

January 9, 2023

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** System Test Coordinators  
System Curriculum Coordinators  
System Special Education Directors

**From:** Jan Blose, Ed.D., Director of Assessment Development

**Subject:** Nomination of Educators for Test Development Activities  
Georgia Milestones & Georgia Alternate Assessment 2.0

The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) is seeking nominations of highly-qualified educators to participate in several upcoming test development meetings. These meetings will be held for the Georgia Milestones Assessment System and the Georgia Alternate Assessment 2.0 for all content areas: English language arts (ELA), mathematics, science, and social studies. There will be several meetings throughout the year and GaDOE is seeking to create a pool of potential participants.

At this time, the meetings listed below are anticipated. Date ranges for each meeting are provided; however, actual dates will vary based on grade level and content area/course. **All meetings will be conducted in person in the Atlanta area.**

**Georgia Milestones Assessment System**

- **English Language Arts Test Design & Expectations: July 10-14, 2023**
  - Educators will review test blueprints and achievement level descriptors for alignment to the newly adopted ELA standards.
- **Item & Data Review – All Content Areas: July 17-21, 2023**
  - Item Review participants will review newly developed test items to be field tested for content, bias, sensitivity, depth of knowledge, and alignment to Georgia's state-adopted content standards. Once Item Review is complete, these committees will continue to participate in Data Review. During Data Review, participants will review select items that were field tested on the Spring 2023 assessment. Items are selected for review based on specific statistical criteria for performance and require further review to determine acceptance for continued use.
- **Braille Item Review – All Content Areas: November 2023, December 2023, February 2024**
  - Participants will review test items to ensure appropriateness for inclusion on braille versions of test forms. Specific dates will be determined at a later time.
- **Video Sign Language (VSL) Review – All Content Areas: December 2023 and February 2024**
  - Participants will review videos to ensure test items are presented correctly for students who require American Sign Language as an accommodation. Specific dates will be determined at a later time.



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### **Georgia Alternate Assessment 2.0**

- **Item & Data Review: June 12-15, 2023**
  - Participants will begin with Data Review and review select tasks that were field tested on the Spring 2023 assessment. Tasks are selected for review based on specific statistical criteria for performance and require further review to determine acceptance for continued use. Once Data Review is complete, committees will review newly developed tasks to be field tested on the Spring 2024 assessment. These tasks are reviewed for content, depth of knowledge, bias, and sensitivity.
- **English Language Arts Test Design & Expectations: late September/early October 2023**
  - Educators will review test blueprints, Extended Content Standards, and achievement level descriptors for alignment to the newly adopted ELA standards. Specific dates will be determined at a later time.
- **Braille Item Review – All Content Areas: November/December 2023**
  - Participants will review tasks to ensure appropriateness for inclusion on braille versions of test forms. Specific dates will be determined at a later time.

System Test Coordinators, System Curriculum Coordinators, and/or System Special Education Directors should collaborate and submit the names of up to 30 highly-qualified educators for each district.

To ensure that an adequate representation of educators from across Georgia is selected, we ask that you submit names across a range of grade levels and courses, as shown in the following table. **Please note that we are seeking General Education and Special Education nominees for both assessment programs. For GAA 2.0, General Education participants serve as content area experts and need not hold any certifications in Special Education.**

Content Area	Georgia Milestones	GAA 2.0
English language arts	Grades 3 – 8, American Literature and Composition	Grades 3 – 8, high school
Mathematics	Grades 3 – 8, Algebra Concepts & Connections	Grades 3 – 8, high school
Science	Grade 5, Grade 8, High School Physical Science*, Biology	Grade 5, Grade 8, High School
Social Studies	Grade 8, United States History	Grade 8, High School

\*May nominate either Grade 8 or high school teachers.

In preparation for each meeting, the GaDOE will select participants to ensure a representative sample across the state based on grade level and content area. To help ensure a balanced, representative committee, districts are encouraged to nominate both first-time participants as well as educators who have participated in the past. Please note that **not all nominees will be selected**.

