



Georgia Department of Education

Curriculum & Instruction Updates

Educating Georgia's Future

January 2018

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION UPDATES

Pam Smith, pamsmith@doe.k12.ga.us

New Advanced Mathematics Course

The State Board of Education approved the standards for Differential Equations, an advanced high school mathematics course, for use beginning in the 2018-2019 school year. The [List of State-Funded K-8 Subjects and 9-12 Courses](#) and [Summary of Changes](#) have been updated to include this course and the following course number 27.07500.

For course information:

- [Differential Equations](#)

Foundation for Economic Education Student Scholarships

The [Foundation for Economic Education \(FEE\)](#) is providing scholarships to Georgia students to participate in a three-day summer seminar series for economics and entrepreneurship. These summer camps were named by Forbes as a "top program for high school students." The Foundation will provide a promotional code which would give full tuition reimbursement, covering dorm housing and meals for the duration of the 3-day camp. The Foundation is partnering with Emory, Vanderbilt, and other universities throughout the US. Students may also qualify for up to \$500 in travel scholarships as needed.

- [More Information](#)

Contact: Marianna Brashear
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Georgia's ESSA Plan Approved

Meghan Frick, mfrick@doe.k12.ga.us

Georgia's plan for the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was approved! Georgia was [highlighted by the U.S. Department of Education](#) for rewarding schools that make significant progress with traditionally underserved subgroups. Georgia was also praised for creating an accountability system that expands opportunities for students and supports the whole child.

- [Read the U.S. Department of Education's Press Release](#)
- [Read Georgia's Final Approved Plan](#)
- [Learn More About Georgia's ESSA Process](#)

GEORGIA VIRTUAL SCHOOL

Margaret Thomas, margret.thomas@gavirtualschool.org

Spring Solutions for Students

Do you have a student with a course requirement needed for spring graduation? Trying to find a solution for a student schedule that just won't work at the local school? Don't make your students wait until next school year to take required courses. Georgia Virtual School can help to meet the needs of your students. GaVS will be enrolling students for spring semester through February 15.

- [GaVS Spring Course Offerings](#)



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ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS/LITERACY

Stephanie Sanders, ssanders@doe.k12.ga.us

Georgia Arts Council: Poet Laureate's Prize

Georgia's Poet Laureate, Judson Mitcham, in collaboration with the Georgia Council for the Arts, is pleased to announce the fifth annual Poet Laureate's Prize, awarded for an original poem written by a Georgia high school student.

The winner and finalists will meet Governor and First Lady Deal and tour the historic Margaret Mitchell House in Atlanta. The winning and finalist poems will be published in [Atlanta Magazine](#).

Entry details are included in the guidelines. The entry deadline is March 1. Contact Allen Bell at abell@gaarts.org with questions.

- [More Information About the Georgia Poet Laureate's Prize](#)

Georgia Renaissance Festival

Beginning April 3 and running through June 3, the Georgia Renaissance Festival kicks off its 33rd season. With educational and family activities, visitors of Renaissance Festival can customize their experience and join in on the festivities. Field Trip Day at the Renaissance Festival is Tuesday, May 8, 2018.

For more information contact Dawn Prevete at dawn@genrentfest.com.

- [Explore the Festival](#)

KSU Literature Conference

The Annual KSU Conference on Literature for Children and Young Adults will take place March 19 and 20, at Kennesaw State University. This year's theme is "Reimagining the Role of Children's and Young Adult Literature." There will be 5 dynamic authors who will serve as the keynote speakers. Teachers, Teacher Educators, and Media Specialists are encouraged to attend!

- [Additional Conference Information](#)

Updating Journalism Standards

The Quality Core Curriculum (QCC) for Journalism was not revised as part of the rollout of the initial Georgia Performance Standards. As of the 2016-17 October cycle, Journalism was identified as having the 10th highest course enrollment numbers. Due to these combined factors, Georgia Standards of Excellence were drafted for Journalism.

Working, Advisory, and Academic Review Committees, representing grades 9-12 Georgia public school Journalism teachers, post-secondary educators, ELA coordinators, business and industry, parents, and Journalism organizations, participated in the development of the draft standards.

The draft standards will be presented to the State Board of Education in February for permission to post for 30 days of public review and comment. Pending Board approval, the draft standards will be posted for 30 days from February 16 until March 18 at 5 p.m.

Writers Contest

Georgia Public Broadcasting's (GPB) PBS KIDS Writers Contest opened January 15, 2018. The contest encourages children in kindergarten through 3rd grade to submit original, illustrated stories for great prizes. Contestants have the chance to be featured on the GPB website.

