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Online Georgia Assessment and Training Calendar

Policy Update

Updated Georgia Milestones Coming in 2020-2021!

At Winter GAEL 2020, Superintendent Woods announced that the Georgia Department of Education is beginning the process of updating the Georgia Milestones Assessment System to reduce the amount of time students spend on end-of-year statewide summative assessments beginning with the 2020-2021 school year. The goal of these updates is to reduce time spent on summative testing and return that time to instruction and formative feedback.

These updates do not substantively change the Georgia Milestones test design. Students will continue to have the same, but shortened, testing experience. Year-to-year comparability of results will not be impacted.

REDUCING TESTING TIME

To reduce the amount of time students spend on end-of-year Georgia Milestones assessments, we will 1) replace all constructed-response items with technology-enhanced items in mathematics in all grades and courses, 2) replace *some* constructed-response items with technology-enhanced items in ELA in all grades and courses, 3) reduce the total number of points in science and social studies in all grades and courses, and 4) eliminating norm-referenced items in all grades and courses.

In mathematics, technology-enhanced items will replace all constructed-response items. In ELA, given the importance of student writing, Section 1 (Reading and Evidence-Based Writing) and the Narrative Writing Prompt will remain unchanged. Two-point constructed-response items in Sections 2 and 3 (which assess reading comprehension) will be replaced with technology-enhanced items.

These updates will decrease the amount of time a student spends testing by approximately 30 minutes in ELA and 40 minutes each in mathematics, science, and social studies. This means students in grades 5 and 8 will save approximately 2½ hours while students in other grade levels will save approximately 70 minutes.

ENHANCING ELA REPORTING

In addition to this reduction in testing time, additional enhancements are coming in 2020-2021! Georgia educators have long expressed the need for more granular reporting of student performance on the ELA assessments, as current reporting includes only two categories: 1) Reading and Vocabulary and 2) Writing and Language. In 2020-2021, we will enhance ELA reporting to include five categories: 1) Key Ideas and Details, 2) Craft and Structure/Integration of Knowledge and Ideas, 3) Vocabulary Acquisition and Use, 4) Writing, and 5) Language. Reading and Vocabulary performance will also be reported by Reading Informational Text and Reading Literary Text.

INTRODUCING INTERACTIVE REPORTING

In Spring 2021, an interactive reporting tool will be utilized to return Georgia Milestones results and allow educators to analyze results in real time. Initially, class rosters and individual student reports will be made available to district- and school-level educators through the Interactive Reporting tab on the INSIGHT platform based on roles and permissions. Additional features and functionality will be phased in over a two-year period for Spring 2021 and Spring 2022.

TIMELINE

These updates will begin with the EOC Winter Administration next school year (2020-2021). Fall 2020 mid-month administrations will not include these updates. More details will be provided in the coming months. We appreciate your continued partnership and feedback as we work toward refining Georgia Milestones to minimize student time spent on summative testing, maintain the technical quality of Georgia Milestones, and enhance the utility of data for educators.

Contact: Allison Timberlake, Ph.D., Deputy Superintendent for Assessment & Accountability, atimberlake@doe.k12.ga.us, 404-463-6666.

Assessment Updates

Superintendent Test Certification

Recently, a notice was sent to System Test Coordinators (STCs) as a reminder to complete the Superintendent Test Certification form in the MyGaDOE portal. To date, quite a few districts and charters have completed this process. Please review your submission to ensure the form is in **Approved** status. This means your Superintendent has reviewed and **Approved** the form. If your form is marked as **In Process** or **Submitted**, the process is not complete. During the first week of February, additional reminder emails will go to those districts still showing as **In Process** or **Submitted**.

The Superintendent Test Certification is a required form for all districts and charters that have **completed** any Summer or Fall Mid-Month Administrations of the End-of-Course Georgia Milestones or NAEP assessments ONLY between July 1, 2019 and December 31, 2020.

Contact: Sandy Greene, Ed.D., Director of Assessment Administration, sgreene@doe.k12.ga.us, 404-656-0478.

Test Development

Thank you to all districts who nominated educators for the upcoming Georgia Milestones and GAA 2.0 test development meetings. All nominees will receive an email request to submit an application for participation. In this application, nominees will provide more information regarding teaching experience and availability to participate in the upcoming meetings. **Please note** these emails will be sent from the meeting planning platform (CVENT). Nominees may need to check their Clutter, Junk, and/or Spam folders.

