

## Quick Links:

- [Policy Update](#)
  - [Assessment Update](#)
- Formative Assessments
- [DRC BEACON](#)
  - [Formative Instructional Practices \(FIP\)](#)
  - [GKIDS 2.0 and GKIDS Readiness Check](#)
  - [Keenville](#)
- Summative Assessments
- [ACCESS for ELLs](#)
  - [Georgia Alternate Assessment 2.0](#)
  - [Georgia Milestones](#)
  - [NAEP/NCES](#)
- Accountability
- [Accountability Update](#)
- GaDOE PL Events Catalogue  
[September-November 2022](#)
- External Links  
[For Educators](#)  
[Online Georgia Assessment and Training Calendar](#)

## Policy Update

### GAA 2.0: New for 2022-2023!

We are pleased to announce that Test Examiners will access the Test Examiners Book (TEB) and enter student responses directly in a new online platform (DRC INSIGHT) beginning in the 2022-2023 school year. This **enhancement is being made in response to educators' feedback and** aims to address common administration concerns and errors.

Students will continue to view test content from the paper Student Booklet, just as in the past. However, Test Examiners will be able to view the entire script, passages, items, and answer choices sequentially for each content area assessed and enter student answer choices directly into the online platform during test administration.

#### Benefits for Test Examiners

- Test Examiners log in with their own DRC INSIGHT portal credentials to **access their students' assessments**
- Test Examiners no longer need to utilize a paper test examiner booklet or student response document during test administration.
- The online system includes logic for providing scaffolding when needed.
- There is no longer a need to transcribe student responses post-administration since they are entered online at the time of administration.
- **Test Examiners can easily view and manage their students' progress** online.

#### Benefits for School Test Coordinators (SchTCs)

- There is no need to install software on the Test **Examiner's device**.
- There are no test sessions or test tickets to manage.
- Direct online entry enhances test security and reduces the amount of paper secure materials Test Coordinators and Examiners must manage.
- Student progress can be monitored to ensure that all student testing is completed and submitted by the end of the state testing window.

We are excited to be able to provide this enhancement that will streamline administration, reduce the need for printing and shipping TEBs, and reduce administration errors and irregularities. Additional information, including training sessions, is coming soon!

## High School GAA 2.0 Standards Validation

The Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA) 2.0 high school assessment is a single assessment that includes content from all tested high school courses. Updates to the GAA 2.0 high school assessment reflect the elimination of four tested courses (Ninth Grade Literature and Composition, Geometry, Physical Science, and Economics) through legislative and State Board of Education action. The first administration of this updated assessment was in spring 2022. Given the partial changes to test content, we conducted a standards validation to review the achievement standards cut scores for the high school GAA 2.0 assessment.

## Summer 2022 Educator Meetings Completed

Test development meetings for summer 2022 have now concluded. We greatly appreciate the almost 200 educators who participated and are grateful that we could return to in-person meetings.

This summer we completed the following educator meetings: Rangesfinding (Georgia Milestones), Item and Data Review (Georgia Milestones), Content and Bias Review (GAA 2.0), and High School Standards Validation (GAA 2.0). These meetings aimed to set scoring guidelines for constructed response items; review test items for content alignment, appropriateness, accessibility, and bias; and review achievement standards (cut scores). This summer, 183 educators from 77 districts representing all regions of Georgia, plus additional higher education, transition, and vocational support specialists, participated in test development meetings.

On Wednesday, August 17, every System Test Coordinator (STC) received the status of your nominees **for this summer's test development meetings. For each nominee, we indicated if we received no response from the educator, if the educator applied, if we selected them to participate, and if the educator attended, declined, canceled, or was a no-show to the meeting.**

We will have another busy year of educator meetings in 2023, especially with the anticipated adoption of new ELA content standards this fall or winter. In addition to our annual educator meetings, we will also need the assistance of educators to develop test blueprints,

achievement level descriptors, and item and passage specifications for the new ELA assessments. Be on the lookout for information on the educator nomination process in the coming months!

In July, four committees of Georgia educators participated in a process designed to validate and potentially adjust cut scores corresponding to the performance that identifies students as Level 1, Level 2, Level 3, or Level 4. A broad-based group of key stakeholders representing district superintendents, special education directors, assessment directors, high higher education representatives, and competitive integrated employment representatives reviewed the full set of recommended achievement standards during a policy review. As a results, educators made recommendations consistent with the existing cut scores; accordingly, the validity evidence supports the continued use of the cut scores. A summary of the standards validation process is available [online](#).

## New FIP Modules Now Available!

The new FIP series, *Assessment 101: Empowering Leaders and Teachers to Engage Parents in Student Learning*, is now available! Additional information is available in the FIP section of this newsletter.

Contact: Allison Timberlake, Ph.D., Deputy Superintendent for Assessment & Accountability, [atimberlake@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:atimberlake@doe.k12.ga.us), 470-579-6353.

## Assessment Update

### Assessment Training Courses to Move to GaDOE Professional Learning Events Catalogue



In a continuing effort to support STCs the Assessment Administration team has made the move to the GaDOE Professional Learning Events Catalogue for all mandatory and optional training sessions identified in the Memorandum dated Friday, June 10 regarding [Assessment Training for 2022-2023](#).

All webinar registration links, webinar recordings, and associated presentation handouts for 2022-2023 will be available from the GaDOE Professional Learning

Events Catalogue at:

<http://login.community.gadoe.org/events>.

We will post the upcoming training sessions at the end of this newsletter.

## Test Coordinator Course in Georgia Learns



The 2022-2023 Georgia Milestones Test Coordinator Course has been updated and is now available on the Georgia Learns platform. The Test Coordinator training course aims to walk school and district leaders through the state requirements for Georgia Milestones administration. The updated course has new videos, updated content, and new interactive scenarios that make it more comprehensive and learner centered. In addition, there is a badge for completing the course and passing all quizzes.

Modules include:

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

This course provides state information regarding the Georgia Milestones assessment administration and coordinates with district specific guidance. [How to Access Georgia Learns](#).

