

# Assessment Update: Georgia's Changing Assessment Landscape

## Georgia Milestones Assessment System: Georgia Milestones



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"Making Education Work for All Georgians"  
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# A **NEW** Assessment System



## **Georgia Milestones: Georgia Milestones Assessment System**

Georgia Milestones will consist of both end of grade (EOG) and end of course (EOC) measures.



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# Georgia Milestones

## Comprehensive

- single program – an assessment system – not series of tests (e.g., CRCT; EOCT; WA)
- formative assessment tools to complement summative\*

## Coherent

- consistent expectations and rigor to position Georgia students to compete with peers nationally and internationally
- consistent signal about student preparedness for the next level, be it the next grade, course, or college/career
- consistent signal about student achievement both within system (across grades and courses) and with external measures (NAEP; PSAT; SAT; ACT)

## Consolidate

- combine reading, language arts, and writing into a single measure to align to the standards



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\*Coming this Fall 2014: Georgia Formative Online Assessment Resource (GOFAR) within the SLDS.

# Coherency – Consistency

## Achievement of Georgia Students in Reading

2013

- NAEP – Grade 4: 34% at/above proficient
- CRCT – Grade 4: 93% met/exceeded

## Achievement of Georgia Students in Mathematics

2013

- NAEP – Grade 4: 39% at/above proficient
- CRCT – Grade 4: 84% met/exceeded

## Achievement of Georgia Students in Science

2011 (NAEP) / 2013 (CRCT)

- NAEP – Grade 8: 30% at/above proficient
- CRCT – Grade 8: 74% met/exceeded (67% in 2011)



# Coherency – Consistency

## Achievement of Georgia Students in Reading

### 2013

- NAEP – Grade 8: 32% at/above proficient
- CRCT – Grade 8: 97% met/exceeded
- 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Literature EOCT: 86% met/exceeded
- American Literature EOCT: 91% met/exceeded
- SAT – Class of 2013: 43% college ready benchmark\*
- ACT – Class of 2013: 43% college ready benchmark\*\*

### 2012

- PSAT – sophomores: 40% on track to be CCR



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\*SAT data represent 71% of Class of 2013  
\*\*ACT data represent 51% of Class of 2013

# Coherency – Consistency

## Achievement of Georgia Students in Mathematics

### 2013

- NAEP – Grade 8: 29% at/above proficient
- CRCT – Grade 8: 83% met/exceeded
- Coordinate Algebra EOCT: 37% met/exceeded
- SAT – Class of 2013: 42% college ready benchmark\*
- ACT – Class of 2013: 38% college ready benchmark\*\*

### 2012

- PSAT – sophomores: 37% on track to be CCR



# Georgia Milestones

## Guiding principles stipulate that Georgia Milestones:

- ✓ be sufficiently rigorous to ensure Georgia students are well positioned to compete with other students across the United States and internationally;
- ✓ be intentionally designed across grade levels to send a clear signal of student progress/growth and preparedness for the next level, be it the next grade level, course, or college or career;
- ✓ be accessible to all students, including those with disabilities or limited English proficiency, at all achievement levels;
- ✓ support and inform educator effectiveness initiatives, ensuring items and forms are appropriately sensitive to quality instructional practices; and
- ✓ accelerate the transition to online administration, allowing – over time – for the inclusion of innovative technology-enhanced items.



# Georgia Milestones

- Grades 3 – 8
  - End of Grade (EOG) in language arts, mathematics, science, social studies
- High School
  - End of Course (EOC) in 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Literature & Composition, American Literature & Composition, Coordinate Algebra, Analytic Geometry, Physical Science, Biology, US History, and Economics





# Georgia Milestones

## Features include:

- inclusion of constructed-response items in ELA and mathematics, in addition to selected-response items
- inclusion of a writing component (in response to text) at every grade level and course within the ELA assessment;
- inclusion of norm-referenced items in every grade and content area to complement the criterion-referenced information and to provide a national comparison; and
- transition to online administration over time, with online administration considered the primary mode of administration and paper-pencil back-up until transition is completed.



