



## Georgia Department of Education Frequently Asked Questions: SLO Measures

### What are public domain assessments?

Public domain measures were constructed by RT3 district teams. Twenty-four RT3 districts worked collaboratively to specifically develop Phase II SLOs and assessments. GaDOE staff provided the professional development on the SLO process for district teams. Those district teams then submitted their SLOs and the components (pre and post assessments, teacher directions, scoring guidance, rubrics, etc.) to the GaDOE. SLOs and the related components were edited for clarity, grammar, and format. The academic content was not edited or revised by GaDOE staff.

### Are districts required to use the public domain assessments that are on SharePoint?

No. Districts are permitted to use the public domain assessments, customize them, or use their own locally developed or procured measures.

### What happens if a district chooses not to use public domain assessment and develops their own?

Districts may choose to write their own assessments. However, all locally developed assessments must submit a Table of Specifications and a completed Criteria Table. The GaDOE will review the documents to determine whether the proper measurement construction process was followed by the district. In addition, districts may choose to utilize or adapt any other common measures or procured measures that they currently use for SLO purposes.

### Who developed the public domain assessment?

District teams worked on the public domain assessments. Those teams typically consisted of teachers, content specialists, assessment specialists and district leaders.

### Are districts allowed to use commercial measures?

Certainly, but it is recommended that districts ask the company for a copy of their specifications as to the alignment to standards, reliability and validity of the assessment.

### What is in place to ensure that teachers do not change data in order to increase their SLO scores?

There are several processes in place to protect the integrity of the SLO measures:

**Assurances:** Teachers are required to read and sign a set of assurances which provide guidance but also hold teachers and leaders responsible for administering and handling measures so that the validity of the measure is protected.

**Triangulation:** Districts and school leaders may compare or determine alignment between student results on SLO assessments with other assessments, grades, etc. to determine unusual patterns.

**Inter-Rater Reliability:** Districts may develop processes whereby either a random sample or all of student work/assessments are scored by a second person to determine inter-rater reliability of students' work/assessments.

**Other:** The utilization of common measures across all courses, using local item banks, performance tasks, interchangeable passages, prompts, and random selection of measurements items are all methods districts may increase the integrity of the SLO process

### What is Depth of Knowledge (DOK)?

DOK is an element of the Webb Alignment Tool developed by Dr. Norman Webb, from the University of Wisconsin, to align standards with assessments. DOK focuses on the complexity of the task rather than the difficulty because it is descriptive in nature, not taxonomy. Depth of Knowledge is represented by four levels of cognitive complexity: Recall, Skill/Concept, Strategic Thinking, and Extended Thinking. In the development of SLO assessments, the DOK of the selected standards is determined as well as the DOK of each item. All measurement items must be at the same DOK level of the standard or higher.

### How should rounding on SLO performance rubrics be handled?

Normal mathematical rules for rounding should apply (>.5 rounds up).

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**What is a Table of Specification (TOS)?**

A Table of Specifications is a table that specifies the content standards, the level of cognitive demand (DOK), the emphasis of the standard and correlating items or tasks, and types of items or tasks included on an assessment.

**What is a Criteria Table?**

The Criteria Table is a rubric used to evaluate a locally developed SLO measure.

**How will districts and teachers assess Pre-K students?**

Pre-K teachers will use SLOs. The GaDOE has worked closely with the Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) to provide guidance regarding appropriate SLO assessments. Representatives from DECAL have worked to create the current public domain assessment. This assessment utilizes the Work Sampling System that teachers are already using.

**Is it possible to use GKIDS for Kindergarten SLOs?**

GKIDS is a comprehensive assessment. The SLO assessment may be utilized as a subset of the GKIDS assessment.

**Will teachers whose students take GAA and CRCT-M fall into the tested or non-tested areas?**

Courses which utilize GAA will require SLOs. Student completing the CRCT-M will generate a student growth percentile measure.

**How will the GaDOE ensure that one district's SLO in a given course is comparable with the same course taught in another district?**

With the current SLO process, districts will have consistent measures which offer comparability within a school and within a district. In the future, the GaDOE may explore/develop a calibration process to provide state perspective or comparability between district SLOs.

**Where can one go for more information on SLOs?**

Teachers' greatest resource is their local school and district leaders. In addition, the TKES and SLO manuals are available on the Teacher and Leader Effectiveness page on the Georgia Department of Education website <http://www.doe.k12.ga.us/School-Improvement/Teacher-and-Leader-Effectiveness/Pages/default.aspx>.