## Optional Communication Opportunities

### ASSESSMENT LUNCH AND LEARNS TO START IN SEPTEMBER

Assessment Lunch and Learn webinars begin Friday, September 9, from 12–1 p.m. These sessions have grown to include the most current updates and reminders for STCs each month. Assessment Lunch and Learn sessions will continue to be held each month (except December) through March 2023.

### ASSESSMENT OFFICE HOURS

The Assessment Administration team will again host Assessment Office Hours on scheduled Fridays from 10–10:30 am for 2022-2023! New and veteran STCs can ask Assessment Specialists questions as they prepare

to administer state assessments. Office hours are an optional opportunity.

Upcoming dates:

- October 28, 2022
- December 2, 2022
- January 27, 2023
- February 24, 2023

By request from the field, the focus for Friday, October 28, will be understanding the Test Monitoring Application (TMA) for Georgia Milestones assessments. We will discuss procedural use cases and respond to questions to support the use of TMA as a monitoring tool for SchTCs.

Assessment Specialists are always available by telephone and email. They are happy to discuss local issues with district assessment planning and help find solutions when needed. However, Office Hours offer an additional, unique opportunity for STCs seeking real-time answers to questions.

Registration links for Assessment Lunch and Learn and Assessment Office Hours sessions are found in the email notification of the Assessment Update newsletter.

All sessions are Microsoft Teams webinars. Please register using your district email address for the session. Once registered, an email is sent from Microsoft Teams, [noreply@teams.registration.microsoft.com](mailto:noreply@teams.registration.microsoft.com), allowing you to add the session to your calendar. Click on an embedded link to view a [previously recorded meeting](#).

## 2022-2023 Student Assessment Handbook (SAH)

### SEPTEMBER'S FOCUS – LOCAL CALENDARING AND CALCULATOR POLICY

The focus on the *Student Assessment Handbook* series continues with key points from the General Assessment Administration Guidance section beginning on page 58. STCs should review the section for more complete policies, protocols, and other guidance.

Local Calendar (pp. 59 – 60): STCs must establish local testing windows inside the state testing windows posted in the Georgia Assessment and Training Calendar.

- Determine the local assessment windows for each assessment required.

- Ensure the local calendar meets the requirements found in the SAH.
- Set dates for test administration that do not include **weekend dates and are within the district or school's** normal operating hours.
- Ensure make-up dates are provided.
- Communicate the local testing schedule with schools to ensure school field trips and special activities do not conflict with the testing schedule.
- Include local training dates for all personnel.

Common Irregularities Related to Local Calendaring Issues

Test Examiner allows students time beyond maximum allowances for a test session.

This incident may be due to a local calendar that did not allow enough time for a test session based on guidance found in Test Administration Manuals.

Test Examiner attempts to test a student on weekends or after school hours for a make-up or other reason.

It is a must to provide clear and concise communications regarding dates and times for assessments to all personnel involved in testing.

The high school discovers students have AP exams and EOC assessments on the same day or week.

STCs and SchTCs must check for conflicting dates for other assessments. The state window is broad enough to allow for local scheduling to avoid these issues well before testing windows.

Calculator Allowances and Restrictions — Georgia Milestones (pp. 61 – 62): By design, calculators are not required for any Georgia Milestones test item. Instead, calculators are an allowable tool for student use. Additional information is available in the [Georgia Milestones](#) section of this newsletter.

The DRC INSIGHT platform for Georgia Milestones provides an online calculator for the appropriate grades and courses as a universal tool for student use. Systems can eliminate concerns regarding the requirement to ensure that each device is clear of text and other non-factory installed programs by using the online calculator. This feature will eliminate the need for hand-held devices in the testing environment. All students should receive training with the online calculator utilizing

Experience Online Testing Georgia or through other activities related to the online calculator.

The Calculator Policy for 2022-2023 includes the following changes:

- Grade 6-7 EOG: Scientific or basic four-function calculator with square root and percentage functions allowed
- Grade 8 EOG: Graphing or Scientific calculator allowed

Common Irregularities Related to Calculator Use

Student uses a calculator during the no-calculator subsection of the mathematics test.

The DRC INSIGHT platform provides calculators as a universal tool when required. Allowing a hand-held calculator is a district decision; however, if the online calculator is the primary universal tool for students, it eliminates reported incidents of students receiving a hand-held calculator from Test Examiners during the no-calculator section.

A student's hand-held calculator has stored text that benefits the student during the assessment.

The DRC INSIGHT platform provides the appropriate calculators as a universal tool when required. In addition, it does not retain or store any content, eliminating the need for Test Examiners to clear stored content before any test sessions.

October's focus will be on **electronic device** or cell phone use on state-mandated assessments, scratch paper, hospital homebound, and incarcerated students.

Highlight on New STCs

DISTRICT ASSESSMENT PLANNING

Setting up your District Assessment plan for the year is a multi-step process. However, most of the work takes place during the pre-testing periods. We have outlined a few basic steps below. Additional information is available in the Fall Conference Series, Pre-Administration trainings, and the [Student Assessment Handbook](#).

The [Assessment Plan Template](#) provides a tool for schools and districts to plan yearly assessments. The template is linked here and is available on the [For Educators page](#).

Step 1

- Determine which students need to test.

- Collaborate with SchTCs, ESOL Coordinators, and Special Education Coordinators to determine student enrollment and participation in each required assessment.

#### Step 2

- Review the Georgia Assessment and Training Calendar.
- Create a unique testing calendar for the district.
- Share with district leadership, all staff members, parents, and students.
- Review the communication plan for the release of reports.
- Review technology requirements for existing technology and devices.
- Plan for technology readiness.

#### Step 3

- Participate in all required GaDOE training sessions.
- Develop and manage a clear local training plan for SchTCs, examiners, and other staff members.
- Include focused training on test security, test administration policies, and protocols.
- Develop and manage a plan for maintaining documentation of all training, attendance, and attestation documents.
- Develop and manage a plan for the secure inventory of all secure materials and chain of custody between the STC and SchTC.
- Review all school assessment plans to ensure compliance with the district assessment plan.

#### Step 4

- Prepare for student accommodations through collaboration meetings with SchTCs, special education leaders, and ESOL leaders.
- Establish a training plan for appropriately assigning and monitoring accommodations in online platforms.

