



## Quick Links:

- [Policy Update](#)
- [Assessment Update](#)
- [Test Development](#)

### Formative Assessments

- [DRC BEACON](#)
- [Formative Instructional Practices \(FIP\)](#)
- [GKIDS 2.0 and GKIDS Readiness Check](#)

### Summative Assessments

- [ACCESS for ELLs 2.0](#)
- [Georgia Alternate Assessment 2.0](#)
- [Georgia Milestones](#)
- [NAEP/NCES](#)

### Accountability

- [Accountability Update](#)

### Key Training Dates

[November 2021-January 2022](#)

### External Links

[For Educators](#)

[Online Georgia Assessment and Training Calendar](#)

## Policy Update

### ESSA Alternate Assessment 1% Cap Waiver

The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) is seeking a waiver from the U.S. Department of Education (ED) regarding the alternate assessment 1.0 percent participation cap put in place under the *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA). The notice of intent to submit this waiver is posted on the [Title I webpage](#). A survey with an opportunity for comments is provided at this [link](#) until 11:59 p.m. November 27.

### Assessment Development Advisory Council

We are pleased to announce the creation of an Assessment Development Advisory Council. The purpose of this council is to inform professional learning opportunities and improve communication with building- and classroom-level educators regarding the test development process, the structure and content of state assessments, and the intended uses and interpretation of test results. Additional information, including an opportunity to nominate educators for this council, is available in the [Test Development](#) section of this newsletter.

### 2022 Accountability Update

We are working to determine what, if any, flexibility ED will provide for 2021-2022 accountability calculations (CCRPI) in light of data limitations due to the pandemic.

We believe two CCRPI components will be impacted in 2022: Progress and Closing Gaps. Both are impacted due to limitations on prior scores due to the pandemic. Additionally, exit/entrance criteria for CSI/TSI lists have been impacted due to similar limitations on prior scores. We need to consider what criteria can and should be used in order to identify the right schools for support given the current pandemic-related climate.

We are seeking solutions to these data limitations to make the most meaningful accountability system we can this school year. We will keep you updated as we develop solutions and receive guidance from ED.

Contact: Allison Timberlake, Ph.D., Deputy Superintendent for Assessment & Accountability, [atimberlake@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:atimberlake@doe.k12.ga.us), 470-579-3021.

## Assessment Update

### Key Tasks and Reminders

The Assessment Update newsletters will have a slightly different look to support System Test Coordinators (STCs) with local calendars and scheduling of upcoming tasks more readily by assessment. The table for *Key Tasks and Reminders* has been split and is now included in the related article for each assessment. New STCs and veteran STCs will now have the expected tasks aligned with the program section and will receive related details in the articles to support planning for these tasks.

We welcome any feedback on this and any other suggested changes to the Assessment Update.

### Assessment Office Hours



The Assessment Administration team will host the next Assessment Office Hours on Friday, December 3 from 10 – 10:30 a.m. A link to the December session is found in the [Key Training Dates](#) section of this newsletter.

The office hours are an optional opportunity for STCs to receive responses to immediate questions regarding upcoming test administrations in any program.

Keep in mind that no new information will be presented or discussed. Any policy-related or new information will always be included in the monthly Assessment Updates and the Assessment Lunch and Learns.

Please submit questions in advance via a quick [Question Log](#). Submitting questions in advance will help the GaDOE Assessment Specialists prepare. We will share the questions and our responses with STCs.

### Important 2021-2022 Technology Releases

[DRC INSIGHT System Requirements](#) for Georgia Milestones, ACCESS for ELLs 2.0, and DRC BEACON for October 2021 – February 2022 are now available. Please share this document with your technology directors.

Contact: Sandy Greene, Ed.D., Director of Assessment Administration, [sgreene@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:sgreene@doe.k12.ga.us), 470-579-5395.

## Test Development

GaDOE is seeking highly-qualified educators to participate in an Assessment Development Advisory Council. The purpose of this council is to inform professional learning opportunities and improve communication with building- and classroom-level educators (e.g., teachers, instructional coaches, assistant principals) regarding the test development process, the structure and content of state assessments, and the intended uses and interpretation of test results.