Meeting invitations will be sent on a rolling basis, throughout March and April, and specific meeting details will be provided at that time. Invited educators must confirm acceptance of the invitation and will be provided instructions to do so. In the event an educator declines an invitation, does not respond, or cancels prior to the meeting, an alternate will be selected from the nominee pool.

Certain expenses are covered for meeting participants, including the following:

- Mileage will be reimbursed for travel to/from the meeting location.
- Breakfast and lunch are provided at the meeting.
- Hotel accommodations and dinner reimbursement are provided for eligible participants (per state travel regulations).
- If applicable, the local school/system will be reimbursed for the cost of providing a substitute.
- During the summer months, an honorarium is offered for teachers not under contract.

Contact: Jan Reyes, Ed.D., Director of Assessment Development, jreyes@doe.k12.ga.us, 404-463-6665.

ACCESS for ELLs 2.0

Data Validation Process

The data validation process is an opportunity for STCs and their ESOL colleagues to ensure student demographics, accommodation, test results, and records are accurate before final data files and paper reports are produced. This process is accomplished in two phases in Georgia.

Phase I: Pre-reporting data validation occurs before initial reporting and impacts reports (both printed and posted in WIDA AMS) and data files.

Phase II: Post-reporting data validation occurs after reports and data files have been posted to WIDA AMS. Any changes made in post-reporting data validation result in delivery of new data files and new electronic (PDF) reports.

Before beginning the Data Validation process, WIDA recommends test coordinators review the Data Validation tutorial, located in the ACCESS for ELLs for Grades 1-12 training courses, and the WIDA AMS User Guide Supplement for Data Validation, which has been posted to the WIDA Secure Portal Download Library.

Data Validation Requirements and Tips

- Determine how data for all students will be reviewed and validated.
  - o Typically, Data Validation is completed by the STC. DRC automatically assigns the Data

Validation permission — Correction Primary Window — to the STC, who may pass these permissions on to School Coordinators, Test Administrators, or other trained designees.
  - o STC and their designees should review the *WIDA Assessment Management System (WIDA AMS) User Guide Supplement: Data Validation*. This manual identifies the steps needed to correct a student's record.
- Ensure the Birthdate field is complete and accurate for ALL student records.
- Ensure the accommodation for each domain in which it was used by the student is accurate.
  - o If an embedded accommodation was not marked in WIDA AMS prior to a student beginning a test, they were not available during testing. Do not select accommodations that were no available to the student during test administration.
- Ensure the Do Not Score Codes were properly completed on the student answer document or in WIDA AMS.
  - o If these codes are marked on a student's answer document or in WIDA AMS by mistake, the student will not receive a score in this area.
- Check for Duplicate Records.
  - o DRC can only match test records if the district code, school code, GTID, first six characters of last name, first six characters of first name, and grade match. If a DRC was able to match records, that will be displayed during Data Validation.
- Mark each record complete and save changes.
  - o STCs should verify that all student records have been checked in WIDA AMS. Staff should mark each record complete during the data validation process as the records are validated.

Additional Materials Ordering

STCs must place additional materials orders (AMO) at the district level in WIDA AMS. STCs should use the **District-level Additional Orders Only** site to place their AMOs. Additional guidance on placing AMOs can be found on the Tips for Placing Your Additional Materials Order flyer in the WIDA Secure Portal Download Library.

Return of Grade 1-3 Writing Test Materials

WIDA requests that districts return Grades 1-3 Writing Test Booklets as early as possible. Remember, you do not need to wait until the end of the assessment window to prepare and return these materials.

Contact: Mary Nesbit-McBride, Ph.D., Assessment Specialist, mnesbit@doe.k12.ga.us, 404-232-1207.

Georgia Alternate Assessment 2.0

Nextera Admin Login Credentials

Questar emailed Nextera Admin login credentials to new STCs on January 28. These credentials allow STCs to download Questar's Secure Browser and assign user roles and responsibilities for other district users. The roles in Nextera include STC, STC Assistant, School Test Coordinator, Building Level User, Test Examiner, and District and School Information Technology Coordinators. Veteran STCs should be able to use their existing credentials.