#### Step 5

- Determine district-led student practice opportunities through Experience Online Testing Georgia and secure practice tests to ensure students are familiar with test item types, universal tools, and accommodations.

## Updating Accounts in the Secure Online Platforms

Update secure online accounts yearly to remove personnel who have retired, resigned, or moved to new locations. The STC designation is considered a secure role and must be updated when a new STC is named. The update may mean changing, assigning, or deactivating roles in the MyGaDOE Portal. Please review guidance found in the *Student Assessment Handbook* (p. 17) regarding the process.

The STC should review online testing platforms such as the DRC INSIGHT portal to update new staff accounts and deactivate old accounts for staff that did not return this year. We recommend completing this within the first few weeks of the new school year. Additional guidance is available in the [User Management Guidance](#) article under Georgia Milestones.

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

## DRC BEACON

### Considering your Assessment Vision

As the school year begins, we all do a lot of targeted planning: improvement plans, lesson plans, discipline plans, transportation, playgrounds, and more. All visions of what we want for our students. So, do you have an assessment plan? What is your vision for assessment in your district, school, or classroom? Consider any of your plans, classes, or goals, and ask yourself, “How will I know if students have learned what we want? What can they do to practice and demonstrate their learning throughout the year?”

These are foundational questions for planning assessment. Think of your plan mapping both formative and summative assessments against the Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE), using qualitative and quantitative measures. As the school year begins, you may want a current picture of student understanding to best target instruction. Using a full battery DRC BEACON assessment in English language arts or mathematics is a low-stakes way to get the data you need to start the year. It is short, reliable, and provided free to Georgia schools.

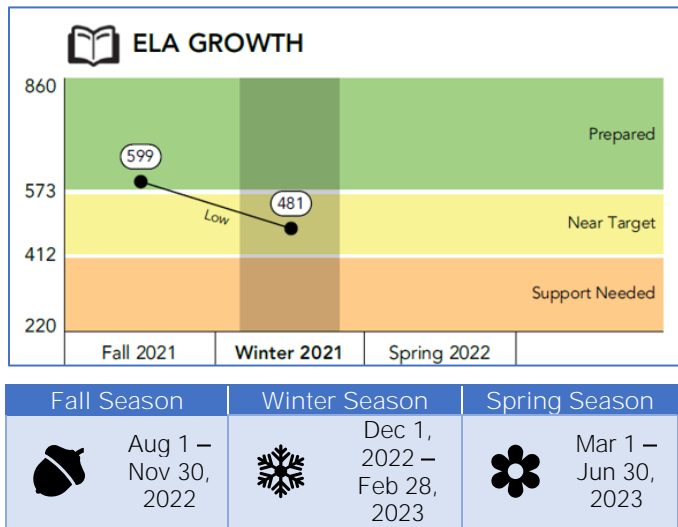


Formative assessments are important lower-stakes opportunities to practice learning *and* gather data. These include homework problems, quizzes, group work, and drafts. **If you are using BEACON, the ‘testlets’ option is also a fantastic way to understand what students have yet to learn in a targeted area.** Finally, the BEACON Educator Instructional Strategies (BEIS) provides guidance to reach the next learning standard.

A core foundation of formative assessment practices in online professional learning (FIP) is collecting, analyzing, and using evidence of student learning. Evidence and your feedback, combine to move student learning forward and support school and district-wide improvement planning. A vision for assessment that includes planning to use BEACON as part of your assessment vision will help you and your students meet the targets you set.

### BEACON Seasons

The establishment of the DRC BEACON administration window is across three main administration seasons. Therefore, considering these seasons ensures growth scores are available.



When a group of students tests across two seasons, problems occur with understanding the data. For example, Happy Day Elementary has set a BEACON testing window the week of November 28 – December 2. This window is problematic for comparative work when scores for some students take BEACON November 28-30 (Fall Season) and the remaining students take it December 1-2 (Winter Season).

While the season has no impact on when you can assess, it is important to pay attention when setting testing windows in your district or school if you are planning to use growth or comparative data.

All BEACON Professional Learning webinar registration links, webinar recordings, and associated presentation handouts for 2022-2023 will be available from the GaDOE Professional Learning Events Catalogue at: <http://login.community.gadoe.org/events>.

Dates	Assessment Tasks and Reminders
8/1/2022 – 6/30/2023	2022-2023 DRC BEACON Administration Window

Contacts:

- Missy Shealy, Assessment Specialist, [mshealy@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:mshealy@doe.k12.ga.us), 470-579-5393.
- Joe Blessing, Program Manager, [jblessing@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:jblessing@doe.k12.ga.us), 470-579-6326.
- Brian Collier, Assessment Specialist, [brian.collier@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:brian.collier@doe.k12.ga.us), 470-579-6355.

## Formative Instructional Practices (FIP)

### FIP Webinar on New Modules

Training will be held Thursday, October 13 at 10 a.m. to learn about the new series of FIP modules for 2022-2023. The series is *Assessment 101: Empowering Leaders and Teachers to Engage Parents in Student Learning*. These three online learning modules clarify the purpose, use, and users of formative and summative assessments.

The new modules explain and show how appropriate use of assessment results can significantly improve student learning outcomes. The Assessment 101 modules prepare educators to communicate more confidently and accurately about assessment with various stakeholders. Additionally, the series explains key assessments in the Georgia Student Assessment Program and how to communicate effectively and accurately when discussing assessment data with families and professional peers.

All FIP webinar registration links, webinar recordings, and associated presentation handouts for 2022-2023 will be available from the GaDOE Professional Learning

Events Catalogue at:  
<http://login.community.gadoe.org/events>.

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 GKIDS platform opened on Tuesday, July 5 and all STCs have accounts have been set up. STCs should ensure their school list is complete and accurate, and all school coordinators have GKIDS accounts.

Submit questions about uploading student rosters to the GKIDS support staff through the intercom chat feature.

Updated resources for the new school year are available on the [GKIDS Resources](#) page.

Teachers must complete **their students'** Readiness Check data entry by their district's Readiness Check closing date. Please note that the data entry feature will not be available after the window closes.

The next training is scheduled for Thursday, October 6 and will prepare districts and schools for the end of the GKIDS Readiness Check window.