Selected participants will meet virtually with the GaDOE Assessment Development team 3-4 times per year (dates/times to be determined). Meetings will be scheduled in the late afternoon in an effort to avoid the need for substitute teachers. It is anticipated that participants will work with GaDOE staff to:

- inform communication efforts and development of professional learning opportunities;
- review and provide feedback on proposed communications, professional learning, and supplemental resources; and/or
- inform potential assessment changes (e.g., new item types).

STCs, System Curriculum Coordinators, and/or System Special Education Directors are asked to collaborate and submit up to five (5) nominations for the district no later than Tuesday, November 30. 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 council meetings. From the applications received, a representative group of 25-30 educators from across the state will be selected to serve on the council.

Additional details, including a link to the nomination survey, can be found in the [memorandum](#) posted on the Assessment webpage.

Contact: Jan Blose, Ed.D., Director of Assessment Development, [jblose@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:jblose@doe.k12.ga.us), 404-275-5147.

## DRC BEACON

The *DRC BEACON – Using BEACON to Inform Instruction* webinar is scheduled for Tuesday, November 9. The purpose of this webinar is to focus on the use of BEACON to support both informational and instructional needs at the local level. We will discuss how BEACON can be used in practical ways such as Differentiating/Personalizing Learning, Conferencing, and School Assessment of Instructional Programs and Resources. The link for this training may be found in the [Key Training Dates](#) section of this newsletter.

## Projected Georgia Milestones Achievement Level

As a reminder, a *projected* Georgia Milestones achievement level will be provided on the BEACON Individual Student Report (ISR) when a total score for the BEACON English Language Arts or Mathematics content area test is provided. A Georgia Milestones projection will be produced when:

- a full battery ELA or Mathematics BEACON test is administered, or
- all ELA or Mathematics testlets are administered within 30 days, producing a total BEACON score.

This additional piece of information may assist teachers in monitoring student progress towards end-of-year goals throughout the school year. This will be included in the DRC BEACON – Using BEACON to Inform Instruction webinar.

Dates	Assessment Tasks and Reminders
8/2/2021 –	2021-2022 DRC BEACON
6/30/2022	Administration Window

### Contacts:

- Sandy Greene, Ed.D., Director of Assessment Administration, [sgreene@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:sgreene@doe.k12.ga.us), 470-579-5395.
- Taiesha Adams, Ed.D., Assessment Specialist, [taadams@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:taadams@doe.k12.ga.us), 470-579-6299.
- Joe Blessing, Program Manager, [jblessing@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:jblessing@doe.k12.ga.us), 470-579-6326.

## Formative Instructional Practices (FIP)

Mark your calendars for the second webinar in the FIP Webinar Series on Wednesday, November 10. The topic is *Using FIP Web Page Resources for Improvement Planning*. This informational session will acquaint leaders with the resources that are available for use to support a plan for implementing Formative Instructional Practices in a school or district.

Highlights of this session will include a ready-to-use introductory presentation, support files for districts and teachers on *first steps* for FIP, the alignment of FIP Foundations Courses to TAPS and LAPS, and sample professional growth goals/plans for leaders and teachers that reference FIP online learning courses. The final and key component of the presentation will model how FIP resources can be used to revise or refine the desired outcomes, action steps and progress indicators that have been developed for a school improvement plan. The session will be one hour.

The registration link is in [Key Training Dates](#). A recording of this session will be available. Invite your colleagues to participate from Curriculum and Instruction, Professional Learning, and School Improvement.

Contact: Kelli Harris-Wright, Assessment Specialist, [kharris-wright@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:kharris-wright@doe.k12.ga.us), 470-579-6329.

## GKIDS 2.0 and GKIDS Readiness Check

The Readiness Check window for all districts has closed. Teachers are no longer able to enter data, but reports may be generated at any time. Teachers should use Readiness Check data to create instructional plans for their students and continue to assess the learning progressions through GKIDS tasks or classroom tools throughout the remainder of the school year. Reports may be generated at any time until the close of the platform on Friday, June 10, 2022.