# Georgia Milestones

## Blended: Criterion-Referenced and Norm-Referenced

Georgia Milestones will provide:

- criterion-referenced performance information in the form of four performance levels, depicting students' mastery of state standards
- norm-referenced performance information in the form of national percentiles, depicting how students' achievement compares to peers nationally

Note: To provide norm-referenced information, some norm-referenced items may not align to Georgia's content standards. Only aligned NRT items will contribute to proficiency designations.



# Georgia Milestones

## The Georgia Milestones EOG will be designed to:

- ✓ provide a valid measure of student achievement of the state content standards across the full achievement continuum;
- ✓ provide a clear signal of the student's preparedness for the next educational level;
- ✓ allow for detection of the progress made by each student over the course of the academic year;
- ✓ be suitable for use in promotion and retention decisions at grades 3 (reading), 5 (reading and mathematics) and 8 (reading and mathematics)
- ✓ support and inform educator effectiveness measures; and
- ✓ inform state and federal accountability at the school, district, and state levels.



# Georgia Milestones

## The Georgia Milestones EOC will be designed to:

- ✓ provide a valid measure of student achievement of the state content standards across the full achievement continuum;
- ✓ Serve as the final exam for the course, contributing 20% to the student's final course grade;
- ✓ provide a clear signal of the student's preparedness for the next course and ultimately post-secondary endeavors (college and careers);
- ✓ allow for detection of the progress made by each student over the course of the academic year;
- ✓ support and inform educator effectiveness measures; and
- ✓ inform state and federal accountability at the school, district, and state levels.

Additional uses of the EOC include: (1) certifying proficiency prior to awarding credit for students enrolling from non-accredited schools, home study programs, or other non-traditional educational centers; and (2) demonstrating competency prior to taking the course and earning course credit (i.e., 'test-out').



# Georgia Milestones

## English Language Arts

[CC Georgia Performance Standards]

- will require close analytic reading to construct meaning, make inferences, draw conclusions, compare and contrast ideas, themes, etc., as well as synthesize ideas and concepts across multiple texts
- will require students to develop informative/explanatory responses or narratives, produce opinions/arguments – citing evidence from text(s) and using standard language conventions, etc.

## Mathematics

[CC Georgia Performance Standards]

- will require demonstration of conceptual understanding of concepts, procedural skills and fluency, problem solving, modeling, and mathematical reasoning



# Georgia Milestones

## Science

[Georgia Performance Standards]

- will require understanding of the core concepts, ideas, and practices of science to explain scientific phenomena – with content and Characteristics of Science/Nature of Science standards serving as co-requisites

## Social Studies

[Georgia Performance Standards]

- will require understanding of the past and its influence on the present and future – including the interconnectedness of history, culture, geography, economics, and governments/civics



# Georgia Milestones

## Item Types

- **Selected-Response** [aka, multiple-choices]
  - all content areas
  - evidence-based selected response in ELA
- **Constructed-Response**
  - ELA and mathematics
- **Extended-Response**
  - ELA and mathematics

Constructed response is a general term for assessment items that require the student to generate a response as opposed to selecting a response. Extended-response items require more elaborate answers and explanations of reasoning. They allow for multiple correct answers and/or varying methods of arriving at the correct answer. Writing prompts or performance tasks are examples of extended-response items.



# Georgia Milestones

## Transition to Online

- Online administration will be the primary mode of administration for Georgia Milestones, with paper/pencil serving as back-up
  - transition will occur over time
- Technology requirements are being finalized and will be posted ASAP
- Administration procedures will be developed
- Online practice center will be available for students



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System Test Coordinators and IT Directors will need to work collaboratively to implement Georgia Milestones.



# Georgia Milestones

## Transition to Online

- Year 1: minimum of 30% online
- Year 3: minimum of 80% online
- Year 5: minimum of 100% online

Paper/pencil versions will be available for small number of students who cannot interact with computer due to their disability. Braille forms will be available.