- [Access the Contest Entry and Writers Activity Packet](#)

MOOC for Foundational Reading Skills

The Friday Institute at North Carolina State University is providing a professional development opportunity for educators to improve their knowledge and abilities in teaching foundational reading skills. This course offering is free and begins on February 5, and will be delivered via a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) that is based on the recommendations found in the IES practice guide Foundational Skills to Support Reading for Understanding in Kindergarten Through 3rd Grade.

- [More Information](#)

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WORLD LANGUAGES & GLOBAL WORKFORCE INITIATIVES

Patrick Wallace, pwallace@doe.k12.ga.us

Dual Language Immersion Video Diary Project

Georgia's Video Dual Language Immersion Diary will share information about the Dual Language Immersion model and demonstrate important benefits of these programs. The video diary takes viewers inside Georgia's current Dual Language Immersion programs to share impressions and interviews with students, teachers, parents, administrators, and others. Click below for the first videos.

Video Links from the GLOBE Academy:

- [The GLOBE Academy World Language](#)
- [Interviews with DLI Students in Georgia](#)
- [The GLOBE Academy Headmaster PKG](#)
- [The GLOBE Academy Literacy Coach PKG](#)

Currently, six new Dual Language Immersion programs are expected to open in Georgia next school year, including the state's first Japanese-English DLI program.

World Language Educator of the Month for November and December 2017

Congratulations to Mrs. Sarah Downey, the November World Language Educator of the Month. Downey is an 8th-grade Spanish teacher (Language Acquisition) at Coastal Middle School in Savannah, an IB MYP World School. A special thank you to Mrs. Schuster-Jones, Principal of Coastal Middle School, and to Dr. Mark Linsky, World Language Coordinator for Savannah-Chatham Schools, for their help in organizing the ceremony.

Congratulations to Mrs. Linda Chinn, the December World Language Educator of the Month. Chinn is a Spanish teacher at Woodland High School in Henry County. Mrs. Chinn has been teaching Spanish for 24 years and graduated as valedictorian from Clarke Central High School in Athens. Special thanks to Mrs. Shannon Ellis, Principal of WHS, and Mrs. Morrison, world language coordinator for Henry County Schools, for their help in organizing the program.

International Parent Night at South Forsyth High School

The first International Parent Night was held at South Forsyth High School on November 29, 2017. Hundreds of parents and students attended the event to listen to speakers from the Forsyth County Schools, the Georgia Department of Education, the Alliance Française d'Atlanta, the Goethe-Zentrum Atlanta, Kennesaw State University and the Cumming-Forsyth County Chamber of Commerce speak about the importance of language education and study abroad.

Hillgrove High School Students Publish Original Spanish Book



Hillgrove High School Honors Spanish 7 students in Cobb county, with a grant from the Hillgrove Foundation, wrote a book of short stories in Spanish, and Hillgrove Art students illustrated each story. The book has been published, and students participated in an official signing party.

GaDOE World Languages and Global Workforce Initiatives Receives Grant

The Georgia Department of Education is excited to accept a grant of nearly \$10,000 for Global Workforce Initiatives to support our schools, administrators, teachers and over half a million Georgia students learning languages. A sincere thank you to the [Georgia Foundation for Public Education](#) and all those who donated in support of the effort.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Joy Hatcher, jhatcher@doe.k12.ga.us

GaDOE Social Studies Announces NEW Workshop

Let's Get Visual! Inquiry-Based Instructional Activities that SWIRL

Description: Explicitly teaching visual literacy in social studies increases engagement and allows students to make connections between their lives and history. This workshop will teach you how to: build visual literacy with visual journals, enhance your inquiry lessons, and incorporate the art standards with your existing lessons to create personal meaning for students. You do not have to be "good" at art to attend this workshop!

The workshop, facilitated by GaDOE Social Studies and Fine Arts staff -- Joy Hatcher, JoAnn Wood & Jessica Booth -- is appropriate for teachers and school, district, and RESA leaders. Activities will be shared and modeled for all K-12 grades. Workshop dates can be accessed from the link below. Please note: The GaDOE is unable to reimburse for substitutes or travel expenses.

- [Available Dates and Registration](#)

GaDOE Social Studies Leadership Webinar Season 2 Episode 2: What's New?

Join us for Webinar Season 2, Episode 2, to discuss what's new about Achievement Level Descriptors, workshop opportunities, new resources, and more!

- Mon, Jan 29, 2018 1:00 PM
- [Registration](#)

JIMMY CARTER NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Marle C. Usry, Marle.Usry@doe.k12.ga.us

Jimmy Carter National Historic Site (JCNHS) Education Program



December was an extremely busy month at the JCNHS. More than 700 students in grades K-5 participated in Language and Visual Arts activities as they stepped back in time to the 1930s. Students walked the paths of former President Jimmy Carter's boyhood farm listening to stories of his childhood and making Depression-era ornaments to share with their families.