Dates	Assessment Tasks and Reminders
7/6/2021 – 5/16/2022	2021-2022 GKIDS 2.0 Administration Window
7/6/2021 – 6/10/2022	2021-2022 GKIDS 2.0 Platform Open

Contact: Bobbie Bable, Assessment Specialist,  
[bbable@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:bbable@doe.k12.ga.us), 470-579-6324.

## ACCESS for ELLs 2.0

### Ordering Materials

The ACCESS for ELLs Ordering Window closes on Monday, November 22. All ACCESS for ELLs test materials must be ordered from DRC using WIDA AMS. STCs place all initial and additional orders for schools, following the test materials ordering procedures outlined in the WIDA Assessment Management User Guide located in the [WIDA Secure Portal](#).

### Reminders

The ACCESS for ELLs test administration window is January 12 – March 4, 2022. As the window approaches, STCs should be mindful of the following key points:

- Test Administration Manuals will be available digitally and may be accessed for download from the [WIDA Secure Portal](#).
- Students should not write responses for the Speaking domain on paper.
- Extended time is a test administration procedure for Listening, Reading, and Writing. Extended time is an accommodation for the ACCESS for ELLs Speaking domain. Unlimited time is not feasible nor permitted.
- Kindergarten English learners with significant cognitive disabilities who receive daily instruction based on alternate content standards should take Kindergarten ACCESS. Local staff should have marked “Yes” in the ACS field for each of these students during the October FTE Count.
- Post Reporting Data Validation will take place from May 9 – May 20, 2022. Post Reporting Data Validation is the last opportunity to correct data impacting student reports.

### Training

STCs must attend the upcoming ACCESS webinars. The ACCESS for ELLs Test Integrity webinar will be held for STCs and their colleagues on Thursday, December 2, from 9 – 10 a.m. During this session the WIDA facilitator, will review steps STCs and examiners can take to avoid common testing irregularities. On Thursday, December 9, GaDOE will conduct the ACCESS for ELLs Pre-Administration Training. The training facilitator will review tasks that must be performed by key staff throughout the test administration process.

### Customer Service Hours

The WIDA Client Services Center will hold extended hours beginning on Monday, November 1.

- Monday – Thursday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Friday: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

DRC Customer Service is open year-round Monday – Friday from 7 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Dates	Assessment Tasks and Reminders
10/6/2021 – 11/22/2021	Test Materials Ordering Available in WIDA AMS
10/6/2021 – 11/22/2021	Load Pre-ID File into WIDA AMS
12/6/2021 – 3/4/2022	Test Setup Available for Test Sessions
1/5/2022	Districts Receive Test Materials
1/5/2022 – 2/25/2022	Additional Test Material Ordering Window in WIDA AMS
1/12/2022 – 3/4/2022	ACCESS for ELLs/Alternate ACCESS Admin Window

Contact: Mary Nesbit-McBride, Ph.D., Assessment Specialist, [mnesbit@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:mnesbit@doe.k12.ga.us), 470-579-6345.

## Georgia Alternate Assessment 2.0

The GAA 2.0 Overview and Eligibility training was conducted on Thursday, October 21, for STCs and key local staff. The most frequently asked questions from training participants were related to test participation, graduation, and materials ordering for Braille. The following questions and responses are designed to address these questions.

What if an 11th grade student did not take GAA 2.0 last year due to COVID as originally planned?

- For the student to meet the GAA participation requirement to be eligible for a high school diploma, they should participate in the spring 2022 GAA administration, even if they are now a 12th grade student.

Which students are eligible for the State-Defined Alternate Diploma?

- Students with significant cognitive disabilities who entered the ninth grade for the first time on or after the 2020-2021 school year may graduate and receive an alternate diploma when the student's IEP team has determined that the student has met all requirements outlined in [SBOE Rule 160-4-2-.48 High School Graduation Requirements](#).

Why is it important for a student to participate in the GAA 2.0 in middle school?