Dates	Assessment Tasks and Reminders
7/5/2022 – 10/19/2022	GKIDS 2.0 Readiness Check Window
7/5/2022 – 5/15/2023	2022-2023 GKIDS 2.0 Platform Open

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

## Keenville

The Keens are super excited about the new school year and cannot wait to meet their new friends on Planet Peachy Keen!

For English Language Arts, in both grades 1 and 2, the Keens suggest assigning the following games:

- *Peachy Acres Farm* and *River Clean-Up* are fun, literary-based comprehension games focusing on the *Key Ideas and Details* strand within the *Reading Literary Domain*.

- For students not quite ready for reading comprehension games, *Museum of Mysteries*, *Harbor Phonics*, and *Peachling Playground* can be assigned to **assess your students'** phonics and word recognition skills.

For mathematics, the Keens recommend:

- For Grade 1, *Unit 1: Creating Routines Using Data – Cloud Hopper* and *Treat Factory*.
- For Grade 2, *Unit 1: Extending Base Ten Understanding – Cloud Hopper*, *Treat Factory*, *Peachling Café*, and *Peachling Gym*.

Remember, updated [Keenville Resources](#) are available on our website, including User Guides, Curriculum Maps, and Parent Guides.

The [2022-2023 Keenville Teacher & Leader Training Course](#) is also available in SLDS within Georgia Learns and optional training checklists for [new](#) and [returning](#) users are available on our website.

Dates	Assessment Tasks and Reminders
8/1/2022 – 6/30/2023	2022-2023 Keenville Administration Window

For functionality and technical support, please contact [keenvillesupport@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:keenvillesupport@doe.k12.ga.us).

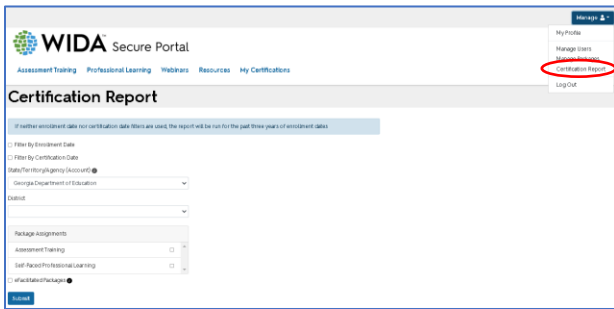
Contacts:

- Lisa Hardman, Assessment Specialist,  
[lhardman@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:lhardman@doe.k12.ga.us), 470-579-6354.
- Tiffani Taylor, Assessment Specialist,  
[tiffani.taylor@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:tiffani.taylor@doe.k12.ga.us), 470-763-1081.

## ACCESS for ELLs

### ACCESS Training

On Thursday, September 1, WIDA ACCESS for ELLs and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs assessment training courses changed to the 2022-2023 administration year. The WIDA Secure Portal houses all ACCESS for ELLs training courses Test Administrators need to complete to be eligible to administer ACCESS for ELLs and Alternate ACCESS. STCs can verify Test Administrators have completed requisite WIDA Assessment training by inputting the appropriate date and assessment training filters and running a certification report from the Manage tab in the WIDA Secure Portal.



New and veteran STCs should view the Welcome Back: Webinar on Tuesday, September 13. This webinar gives valuable information regarding changes for the 2022-2023 school year. Webinar links are available in the [WIDA Secure Portal](#).

## ACCESS Accessibility and Accommodations Manual (AAM)

The new [AAM](#) details the accommodations, universal tools, and administrative considerations available to students taking ACCESS for ELLs. Members of English Learner Tet Participation Committees and IEP teams should review the AAM before selecting and documenting the accommodations to ensure each **student's specific accessibility needs** are addressed before testing.

## Consolidated Test Administrator Scripts

Educators will also find comprehensive transcription guidance (for braille, large print, and other accommodations) in the AAM. Stand-alone transcription guidance documents will no longer be sent in braille or large print kits. In addition, test administrator materials that were separate items in past years are now combined into one single consolidated test administrator script. Each script now includes the Human Reader Script, transcriber notes, and helpful tips about giving the braille form of the test.

## Braille Sample Test Items

STCs and ESOL Coordinators should work together to ensure EL students have appropriate test-taking experience and are provided test practice opportunities before taking the ACCESS. Braille sample items allow students to familiarize themselves with the type of questions they will find on the test.

This year, there are two ways to get sample items:

1. Each braille test kit will include sample items for the grade-level cluster and braille code STCs specified in their initial order. Each kit will also have a sample item user guide, so educators know how to use the sample items.
2. Sample items and sample item user guides will be on the WIDA website for STCs to download and print in September. Sample items include examples of what the tactile looks like so that educators can make a facsimile. If the sample item does not have a tactile, WIDA will post a Braille Ready Format (BRF) file that STCs can download and print.

## Alternate ACCESS Field Test: Frequently Asked Questions Part 2

Last month, we provided answers to questions around the Alternate Access Field Test including:

- When is the Alternate Access for ELLs Field Test?
- How will the training be conducted for the Alternate ACCESS Field Test?
- Who participates in the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Field Test?
- How do kindergarteners participate in the field test?
- How long will it take to administer the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Field Test?

This month, we are providing a few additional questions for you.

What is it? The Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Field Test is a one-time, paper-based test you will give in addition to the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs test you administer each year. The field test comprises newly developed test items and helps ensure those test items measure what they are intended to measure.

Why have a field test? The [Advancing ALTELLA](#) team is working hard to redesign Alternate ACCESS for ELLs, which includes expanding the test to cover kindergarten, and creating a brand-new alternate screener. You and your students need to vet these newly developed test items, which are aligned to the [WIDA ELD Standards Framework, 2020 Edition](#).

Who participates in the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Field Test? All students with the most significant cognitive disabilities in Grades K–12 who are eligible to take Alternate ACCESS for ELLs. Part of the WIDA and



the Advancing ALTELLA team’s test development work is to expand Alternate ACCESS for ELLs to include kindergarten, so we need kindergarteners to participate in the field test.

Where is the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Field Test? The field test takes place at every testing site in the WIDA Consortium that has students who are eligible to take Alternate ACCESS for ELLs.