# Our Assessment Landscaping is Changing

- Assessment development is a process, not an event
  - as such, some components and/or resources may need to be rolled- out in stages
- Georgia is transitioning from a set of long-standing, mature programs
  - districts, schools, students, parents, and the public are familiar with and know what to expect
- This transition provides Georgia with an opportunity
  - however, as with any change, there will be periods of uncertainty and discomfort



# Georgia Milestones

## Logistics

- There are many logistics to work through
- GaDOE will work with districts to implement

## Preliminary Logistics

- SY2014 – 2015 testing windows will remain as posted
- Districts should plan on having 9 days to administer the EOG in spring 2015; general parameters for EOC should remain the same



# Resources to Move Us Forward



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# Resources Available NOW

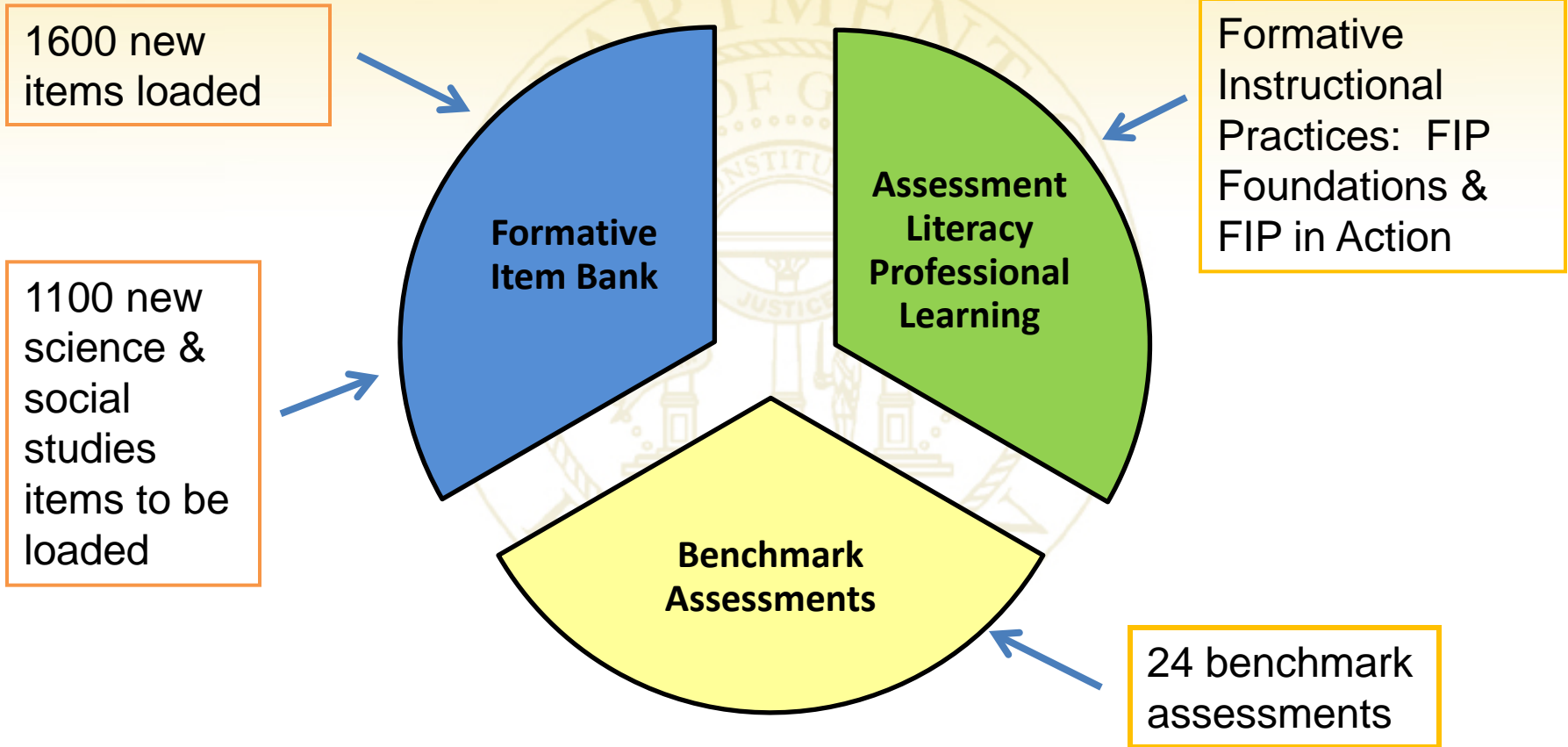
- Content standards
  - frameworks, formative lessons, PARCC evidence statements
- Sample items
  - formative items/benchmarks via Georgia OAS→GOFAR;
  - released items via PARCC, SBAC, other states (KY, NY), NAEP
  - parent's guide to Georgia's new assessment developed by the National PTA [<http://www.pta.org/advocacy/content.cfm?ItemNumber=3816>]
- CRCT Readiness Indicators
- Lexiles