- In addition to providing information on how students with significant cognitive disabilities are performing relative to the Extended Content Standards (ECS), students with significant cognitive disabilities receiving instruction in the ECS and assessed by the GAA must participate in the GAA during middle school and high school to be eligible for a high school diploma or alternate diploma, as outlined in [SBOE Rule 160-4-2-.48 High School Graduation Requirements](#).
- How do I submit my order for Braille materials? Questar emailed the GAA 2.0 Braille Survey to STCs Monday, October 25 to collect the number of GAA 2.0 booklets needed in each school district. The survey should be submitted to Questar by [Saturday, November 6](#).

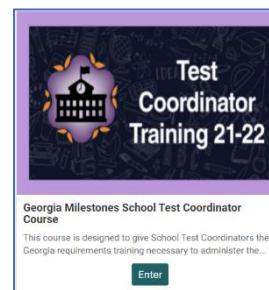
Contact: Mary Nesbit-McBride, Ph.D., Assessment Specialist, [mnesbit@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:mnesbit@doe.k12.ga.us), 470-579-6345.

## Georgia Milestones

### American Literature and Composition Study/Resource Guide Update

The *American Literature and Composition Study/Resource Guide for Parents and Students* has been updated to include an informational extended-writing response item. The item was previously administered on an ELA operational assessment. With this update to the resource, there are now examples of both argumentative and informational writing essay prompts available to support students. The item, along with an accompanying exemplar response, appears on p. 17 of the guide posted on the [Georgia Milestones Resources webpage](#) under 2021-2022 Study/Resource Guides.

### Georgia Milestones School Test Coordinator Online Course



There is an updated School Test Coordinator Course in Georgia Learns, the new GaDOE online training platform found in the SLDS. The School Test Coordinator training course is designed to walk school leaders through

the state requirements for the Georgia Milestones administration and includes a quiz with a badge and transcript for completing all requirements. The course includes videos, interactive content, and quizzes for each module. STCs can assign the course to supplement local training.

Modules include:

- Georgia Milestones Overview
- Scheduling, Training, and Resources
- Test Security
- Accessibility and Accommodations
- Test Setup and Administration in INSIGHT
- Reporting

## [Instructions on how to access the School Test Coordinator Course.](#)

## Winter 2021 EOC Report Schedule

As a reminder, the earliest projected date for preliminary reports for Winter 2021 EOCs is Wednesday, December 29. To maintain this timetable, it is important that districts follow their testing schedule as closely as possible while prioritizing the health and well-being of students and staff. It is also important to test graduating seniors early in the window, where possible. If changes must be made to your local testing schedule, please inform your GaDOE Assessment Specialist as soon as possible.

## Winter 2021 EOC Teacher Reporting

GaDOE continues to work with DRC to provide schools with teacher-level reports for the Winter EOC administration on the DRC INSIGHT Interactive Reporting platform. Districts wishing to use this *optional* resource will be required to transmit three data files directly to DRC through INSIGHT.

1. Batch User
2. Multiple Student Upload (MSU)
3. Student Groups/Rostering

A list of frequently asked questions to guide districts in preparing these data files is posted on the Georgia

Milestones Resources [webpage](#) under Technology Resources.

The interactive reporting process will be addressed in the Tuesday, November 30 *Georgia Milestones Interactive Reporting Overview and Training Fall/Winter EOC* training listed in the [Key Training Dates](#) section of this document.

Note: Districts who do not wish to use the optional teacher reports for Winter 2021 are *still required to transmit the Multiple Student Upload (MSU) data file directly to DRC through INSIGHT.*

For assistance with the process of uploading the MSU or any of the files above to the DRC INSIGHT portal, please contact the GaDOE Assessment Specialist assigned to your district or the Georgia DRC Help Desk: [gahelpdesk@datarecognitioncorp.com](mailto:gahelpdesk@datarecognitioncorp.com)/866-282-2249.

## Test Administration Manuals

An updated version of the *Winter 2021; Spring, Summer, Fall Mid-Month 2022 Test Administration Manual (TAM)* has been posted to the [Georgia Milestones Resources](#) page. STCs and/or School Test Coordinators (SchTCs) may choose to present the TAM digitally during training for review by coordinators and examiners prior to testing. As a reminder, each course script is found as a separate appendix in the posted TAM. It is permissible for test examiners to use devices such as laptops, tables, and interactive boards to read scripts. However, personal cell phones are not allowed.