How will my students and I benefit from the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Field Test? First, you reap the benefits of a brand-new alternate screener and a redesigned Alternate ACCESS for ELLs with a grade-level cluster that includes kindergarten. Additionally, all participating sites also get an advance copy of the WIDA Alternate Can Do Descriptors.

Is there a single place where I can find everything I need to know about the field test? The [Alternate ACCESS Field Test](#) webpage is *the* place to find general information on the field test, plus what district and school coordinators and test administrators need to know before, during, and after field testing.

### September WIDA Q&A Webinars

Please join WIDA and DRC to learn about the following topics:

- **Welcome Back: What’s New in 2022?**: Tuesday, September 13, 2-3 p.m. ET
- Pre-Testing: ACCESS for ELLs for New Test Administrators: Thursday, September 15, 2-3 p.m. ET
- Pre-Testing: ACCESS for ELLs for New District Test Coordinators: Tuesday, September 20, 2-3 p.m. ET
- Pre-Testing: Ordering Materials in WIDA AMS: Tuesday, September 27, 2-3 p.m. ET

More information and login details are available on the Webinars page in the [WIDA Secure Portal](#). You must login to the Secure Portal, view the webinar events and add them to your calendar.

**Can’t make it? The recordings for WIDA Q&A Webinars** are posted to the WIDA Secure Portal on the Webinars page within a week of the presentation.

Dates	Assessment Tasks and Reminders
September	Ensure students who have exited EL status in the past 2 years are coded as EL=1 or EL=2 in local SIS
September	Ensure identified EL students are coded as EL=Y in SIS
September	Create WIDA Secure Portal Accounts for ACCESS for ELLs and Alternate ACCESS Test Administrators/Examiners
September	Inform Test Administrators/ Examiners they must certify/recertify after September 1 to be eligible to administer WIDA ACCESS assessments
September	Review <a href="#">WIDA 2022-2023 Accessibility &amp; Accommodations Manual</a>
10/5/2022 – 11/21/2022	Test Materials Ordering Available in WIDA AMS.

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

### GAA 2.0 Training Series Scheduled

The GaDOE Assessment and DRC teams are providing a new training series to prepare STC, SchTCs, and Test Examiners for administering the GAA 2.0. This series begins Thursday, September 22, from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. and will present an overview of assessment protocols through the lens of a Test Examiner. The remaining sessions continue the discussion of simplifying the administration of the assessment and increasing **students’** engagement during testing.

Registration for this training, webinar recordings, and associated presentation handouts for 2022-2023 are available in the GaDOE Professional Learning Events Catalogue at: <http://login.community.gadoe.org/events>.

### GAA 2.0 Assessment Participation

Federal law, state law, and State Board of Education Rule require the participation of all students in state assessments. Students with disabilities in grades 3-8

and high school must participate in either the Georgia Milestones or GAA 2.0. The GAA 2.0 is intended for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities who are instructed based on alternate content standards. In high school, the assessment shall be administered for the first time in grade 11 and must occur before intended graduation. A student who repeats grade 11 is NOT required to participate in a second (or more) assessment using the GAA 2.0. A student who does not take the GAA 2.0 during grade 11 must participate before graduation.

### Achievement Level Descriptors

As a reminder, revisions were made to the 2022 GAA 2.0 high school assessment to include content only from the course in each content area for which assessment continues with Georgia Milestones (American Literature, Algebra I/Coordinate Algebra, Biology, and U.S. History). In July, we held a standards validation meeting to review cut scores for each achievement level. As a result, the existing cut scores received validation as appropriate for continued use on the revised high school assessment. Due to changes in test content, however, updates have been made to the High School [Achievement Level Descriptors](#) and the [Achievement Level Descriptors for Parents](#).

### GAA 2.0 Teacher Resource Guides

GAA 2.0 [Teacher Resource Guides](#) are now available. These content-specific guides are:

- a supplemental resource designed to acquaint Georgia educators and other stakeholders with the GAA 2.0 structure and test content;
- provided to complement other instructional resources developed by the local school district or the Special Education Division of the Georgia Department of Education; and
- not intended to replace the state-adopted content standards nor the Extended Content Standards.

As a reminder, the spring 2023 administration of the GAA 2.0 aligns with these [GAA 2.0 Test Blueprints](#). In addition, current [GAA-2.0 Extended Content Standards](#) and [Content Vocabulary Lists](#) are also available.

### October 2023-1 FTE Count

Local staff should report all (K-12) students instructed through alternate content standards (ACS) as “YES” for

the data element ACS during the October 2023-1 FTE Count. In addition, students enrolled in grades 3-11 should have IEP documentation of GAA 2.0 eligibility **and be reported as “YES” during the October 2023-1 FTE Count**. This information is used to ensure that teachers are appropriately certified to instruct students using an adapted curriculum and predict the number of student materials to print. Improper reporting may result in In-Field errors and delayed testing.

### GAA 2.0 Spring 2022 Scores

STCs and SchTCs can access GAA 2.0 Spring 2022 electronic score reports and data files in ServicePoint via Nextera Admin as outlined below:

[In ServicePoint via Nextera](#), ISRs, class rosters, summary reports, and district data files are available for grades 3-8.

- Spring 2022 ISRs are available by system and school in .pdf format
- Spring 2022 Class Rosters are available by system and school in .pdf format
- Spring 2022 Summary Reports — System and School — Population Summary Reports and Content Area Summary Reports are available for all content areas in .pdf format
- Spring 2022 System Data Files are available in .txt and .xlsx formats (includes data file layout)

### GAA 2.0 Braille Survey

Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) will distribute the GAA 2.0 Braille Survey to STCs in October to determine the number of GAA 2.0 Braille Booklets needed in each school district by grade. STCs must complete the survey by Friday, October 28. As a reminder, DRC was awarded the new contract for GAA 2.0.

Dates	Assessment Tasks and Reminders
September	Ensure students receiving instruction through alternate content standards AND who are eligible for GAA 2.0 are coded “Yes” in the ACS field in the local SIS.
September	Ensure GAA 2.0 Spring 2022 score reports have been downloaded from ServicePoint via Nextera
10/28/2022	Complete GAA 2.0 Braille Survey

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

## Georgia Milestones

### Reminders and Guidance

#### MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS ENROLLED IN HIGH SCHOOL COURSES

As a reminder, Grade 8 students enrolled in the high school Physical Science course shall participate in the high school Physical Science assessment. All other grade 8 students shall participate in the grade 8 science EOG assessment.