To ensure that an adequate representation of educators from across Georgia is selected, we ask that you submit nominees across a range of grade levels and content areas/courses, and include educators who:

- demonstrate depth of knowledge in their content area;
- demonstrate instructional expertise;
- increase student achievement through the use of proven, research-based practices;
- participate in ongoing professional learning;
- provide leadership among their colleagues;
- receive recognition for their contributions to teaching and learning;
- bring a fresh perspective to the test development process;
- represent the gender, ethnic, and regional diversity of your system; and
- teach diverse and/or exceptional student populations (e.g., students with disabilities, English learners, students with vision impairments, students with hearing impairments, gifted learners).

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## Nomination Process

1. Establish a nominee pool; the nominee's direct supervisor(s) should approve participation.
2. Collect information needed to complete a nomination survey. An optional template is provided on page 4 of this memo.
3. Provide each nominee a copy of the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) included on page 5 of this memo.
4. Fill out one online nomination form for each nominee **no later than January 27, 2023**, using the following link:

[\*\*https://cvent.me/1IXq4w\*\*](https://cvent.me/1IXq4w)

Please Note: Only System Test Coordinators, System Curriculum Coordinators, and/or System Special Education Directors may submit nominees using the survey link provided. We respectfully request that you work collaboratively to submit up to 30 nominations per district.

A few days after the nomination window has closed, all nominees will receive an email request to submit an application for participation. At this time, nominees will provide more information regarding teaching experience and availability to participate in the upcoming meetings. **Please note** this email will be sent from the Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) meeting planning platform (CVENT). Nominees may need to check their Clutter, Junk, and/or Spam folders, as these emails will occasionally be received in those folders.

Specific meeting details will be provided when the event invitation is sent. Invited educators must confirm acceptance of the invitation and will be provided instructions to do so.

Certain expenses are covered for meeting participants:

- Mileage will be reimbursed at the rate stipulated in current state travel regulations (<https://sao.georgia.gov/travel/state-travel-policy>).
- Breakfast and lunch are provided as part of the meeting.
- Lodging will be covered for participants meeting the criteria provided in state travel regulations.
  - If eligible for lodging, dinner reimbursement will be for the amount stipulated in current state travel regulations.
- An honorarium is offered for educators not under contract on the dates of the meeting (e.g., summer break, fall break).
- If applicable, substitute reimbursements to the local school/system will be made for the actual cost of providing the classroom substitute. Unfortunately, we are unable to reimburse expenses for any additional fees incurred by the system (such as to a vendor) to procure substitutes.

For questions about the nomination process, please contact DRC by phone at 763-268-2143 or by email at [GaDOE-TestDevelopmentMeetings@DataRecognitionCorp.com](mailto:GaDOE-TestDevelopmentMeetings@DataRecognitionCorp.com). Should you have questions about the test development process, please feel free to contact me at [jblose@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:jblose@doe.k12.ga.us).

Thank you for your help with this important aspect of the Georgia Student Assessment Program.

cc: System Superintendents

Richard Woods, State School Superintendent

Matt Jones, Chief of Staff

Allison Timberlake, Ph.D., Deputy Superintendent for Assessment and Accountability

Sandy Greene, Ed.D., Director of Assessment Administration

Nijia Byrd, Ed.D., Test Development Program Manager

Mary Nesbit-McBride, Ph.D., Assessment Specialist

## 2023 Test Development Activities Nominee Information

- This form is for local school district use only. It is intended to help the nominator gather all relevant information about the nominee.
- **Do not forward this form to the GaDOE or DRC.**
- All information must be provided through the survey link that appears in the memo.
- System Test Coordinator, System Curriculum Coordinator, System Special Education Director, or designee will use the information on this form to complete nomination survey.