## Monitoring Accommodations for EOC Winter Main

Keeping careful track of the appropriate use of accommodations during a test administration is a critical component of desk auditing and can go a long way in improving outcomes for students with disabilities. It is not enough to note that “accommodations were used.” When specific information can be given about the student and his or her disability along with detailed information about the accommodations used for the assessment, appropriate evaluation of accommodations on both the individual student level and on a system-wide level may be made.

Activities to monitor accommodations use on assessment day include the following:

1. Documenting the use of accommodations on locally developed tracking forms
2. Documenting instances of inappropriate use of accommodations on test irregularity forms
3. Documenting that all students were given the accommodations called for on their IEP/IAP/EL-TPC plan

A spreadsheet may be downloaded from INSIGHT to support with this documentation. To access the report:

- Go to the Student Management Tab, and Manage Students
- Choose the administration and school
- Choose the content area
- Choose Online for Accommodation type
- Choose the online accommodation

This will bring up a list of students that can be viewed or exported to Excel. Test coordinators can compare against the list of students who are supposed to receive these accommodations.

It is expected that SchTCs and STCs should verify that all students have been properly coded including standard accommodations, educational plan, SRC code, and if conditional accommodation codes have been tagged, where required.

## EOG and EOC Spring 2022 Enrollment Counts

The Spring 2022 Enrollment Count window for End-of-Grade and End-of-Course opens Friday, December 17 and closes Friday, January 21, 2022, at 8 p.m.

STCs must enter specific local assessment dates for each test as entry date ranges are not acceptable. Districts are not required to enter online testing numbers this year and will only enter numbers for anticipated paper materials for accommodated students.

There will be no specific webinar training for this task. An Enrollment Counts Guide and training video are available for all STCs in lieu of a webinar training.

Enrollment Counts Guide	Enrollment Counts Video
	

Dates	Assessment Tasks and Reminders
7/19/2021 – 11/24/2021	Test Setup Window Fall 2021 EOC MM
10/4/2021 – 1/14/2022	Winter 2021 EOC Test Setup Window
10/4/2021 – 5/6/2022	Secure Practice Test Window
11/8/2021 – 11/19/2021	November 2021 Mid-Month EOC Window
11/29/2021 – 1/7/2022	Winter 2021 Main EOC Window
12/17/2021 – 1/21/2022	Spring 2022 EOG/EOC Enrollment Count Window
1/17/2022 – 1/28/2022	January 2021 Mid-Month EOC Window

Contacts:

- Taiesha Adams, Ed.D., Assessment Specialist, [taadams@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:taadams@doe.k12.ga.us), 470-579-6299.
- Joe Blessing, Program Manager, [jblessing@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:jblessing@doe.k12.ga.us), 470-579-6326.

## NAEP/NCES

The initial task for the SchTCs has been completed, and the student lists for the accessed grade at each school have been requested from the GaDOE technology group. The lists will be submitted by mid-November for student selection. SchTCs will have access to their list of selected students in early December.

Dates	Assessment Tasks and Reminders
1/24/2022 – 3/4/2022	NAEP Admin Window ( <i>selected districts only</i> )

Contact: Bobbie Bable, Assessment Specialist, [bbable@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:bbable@doe.k12.ga.us), 470-579-6324.

## Accountability Update

Please contact the GaDOE [accountability specialist](#) assigned to assist your district with any questions or concerns. Remember that your district accountability point of contact gains critical information each month at the Accountability Lunch and Learns and is another good resource for you.

## Key Training Dates for November 2021-January 2022

Note: on October 1, GaDOE moved from GoToWebinar to Microsoft Teams webinars. When you click on the meeting names below, you will be able to register with your district email address for the webinar. Once you register for the webinar, you will receive an email from Microsoft Teams [noreply@teams.registration.microsoft.com](mailto:noreply@teams.registration.microsoft.com) to allow you to add the webinar to your calendar. Click to view a [previously recorded meeting](#).