All middle school students enrolled in Algebra, Coordinate Algebra, Biology, American Literature, and/or U.S. History are required to take both the EOG and EOC as applicable. For these students, their participation and performance in the EOG are part of the accountability calculations for the middle school.

#### ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS TEST DESIGN

For 2022-2023, the test designs for all Georgia Milestones assessments will remain unchanged, with the exception of the field test design for English language arts.

The 2022-2023 Georgia Milestones English Language Arts test design includes the following:

- Section 1: Reading and Evidence-Based Writing
  - No changes. Students will continue to read two passages and respond to three selected-response items, one short constructed-response item (aligned to Reading standards), and one extended writing prompt.
- Section 2 and Section 3
  - NEW! Narrative writing will be assessed in Section 2 only.
  - NEW! Field-test narrative writing prompts will not be included.

Details regarding the Georgia Milestones test design are available in the [Assessment Guide](#) for each grade level or course, as well as in the [Test Blueprints](#) found on the [Georgia Milestones Resources](#) webpage.

#### FORMULA SHEETS, REFERENCE SHEETS, AND WRITER'S CHECKLIST

Updated formula sheets, reference sheets, and writer's checklists are available on the [Georgia Milestones Resources](#) webpage. These resources are provided to students during testing in both the online testing platform and the printed test booklet. They may be printed from the Georgia Milestones Resources webpage for instructional use during the school year, **but MAY NOT be used during testing sessions for any purpose.**

#### NEW CALCULATOR POLICY

- Allowable Calculators – End of Grade
  - Grades 3-5 – No Calculators Allowed
  - Grades 6-7 – Scientific or basic four-function calculator with square root and percentage functions allowed
  - Grade 8 – Graphing calculator or Scientific
  - HS Physical Science (Grade 8 only) – Scientific or basic calculator with square root and percentage functions allowed
- Allowable Calculators – End of Course
  - Coordinate Algebra – Graphing calculator or Scientific
  - Algebra I – Graphing calculator or Scientific

All grades 6 – high school test takers should receive training in the use of the online Desmos Calculator embedded in the practice tests or at <https://www.desmos.com/testing/Georgia>.

### EOC 2022 Winter Main/2023 Spring Mid-Month Training

Test Set-Up and Pre-Administration training for the EOC Winter Main and 2023 Spring Mid-Month administrations will be held on Tuesday, October 11.

All training registration links, webinar recordings, and associated presentation handouts for 2022-2023 will be available from the GaDOE Professional Learning Events Catalogue at: <http://login.community.gadoe.org/events>.

### DRC INSIGHT Platform Reminders

#### USER MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

GaDOE Assessment Specialists will notify DRC of primary STCs designated by Superintendents in the Primary Role Management application in the MyGaDOE Portal for new administrations.

STCs are responsible for managing district and school users as follows:

- Adding new users.
- Managing existing users by providing access and permissions to new administrations.
- Inactivating all users who no longer require access to the portal.

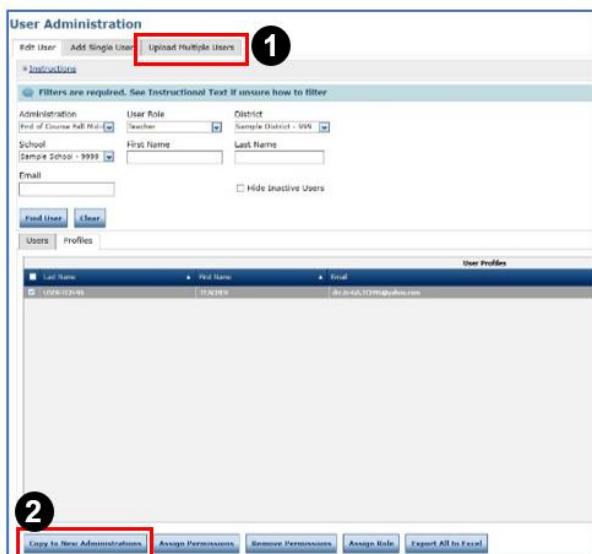
Recommendations for Managing Existing Users

Option 1: Upload Multiple Users

- Mass upload new users or mass assign users to a new administration.

Option 2: Copy Users to New Administration


- Individually or mass assign existing users to a new administration.

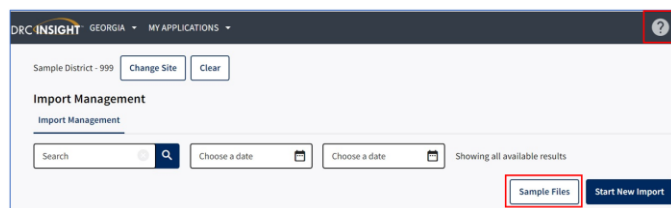


IMPORT MANAGEMENT

Use Import Management to upload:

- Participants and Registrations (MSU layout)
- Accommodations
- Rosters

Before uploading new files, view the sample files and layouts available through Online Help  or by clicking Sample Files.



Online Help and Sample Files link to the Online Help results with step-by-step instructions, including links to the sample file and layout instructions. When accessing Online Help, select the import type to access the related instructions.

TEACHER REPORT ACCESS

As of July 15, all 2021-2022 Rosters were removed from DRC INSIGHT Portal.

For 2022-2023 teacher report access, Test Coordinators must add new or existing teacher users to new administration(s). Participants and rosters must be imported or manually created. The Test Coordinator must deactivate all teacher users who no longer require access to reports.

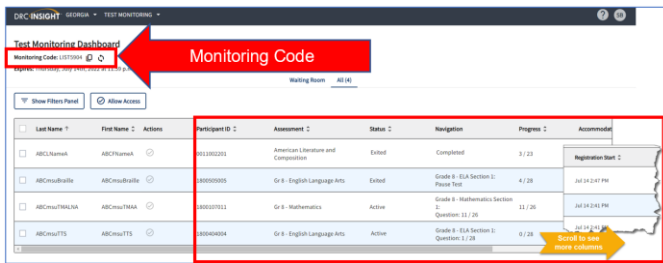
TEST MONITORING APPLICATION

The Test Monitoring application uses a Monitoring Code to assign a participant's test session to the SchTC who provides the monitoring code to test examiners through a secure exchange. The SchTC can monitor, in real-time, student's progress in active testing sessions. Test monitors for DRC BEACON may be test examiners if test examiners are able to create test sessions.