<b>Nominee's First Name:</b>	
<b>Nominee's Last Name:</b>	
<b>Nominee's School Email Address:</b>	
<b>Nominee's Certificate Number (PSC Account Number)*</b>	

\*To be used only as a unique identifier for each nominee

<b>What population of students does this nominee primarily serve? (select only one)</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Gifted/Advanced Placement <input type="checkbox"/> General Education <input type="checkbox"/> Special Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Adapted Curriculum <input type="checkbox"/> Visual Impairment <input type="checkbox"/> Deaf/Hard of Hearing

<b>For which assessment are you submitting this nominee?</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Georgia Milestones <input type="checkbox"/> GAA 2.0	<input type="checkbox"/> Both

<b>Which content area(s) does this nominee currently teach? (select all that apply)</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> English Language Arts <input type="checkbox"/> Mathematics <input type="checkbox"/> Not Currently Teaching (please specify grade level & role)	<input type="checkbox"/> Science <input type="checkbox"/> Social Studies

<b>Which grade level(s) or course(s) does this nominee currently teach? (select all that apply)</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Grade 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Grade 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Grade 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Grade 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Grade 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Physical Science	<input type="checkbox"/> American Literature and Composition <input type="checkbox"/> Algebra I or Coordinate Algebra <input type="checkbox"/> Biology <input type="checkbox"/> United States History <input type="checkbox"/> Not Currently Teaching (please specify grade level & role)

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Richard Woods, Georgia's School Superintendent

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## 2023 Test Development Workshops Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### How was I nominated?

Each year, usually in early January, a call for nominations is emailed to System Test Coordinators, System Curriculum Coordinators, and System Special Education Directors for all public K-12 school districts and state charter schools. Districts are encouraged to nominate educators to participate in these assessment development meetings. It is requested that each district ensure their nominees are aware that they have been nominated.

### Now that I have been nominated, what are the next steps?

In early February, an email is sent to all nominated educators requesting they complete a survey to indicate their interest and availability to participate in these meetings. Nominated educators are encouraged to check their Clutter, Junk, and/or Spam email folders as these emails occasionally are received in these folders. We also ask that educators tentatively hold dates for which they have indicated availability.

### When will I know if I've been selected to participate?

- Initial invitations for June meetings will be sent mid-March.
- Initial invitations for July meetings will be sent mid-April.

\*Please note that all nominees are considered alternates until the date of the meeting and may receive an invitation at a later time. If for any reason an invited educator declines the invitation or cancels, another educator will be invited to fill that spot. This cycle could continue up until the first day of the committee meeting. Once the invitation for a meeting has been sent, educators have two weeks to either accept or decline the meeting.

### How are participants selected to serve on test development committees?

A representative group of educators from across the state will be identified. Some factors that are considered to ensure a balanced representation include region, gender, race/ethnicity, years of experience, and experience with special populations.

### If I am selected to participate, will my travel expenses be reimbursed?

Certain expenses are covered per State of Georgia travel regulations (<https://sao.georgia.gov/travel/state-travel-policy>)

- Participants who live 50 miles or more from the meeting location are eligible for overnight accommodations. Your guestroom, basic wi-fi, and tax will be billed directly to Data Recognition Corporation (DRC). When you check into the hotel, you will be asked to present a credit card for any incidentals you incur during your stay.
  - Participants who qualify for lodging are also eligible for reimbursement of up to \$23.00 per night for dinner. Itemized receipts are required.
- Parking at the meeting location will be paid by DRC for all participants.
- Participants will be reimbursed for mileage at the rate stipulated in state travel regulations (currently \$0.655/mile).
- Breakfast, lunch, and refreshment snacks will be provided each day during the meetings.
- An honorarium of \$250 per day will be paid for each day of participation for teachers whose schools are not in session during the workshop and those who will not receive wages or salary for the days of their participation.
- Districts/schools will be reimbursed for the cost of a substitute teacher, if applicable.