Students also made cards for former President and Mrs. Carter and for local community members who are confined to their homes or hospitals. One lucky group even had a visit with the former President and Mrs. Carter.

Along with scheduled field trips in January and February, we will also host two theatrical performances for students: 1) the JCNHS Middle and High School Academic Bowl; and 2) a President's Day Program with former President Carter as our keynote speaker.

Schedule your spring field trips now by contacting Marle C. Usry, Marle.Usry@doe.k12.ga.us

- [Website](#)

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CAREER, TECHNICAL, & AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

Trudy Smith, trsmith@doe.k12.ga.us

Economic Development Partnership Pilot Study

The Georgia Department of Education has named five local school systems as pilot participants in its new Economic Development Partnership (EDP) program. Pilot work will begin with Whitfield County, Marietta City, Newton County, Muscogee County, and Wayne County this school year.

"The ability of CTAE to keep up with changes in technology and workforce trends is dependent on building and maintaining open lines of communication and lasting partnerships with business and industry," said Dr. Barbara Wall, State Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education (CTAE) Director.

The EDP program seeks to promote improved relationships between local school districts and business/industry. The program, which is loosely modeled on GaDOE's STEM and STEAM certification for schools, aims to meet the workforce development needs of Georgia's current and future employers and expand opportunities for students.

The designation is endorsed by the Georgia Economic Developers Association (GEDA). Alignment of common priorities among education and industry leadership is a central tenet of the program. Pilot systems will work with Department staff to ensure smooth program delivery and broad applicability across the state. "It's our primary goal and responsibility to equip students with the tools they need to live successful, rewarding lives after they complete their K-12 education," State School Superintendent Richard Woods said. "As the primary emphasis for so many businesses has shifted from physical location to future talent, it's critical that we facilitate a stronger connection between our educational system and the business/industry community.

2017-2018 LEAD CTAE Class Announced

The CTAE Resource Network, the Georgia Department of Education (CTAERN), and the Georgia Association for Career and Technical Education (GACTE) proudly announce the second class of LEAD CTAE. LEAD CTAE is a leadership development program designed for CTAE classroom teachers who wish to gain valuable skills and knowledge in the areas of team building, leadership, priority management, business engagement, legislative advocacy, and policy, communication, instruction, economic development, and more through participation in five program sessions culminating at the annual GACTE summer conference.

This second class of 20 teachers represents 19 schools from 18 school systems and 14 program areas. The group joined together to kick off the nine months of professional learning program on November 5 and 6, 2017 in Madison. Program highlights included speakers Dr. James Woodard, Superintendent of Morgan County Schools and Dr. Brooks Coleman, Georgia House of Representatives.

- [View the Second LEAD CTAE Class](#)

Being Recognized for Achievement in Georgia

Being Recognized for Achievement in Georgia's (BRAG) CTAE was an acronym given to a newsletter developed to provide information to the members of the Georgia State Board of Education. These are one-pagers to catch each board member's eye and let them learn about their districts.

- [View CTAE BRAG Sheets](#)
- [Share Remarkable CTAE Stories in your District](#)

Conferences for CTAE Directors, Educators, & Career Technical Student Organizations

Winter Conference will be held from February 4 to 6 at the Waverly Renaissance Hotel in Atlanta. The Follow Up for New Teacher Conference attendees will be on February 16.

- [View Upcoming CTSO Events and Conferences](#)
- [More CTSO Event Information](#)

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SCIENCE

Amanda Buice, abuice@doe.k12.ga.us

New Science Resources on GSO

Visit the [GSE Science webpage on GeorgiaStandards.Org](#) for new resources to support science content and instruction. New resources are being developed on an ongoing basis. Recently, sample instructional segments for 5th grade and high school physical science were added. Grades K-4 Curriculum Guides will be posted next. All will be added to TRL soon!

Connect to Science

Please join the [Science edweb community](#) for curriculum and science leaders.

- [Join GaDOE Science](#)
- [GaDOE Science](#) is now on Twitter, please [follow us!](#)

STEM/STEAM

Felicia Cullars, fcullars@doe.k12.ga.us

CEISMC @ Georgia Tech STEAM Leadership Conference

(CEISMC = The Center for Education Integrating Science, Mathematics, and Computing)

Lead your school to becoming more STEAM-focused. Discover ways to integrate the arts more meaningfully into your STEAM curriculum. Learn about planning and logistics for effective STEAM implementation.