Test Monitoring Application is required for Georgia Milestones and optional for DRC BEACON.

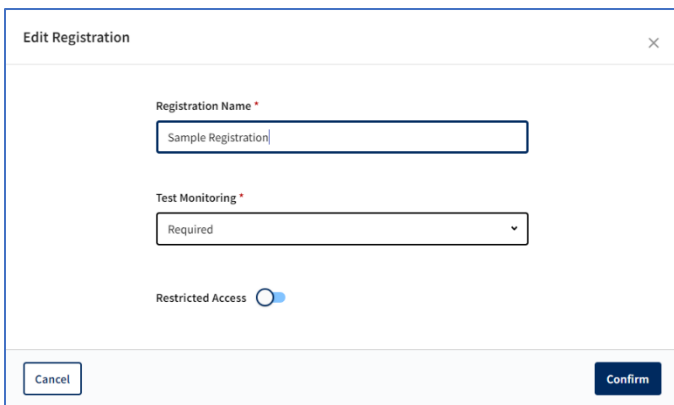
The use of this application offers several benefits:

- Securely monitor testing progress in near real-time:
  - Number of items answered
  - Testing Status – Active, Paused, Exited
- Restricted access option provides ability to control when students start tests.
- More proactive, allowing STC or SchTCs to deal with testing issues during testing.
  - Minimizes testing irregularities
  - Minimizes number of locked tests.
- Monitoring Code is secure; STC or SchTCs provide it to examiners, and students' test tickets do not include it.
- Displays applicable accommodations per participant.



Fall Mid-Month EOC administrations are automatically set to Restricted Access for test monitoring and will not show an option for Not Restricted Access.

Please review the [Training Video](#) for more details.



ACCOMMODATIONS IMPORT FILE

Batch uploading student accommodations is now available on DRC INSIGHT. The Accommodations Import provides an alternative to manually assigning and editing accommodations. If used, the Accommodation Import should be uploaded before the MSU so that the session set-up process can incorporate the accommodation information. STCs can review the Fall Test Setup [webinar](#) or visit [DRC's Online Help to learn more about this option](#). If you need assistance uploading your accommodations file, contact DRC Customer Service at (866) 282-2249 or [gahelpdesk@datarecognitioncorp.com](mailto:gahelpdesk@datarecognitioncorp.com).

Reporting

PDF REPORT PHASE OUT

GaDOE will begin phasing out the PDF reports that are posted to the MyGaDOE Portal and Batch Download and Report Delivery To streamline and simplify report dissemination. Therefore, the 2022-2023 school year will be the last year we will generate the PDF reports; however, all the information provided on the reports will continue to be available on the Interactive Reporting system.

District and school leaders, and even teachers, can navigate through the user-friendly dashboard tabs (Class Roster, Content Area Summary, Domain Summary, and Demographic Summary) to find the information they need whenever they need it. Moreover, to ensure users always have access to the most current information, the data in the dashboard will updated seamlessly as more tests are scored.

The PDF report phaseout plan exception is the Individual Student Report (ISR), which will continue to be created and made available to users via the *Batch Download* and *Report Delivery* tabs on the Interactive Reporting system. Likewise, system-level data files will continue to be created and made available on the *Report Delivery* tab and in the MyGaDOE Portal (final data file only).

Districts and school leaders who currently use the PDF reports should use this school year to explore what the Interactive Reporting system offers and develop alternate plans for retrieving needed data. In addition, they are encouraged to utilize the teacher-level reporting functionality as a method for easy and timely dissemination of teacher-level reports.

MULTIPLE STUDENT UPLOAD (MSU) AND TEACHER REPORTING

Teacher-level reporting is now available for all EOC and EOG administrations on the DRC INSIGHT Interactive Reporting platform. Districts wishing to take advantage of this functionality will need to transmit two additional data import files (i.e., in addition to the MSU):

- Batch User
- Roster

Note that the three files must be uploaded in the following order: Batch User, MSU, and Roster. Uploading the Roster file after testing is acceptable. However, *the Batch User and MSU files must occur before testing*.

In the Batch User file, teachers must be identified with the role of “teacher”. **After the Batch User File is uploaded, districts must assign teachers the “teacher” permissions-set in DRC INSIGHT.** When reporting starts, teachers can only access the reports of students associated with them in the Roster file. If no Roster file is uploaded, or does not include a teacher, they will not



have access to student reports even if the Batch User file establishes them as a teacher.

We encourage districts to try out this teacher-level reporting functionality as a method for easy

dissemination of teacher-level reports. If you need assistance getting started, review the Fall Test Setup [webinar](#) or contact your assessment specialist or DRC Customer Service at (866) 282-2249 or [gahelpdesk@datarecognitioncorp.com](mailto:gahelpdesk@datarecognitioncorp.com).

Dates	Georgia Milestones Tasks and Reminders
September	Update the District Testing Plan for 2022-2023
September	Assign new permissions for Fall Mid-Month and Winter Main 2022 to relevant personnel in DRC INSIGHT
September	Ensure schools are processing August Mid-Month score reports
September	Ensure all August Mid-Month irregularities were submitted in the MyGaDOE Portal
September	Begin preparing district trainings for Winter EOC
September	Review 22-23 updates in the Student Assessment Handbook
September	Assign the updated Georgia Milestones Test Coordinator Training Course in Georgia Learns to School Test Coordinators
7/18/2022 – 11/23/2022	Fall MM EOC Test Setup Window
9/6/2022 – 9/16/2022	September 2022 Mid-Month EOC Testing Window
10/3/2022 – 1/13/2023	Winter 2022 EOC Test Setup Window
10/10/2022 – 10/21/2022	October 2022 Mid-Month EOC Testing Window
11/7/2022 – 11/18/2022	November 2022 Mid-Month EOC Testing Window
11/28/2022 – 1/6/2023	EOC Winter 2022 Main Administration

Contacts:

- Joe Blessing, Program Manager, [jblessing@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:jblessing@doe.k12.ga.us), 470-579-6326.
- Brian Collier, Assessment Specialist, [brian.collier@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:brian.collier@doe.k12.ga.us), 470-579-6355.
- Missy Shealy, Assessment Specialist, [mshealy@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:mshealy@doe.k12.ga.us), 470-579-5393.