### Assessment Training

Date	Title	Time	Intended Audience
11/12/2021	<a href="#">November 2021 Assessment Lunch and Learn</a>	12 – 1 p.m.	STCs
12/3/2021	<a href="#">Assessment Office Hours</a>	10 – 10:30 a.m.	STCs
1/11/2022	<a href="#">Technology Directors Training for All Assessments</a>	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Technology Directors, STCs
1/14/2022	<a href="#">Assessment January 2022 Lunch and Learn</a>	12 – 1 p.m.	STCs

### ACCESS for ELLs 2.0

Date	Title	Time	Intended Audience
11/9/2021	<a href="#">WIDA Pre-Testing: Technology Coordinator Support for Test Administrators</a>	2 – 3 p.m. ET	STC, SchTC
11/16/2021	<a href="#">WIDA Kindergarten ACCESS for ELLs for New Test Administrators</a>	2 – 3 p.m. ET	STC, SchTC
11/18/2021	<a href="#">WIDA During Testing: Managing Students in WIDA AMS (Online)</a>	2 – 3 p.m. ET	STC, SchTC
11/23/2021	<a href="#">WIDA Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Test for New Test Administrators</a>	2 – 3 p.m. ET	STC, SchTC
12/2/2021	<a href="#">ACCESS for ELLs – Test Integrity</a>	9 – 10 a.m. ET	STC, SchTC
12/7/2021	<a href="#">WIDA During Testing: Managing Test Sessions (Online)</a>	2 – 3 p.m. ET	STC, SchTC
12/9/2021	<a href="#">ACCESS for ELLs Pre-Administration Training</a>	9 – 10 a.m. ET	STC, SchTC
12/14/2021	<a href="#">WIDA During Testing: Managing Students in WIDA AMS (Paper)</a>	2 – 3 p.m. ET	STC, SchTC
1/4/2022	<a href="#">WIDA During Testing: Managing Test Materials (Paper)</a>	2 – 3 p.m. ET	STC, SchTC
1/6/2022	<a href="#">WIDA During Testing: Technology Troubleshooting</a>	2 – 3 p.m. ET	STC, SchTC
1/27/2022	<a href="#">WIDA Post-Testing: Returning Materials (Paper)</a>	2 – 3 p.m. ET	STC, SchTC

### DRC BEACON

Date	Title	Time	Intended Audience
11/9/2021	<a href="#">Using BEACON to Inform Instruction</a>	10 – 11:30 a.m.	STCs, District and Building Leadership

### FIP

Date	Title	Time	Intended Audience
11/10/2021	<a href="#">Using Georgia FIP Resources to Support Improvement Planning</a>	10 – 11 a.m.	STCs
12/8/2021	<a href="#">Using FIP Courses to Design Better Classroom-based Formative Assessments</a>	10 – 11 a.m.	STCs

Date	Title	Time	Intended Audience
1/13/2022	<a href="#">Creating Optimal Opportunities to Lead FIP Professional Learning</a>	10 – 11 a.m.	STCs

## GAA 2.0

Date	Title	Time	Intended Audience
1/20/2022	<a href="#">GAA 2.0 Nextera Platform Training</a>	10 a.m. – 12 p.m.	STCs, Special Education Directors

## GKIDS

Date	Title	Time	Intended Audience
1/27/2022	<a href="#">GKIDS 2.0 Mid-year Training and Reports #3</a>	10 – 11:30 a.m.	STCs

## Georgia Milestones

Date	Title	Time	Intended Audience
Ongoing	<a href="#">Georgia Milestones School Test Coordinator Course</a>	24/7	SchTCs
11/30/2021	<a href="#">Georgia Milestones Interactive Reporting Overview and Training Fall/Winter EOC</a>	10 – 11:30 a.m.	STCs, District and Building Leaders

## Keenville

Date	Title	Time	Intended Audience
12/2/2021	<a href="#">Keenville: Mid-year Review of Student Data</a>	10 – 11:30 a.m.	STCs