Focus on teaching and learning – eliciting evidence of student learning during instruction and adjusting as needed.



# Formative Assessment Initiatives

*Bringing a Balanced Assessment Focus to the Classroom*



1600 new items loaded

1100 new science & social studies items to be loaded

Formative Instructional Practices: FIP Foundations & FIP in Action

24 benchmark assessments



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Don't forget the NAEP Item Tool consisting of high quality, released NAEP items!

# Benchmark Assessments

## Implementation Schedule

### Available Spring 2014

- ELA
  - Grades 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, and 10
- Mathematics
  - Grades 1, 2, 3, and Coordinate Algebra
- U.S. History

### Available Fall 2014

- ELA
  - Grades 4, 5, 9, and 11
- Mathematics
  - Grades 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, Analytic Geometry, and Advanced Algebra
- Biology



# FIP Foundational Learning Modules

**FIP tightly aligns to and directly supports TKES and LKES!**

1. Introduction to Formative Instructional Practices
2. Clear Learning Targets
3. Collecting and Documenting Evidence of Student Learning
4. Analyzing Evidence and Providing Effective Feedback
5. Student Ownership of Learning: Peer Feedback, Self-Assessment, and More
6. Leading Formative Instructional Practices (for district and/or school leaders)
7. Coaching Formative Instructional Practices (for instructional coaches and/or teacher leaders)



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**FIP in Action modules available soon...**



# Resources Available SOON

- Sample items specific to Georgia Milestones
- Ancillary support resources, such as
  - Content Descriptions (test blueprints)
  - Student Study Guides
  - Technology Specifications
  - Accommodations Guidelines
  - Assessment for Learning Modules [types of items to elicit evidence of student learning]
  - Informational videos [parents & public / educators]



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Focus on teaching and learning – eliciting evidence of student learning during instruction and adjusting as needed.

# Georgia Milestones

## In closing, some reminders:

- New program – new development [not redevelopment]
- Georgia educators will be involved in test design and development
- Georgia Milestones replaces the CRCT, EOCT, and Writing Assessments in grades 3, 5, and 8
  - writing, in response to text, will be assessed as part of the ELA assessment in each grade and course
  - the Georgia High School Writing Test (GHSWT) will be administered and remains a diploma requirement



# Georgia Milestones

## In closing, some reminders:

- CRCT-M (2%) will not continue
- GAA (1%) will continue
- Local scanning will not be continued [constructed-response items require hand scoring]
- Scores will be delayed in year 1 due to technical work and standard setting [implications to be worked through]
- Growth (SGP) will continue

**IMPORTANT:** Remember that TKES and LKES – utilize *growth*, not *achievement*.



# Georgia Milestones

Georgia Milestones represents a significant change and importantly – *an opportunity* – for our state.

This opportunity allows us to *recalibrate*, as a state, and *refocus* on **teaching and learning** as a primary emphasis with assessment and accountability serving a *supporting* role.



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Assessment will work with districts to ensure successful implementation.