## NAEP/NCES

Districts and schools selected the 2022-2023 assessments have received notification. The first set of selected schools will have students in the Age 13 Long Term Trend (LTT) assessment, whose window is Monday, October 10 through Friday, December 16. SchTCs will receive detailed instructions and guidance for completing the required tasks.

The state will release results from the spring 2022 assessment in the early fall. Reading and math scores for grades 4 and 8 and questionnaire answers will be summarized and shared after the public release.

Dates	Assessment Tasks and Reminders
10/3/2022 – 11/25/2022	NAEP – PISA Administration Window ( <i>selected schools</i> )
10/10/2022 – 12/16/2022	NAEP – Age 13 Long-term Trend ( <i>selected schools</i> )

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

## Accountability Update

Thank you for your hard work in completing the CCRPI applications that closed in August.

Please contact the GaDOE [accountability specialist](#) assigned to assist your district with any questions or

concerns. In addition, your district accountability Point of Contact gains critical information each month at the Accountability Lunch and Learns and is another good resource for you.

## GaDOE Professional Learning Events Catalogue for September-November 2022\*

Are you looking for professional learning opportunities to support educator practice? Visit the [GaDOE Professional Learning Events catalogue](#) to view upcoming virtual webinars, webinar recordings, in-person events, on-demand content, and by-request workshop opportunities. Email Dawn Ashmore at [dashmore@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:dashmore@doe.k12.ga.us) for additional information about the PL catalogue.

All training STC training sessions are Microsoft Teams webinars. Please register with your district email address for the webinar in the [GaDOE Professional Learning Events](#) catalogue or in the link found in the table below. Once registered, an email is sent from Microsoft Teams, [noreply@teams.registration.microsoft.com](mailto:noreply@teams.registration.microsoft.com), allowing you to add the webinar to your calendar.

\*Conference and training session dates and times are subject to change.

### Required Assessment Training Webinars

Date	Title <a href="http://login.community.gadoe.org/events">http://login.community.gadoe.org/events</a>	Time	Intended Audience
9/22/2022	<a href="#">GAA 2.0 Online Administration and Response Entry Overview</a>	10 a.m. – 12 p.m.	STCs, SchTCs, Special Ed Directors
10/6/2022	<a href="#">GKIDS 2.0 Readiness Check Reporting</a>	2 – 3:30 p.m.	STCs, SchTCs
10/11/2022	<a href="#">GA Milestones Test Setup &amp; Pre-Administration EOC Winter 2022/Spring 2023 Mid-Month</a>	10 a.m. – 12 p.m.	STCs, SchTCs
11/17/2022 (Updated)	<a href="#">ACCESS for ELLs – Pre-Administration and Test Integrity</a>	10 – 11:30 a.m.	STCs, SchTCs, ESOL Coordinators

### Optional Assessment Meetings

Date	Title (Registration link in Assessment Update notification email)	Time	Intended Audience
9/9/2022	Assessment Lunch and Learn	12 – 1 p.m.	STCs
10/14/2022	Assessment Lunch and Learn	12 – 1 p.m.	STCs
10/28/2022	Assessment Office Hours – Focus on Best Practices Using the Test Monitoring Application	10 – 10:30 a.m.	STCs
11/18/2022	Assessment Lunch and Learn	12 – 1 p.m.	STCs

### DRC BEACON Courses

Date	Title <a href="http://login.community.gadoe.org/events">http://login.community.gadoe.org/events</a>	Time	Intended Audience
11/10/2022	<a href="#">Using DRC BEACON to Inform Instruction</a>	10 – 12 p.m.	STCs, SchTCs

## FIP Courses

Date	Title <a href="http://login.community.gadoe.org/events">http://login.community.gadoe.org/events</a>	Time	Intended Audience
10/13/2022	<a href="#">Overview of New FIP PL Courses – Assessment 101: Empowering Leaders and Teachers to Engage Parents in Student Learning.</a>	10 – 11 a.m.	STCs, District Leaders, School Leaders, RESAs
11/16/2022	<a href="#">FIP for Instructional Improvement Planning</a>	10 – 11 a.m.	STCs, District Leaders, School Leaders, RESAs

## Georgia Milestones Courses

Title <a href="http://login.community.gadoe.org/events">http://login.community.gadoe.org/events</a>	Intended Audience
<a href="#">Introduction to Reading and Evidence-Based Writing, Gr 3-12</a>	Grades 3-12 ELA Teachers, Instructional Coaches, Assistant Principals, Principals, Literacy Coordinators
<a href="#">Examining the Opinion Essay, Gr 3-5</a>	
<a href="#">Examining the Argumentative Essay, Gr 6-HS</a>	
<a href="#">Examining the Informative/Explanatory Essay, Gr 3-HS</a>	
<a href="#">Best Practices for Narrative Writing, Gr 3-12</a>	
<a href="#">Narrative Writing on Georgia Milestone, Gr 3-12</a>	
<a href="#">Using Description in Narrative Writing, Gr 3-5</a>	
<a href="#">Using Description in Narrative Writing, Gr 6-8</a>	
<a href="#">Using Description in Narrative Writing, American Literature</a>	

## Georgia Learns Courses

The document linked here, [How to Access Georgia Learns](#), contains information and screenshots to assist educators in accessing courses in Georgia Learns.

## Assessment Coordinator Courses

Date	Title	Time	Intended Audience
Available Course	Georgia Milestones School Test Coordinator Course	24/7	STC, SchTC
Coming Soon	Georgia Milestones Test Examiner Course	24/7	STC, SchTC, Test Examiners
Coming Soon	Accessibility and Accommodations for Testing Course	24/7	STC, SchTC, Special Education Directors, ESOL Directors