



Richard Woods, Georgia's School Superintendent
"Educating Georgia's Future"

TECHNICAL QUALITY OF THE GEORGIA MILESTONES ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

The technical quality of the Georgia Milestones Assessment System is reviewed and evaluated by the members of Georgia's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). TAC is an independent committee of nationally recognized measurement experts charged with providing an impartial review of all test development and test score scale maintenance activities, and with providing advice and guidance on the psychometric quality and defensibility of the state's testing program. The technical quality of Georgia Milestones is reviewed at least three times per year by Georgia's TAC. Technical quality of the assessment program is supported by, but not limited to, reliability evidence, validity evidence, and adherence to professional testing standards as published in the *Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing* (American Educational Research Association, American Psychological Association, and the National Council on Measurement in Education, 2014).

Georgia has a system for continually monitoring the soundness of its standard operating procedures that includes internal and vendor-based quality assurance processes, research studies, and third-party evaluations by nationally-recognized entities employing researched-based methodology, all of which are reviewed by Georgia's TAC. TAC provides feedback on all stages of the testing cycle, inclusive of: (1) test design, development, and construction; (2) administration and scoring processes; (3) psychometric analyses; and (4) reporting. Each stage is scrutinized to ensure adherence with meeting the testing industry's professional standards, as well as accurate and complete psychometric theory and praxis. Expert guidance supporting best practices from TAC members is further bolstered by the wide-ranging expertise of the TAC members collectively.

Furthermore, summaries of each test administration are reviewed by Georgia’s TAC members, including information on scoring at the item and test levels. Findings of psychometric analyses from multiple measurement paradigms (i.e., Classical Test Theory and Item Response Theory) have been presented to TAC with overall approval. Moreover, the reliability of the scales and scoring process has been reviewed by TAC.

Validity evidence is evaluated by TAC to address potential sources of construct irrelevant variance and construct underrepresentation. Careful attention is given to content validity (inclusive of the alignment of the test items and forms to the state content standards measured at each grade/course). Additionally, third-party alignment studies have been presented to TAC, further substantiating content validity. Validity evidence for Georgia Milestones is collected increasingly with each test administration. As such, TAC’s review and feedback have contributed to the validation process, with TAC actively engaged in discussions about the quality of validity evidence. While the validation process is ongoing and supplementary evidence will further accumulate as the testing program continues, the validity of inferences from the test scores will continue to be monitored over time with TAC feedback. Topics in fairness, including invariance of item parameters across samples of examinees as well as mode and device comparability, have been reviewed and approved by TAC. Post-equating verification is also performed with auditing by a TAC member, the results of which are shared with all TAC members.

TAC’s review and evaluation of validity and reliability evidence supports the psychometric soundness and technical defensibility of the Georgia Milestones Assessment System.

As members of Georgia’s Technical Advisory Committee, we acknowledge and substantiate the soundness of the technical quality of the Georgia Milestones Assessment System as outlined in the explanatory text above.

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