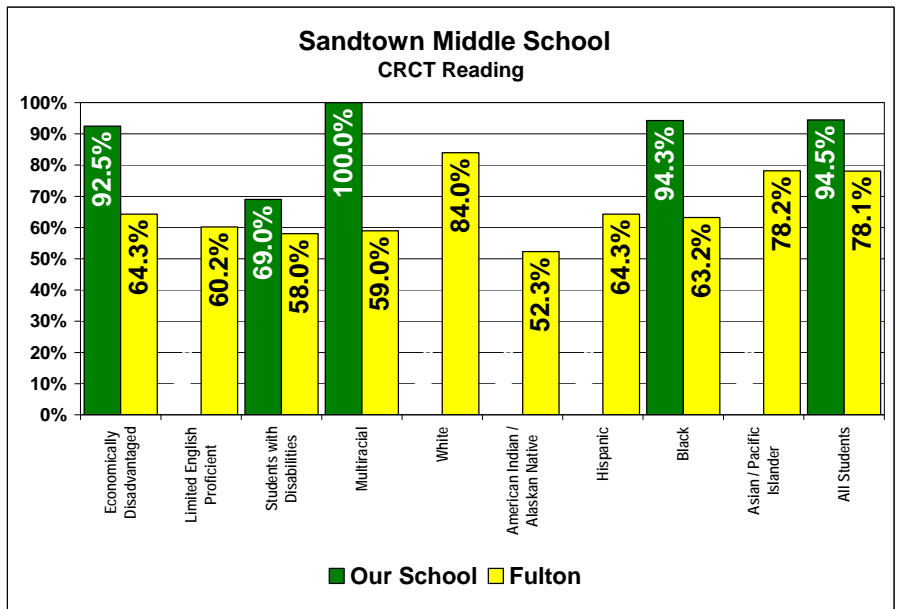
### Math Achievement – Our School vs. Fulton County Averages



### Reading Achievement –

#### Separated by Our School's Student Demographics

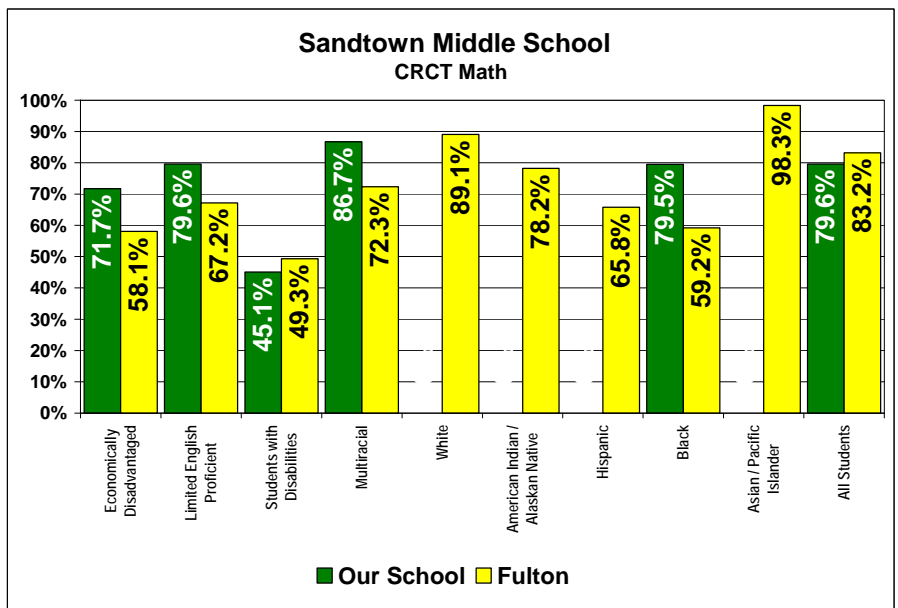
If there are fewer than ten students in a group, data is not shown for that specific demographic



### Math Achievement –

#### Separated by Our School's Student Demographics

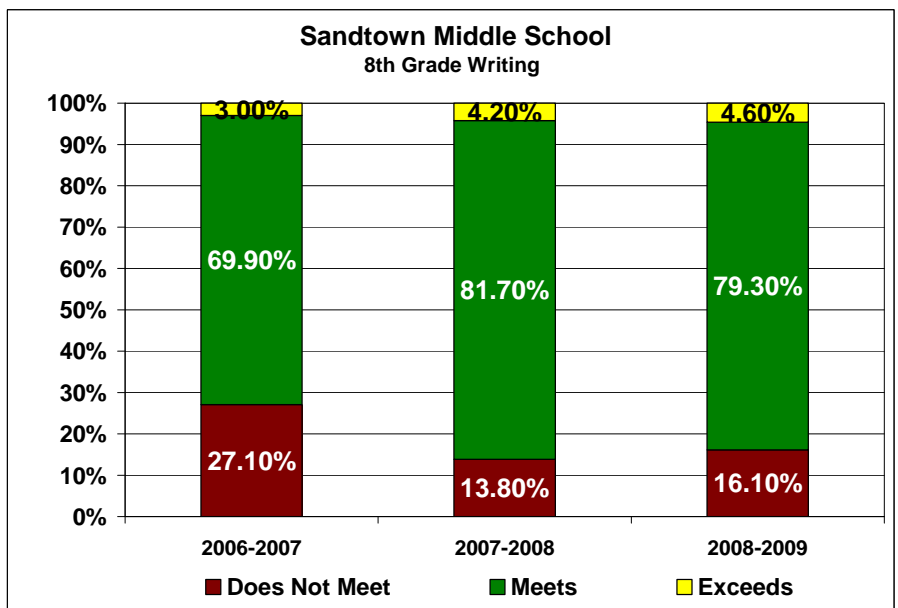
(If there are fewer than ten students in a group, data is not shown for that specific demographic)



### 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

- Sandtown Middle School made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)
- On the Criterion-Referenced Competency Test (CRCT) in math, all students showed an increase over the previous year in meeting or exceeding the standard.
- Students in eighth grade demonstrated a 21% increase in meeting or exceeding the standards in math before summer school
- Sandtown Middle School increased the number of advanced classes offered in the core content areas
- Sandtown Middle School increased the number of TAG students served
- Two students placed first in the regional Social Studies Fair and four students placed first in the county Social Studies Fair
- Three students placed second in the county Science Fair
- Art students were awarded first and second place in the National Law Week contest
- Bronze Award received for Healthy Schools Alliance

### Other Notable Achievements

- Energy Star award designated by the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy
- Georgia Music Educators Association District V Large Group Performance Evaluation (Superior ratings) in band
- Georgia Music Educators Association District V Large Group Performance Evaluation (Superior ratings) in orchestra
- Georgia Music Educators Association District V Large Group Performance Evaluation (Superior and Excellent ratings) in chorus
- Several art students participated in the Southwest Art Gallery Show/Fulton County Middle School Exhibit
- Twelve art students participated in the National Google art contest

**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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