When: March 22 and 23

Where: Clough Undergraduate Learning Commons
266 4th Street, NW, Atlanta, Georgia 30318

Who: STEAM decision-makers – superintendents, curriculum coordinators, principals, academic coaches, content specialists, teacher leaders, and artists. This two-day event will feature thought provoking panel discussions from experts in the field, engaging hands on workshops, inspiring TED talks and captivating performances, as well as specialized time for team planning.

- [Registration Information](#)

COMPUTER SCIENCE (CS)

Bryan Cox, bcox@doe.k12.ga.us

CS Standards and Professional Development

Computer Science education in Georgia is growing fast. Two exciting efforts are underway:

1. CS for Teachers will be coming together online via a professional learning community on edweb (Community names begin with "GaDOE CS"). This support complements the already-existing teacher collaboration forum occurring on edweb. CS for Teachers will present webinars and modules on CS pedagogy.
2. Teachers from across the state will work together to develop grades K-8 CS content standards this spring. We hope to have CS standards ready for Board approval for posting by March.

For additional information please email Bryan Cox:
bcox@doe.k12.ga.us.

2018 TAG-Ed Internship Applications

TAG-Ed (Technology Association of Georgia-Education Collaborative) is excited to announce that the 2018 Summer Internship Program application is open through Friday, April 13. Students gain real work experience with top Georgia companies during their paid internship of at least five weeks. Host companies benefit from the internship experience as well. Companies leverage the skills, talents and perspectives of top caliber high school students in Georgia and help to build the talent pipeline for the state's future workforce.

- [Learn More](#)

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TEACHER & LEADER SUPPORT & DEVELOPMENT

Melinda Moe, mmoe@doe.k12.ga.us

SLDS Platform for TKES and LKES

The “new and improved” platform for TKES and LKES will have a similar feel and flow to the current system and will be housed in SLDS. A small pilot group will start using the new system this spring, and the new platform will be fully operational for use during the 2018-2019 School year. One advantage of building the system in-house is that the platform can be built around Georgia’s evaluation process.

P-20 Collaboratives

Through partnership between the Georgia Department of Education, the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GaPSC) and the University System of Georgia (USG), nine regional P-20 Collaboratives convene two times a year. Each P-20 Collaborative created a strategic planning team that is led by an Institute of Higher Education (IHE) and P-12 co-lead, as well as an additional State Education Agency (SEA) representative (GaDOE, PSC, RESA and USG).

The collaboratives established action work groups to continue working on identified needs between meetings. Two induction collaboratives (IHEs, RESA, SEAs and P12s) were created from the P-20 work. The GaDOE/TLSD provides technical assistance and is working to institute widespread implementation of a problem of practice protocol.

Middle Georgia P-20 has created a common professional learning plan document that the 4 IHEs in this region will use with their candidates. GaDOE/TLSD has created test sites in the TLE platform and provided webinars to familiarize the platform for IHEs faculty working with pre-service candidates to develop targeted induction plans. Currently, 20 IHEs have participated in webinars.

Questions regarding the P-20 Collaboratives should be directed to Karen Wyler at kwylers@doe.k12.ga.us or Kathy Reese at kreece@doe.k12.ga.us.

2017 SGP and MGP Rosters

The 2017 Student Growth Percentiles (SGP) and Mean Growth Percentile (MGP) rosters were forwarded to superintendents through the GaDOE Portal on December 15, 2017. To find your reports, superintendents should select the 2016-17 TEM/LEM Rosters and 2016-17 SGP/MGP Reports tab that is located on the left side of the GaDOE home screen. The following documents were uploaded to every superintendent’s portal account:

- 2017 Teacher SGP Rosters
- 2017 School and District MGP Rosters
- 2017 SGP and MGP FAQ Document

As a reminder, the SGPs for teachers and leaders who were eligible to receive SGPs based on 2017 data will be uploaded to the TLSD Electronic Platform by the end of January 2018. Below, you will find the 2017 statewide teacher SGP and statewide MGP results at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. These results are also categorized by ELA, Math, and a combination of both ELA and Math results.

2017 Statewide MGP Results

School Type	ELA	Math	ELA & Math
State	50.22	50.35	50.27
Elementary	50.18	50.18	50.18
Middle	50.24	50.55	50.38
High	50.25	50.18	50.22

2017 Statewide Teacher SGP Results

School Type	ELA	Math	ELA & Math
State	50.07	50.13	49.88
Elementary	50.35	50.49	50.07
Middle	49.88	49.72	49.77
High	49.67	49.98	48.73

Questions regarding the 2017 SGP and MGP rosters should be directed to Keisla Tisdell at ktisdell@doe.k12.ga.us.