School Test Coordinator Roles

STCs must have a School Test Coordinator account for every school that is administering the GAA 2.0. STCs must decide if they designate another staff person as the School Test Coordinator for each school. If the answer is "yes," the STC will need create a School Test Coordinator account in Nextera Admin for their designee. If the answer is "no," the STC can call Questar Customer Support to request a role for whichever schools the STC requires. Or, the STC can add a second account as a School Test Coordinator to themselves by following the steps in the *Adding a Second User Account Quick Reference Guide* or in the *Nextera Guide to Preparing for Assessments*.

To facilitate the decision-making process, STCs should review the GAA 2.0 Spring 2020 Nextera Training Webinar FAQ document posted to the GAA 2.0 webpage and the Nextera Training presentation. The FAQ document contains responses to questions raised during the Nextera Training webinar.

School test coordinators must work with Test Examiners to enter LCI information and verify student

demographics. You will receive an email with the URL, and your user ID and a temporary password from Questar once the site opens on February 11.

STCs have access to the *Nextera Setup & Installation Guide*, so they can familiarize themselves with the processes for installing the secure browser.

Please remember that the webinars for pre-administration and Nextera review will be held on February 18 and 20 (Corrected).

Test Examiner Responsibilities

Test Examiners do not have roles in Nextera Admin. Examiners' main responsibilities are to administer the assessment and to enter student responses into the Nextera Test Delivery System. Test Examiners may work with School Test Coordinators to confirm student demographic information.

Post-Training Survey

Please use the following link to complete an optional post-training survey so we may use your feedback to improve the training experience for yourself or others in the future: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QS9GY6Z.

Contact: Mary Nesbit-McBride, Ph.D., Assessment Specialist, mnesbit@doe.k12.ga.us, 404-232-1207.

Georgia Milestones Assessment System

Scoring and Reporting

FINAL REPORTS

Fall Mid-Month 2019 and Winter 2019 EOC final reports and data files will be available in eDIRECT and/or the MyGaDOE Portal by Friday, February 7. Print copies of ISRs and student labels should arrive in districts no later than February 21.

IMPORTANT: All summary data (school, system, and state) appearing on your final reports are embargoed until results are publicly released by the state and posted to our website.

Content Management

Test content must be downloaded to the COS Service Device for each administration of the Georgia Milestones. Content Management check boxes are

available now for Spring and Summer EOG and EOC. If the test content isn't downloaded, students will be unable to test. It can take over an hour + (depending on network, bandwidth, # of COS SDs, etc.) to download content, so it is critical that this is done before the first day of testing. Content will update automatically when available. Please do not select VSL files if VSL is not needed. VSL content takes the majority of time for downloading.

The process for downloading content is:
1. Log into https://ga.drcedirect.com/
2. Go to Central Office.
3. Choose "Georgia" from the Testing Program drop-down and your location from the Site drop-down.
4. From the Configurations tab, choose your desired configuration and click Content Management to display the Content Management page.
5. Verify the following content checkboxes are selected. If a checkbox is not selected, check the box.
   a. EGA025 End-of-Grade Spring 2020
   b. EGA026 End-of-Grade Summer Retest 2020
   c. EGA035 End-of-Course Spring 2020
   d. EGA036 End-of-Course Summer 2020
6. Use the available checkboxes to select accommodations TTS/HVA (Text to Speech/Human Voice Audio) and/or VSL (Video Sign Language).
7. To save your changes, click Update Configuration.

Content Management	Yes		
☑	**Admin**	**TTS/HVA**	**VSL**
☑	EGA025 End-of-Grade Spring 2020	☑	☑
☑	EGA026 End-of-Grade Summer Retest 2020	☑	☑
☑	EGA035 End-of-Course Spring 2020	☑	☑
☑	EGA036 End-of-Course Summer 2020	☑	☑

Note: Selecting the content or accommodations will not automatically download content. Selecting checkboxes will make content download immediately before testing when it is available.

The Text to Speech (TTS) and Video Sign Language (VSL) content options include large files. Do not select these unless this content is needed.

Contacts:
Taiesha Adams, Ed.D., Assessment Specialist, taadams@doe.k12.ga.us, 404-656-5975.
Joe Blessing, Program Manager, jblessing@doe.k12.ga.us, 404-232-1208.

NAEP/NCES

The Long-Term Trend (LTT) assessment window for schools whose 9-year-olds are testing ends March 13.

The NAEP Questions Tool is a resource that houses released questions from previous NAEP assessments, shows actual student responses, and includes performance data for the questions. Multiple choice and constructed responses items are included in this tool. https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/nqt/

Contact: Bobbie Bable, Assessment Specialist, bbable@doe.k12.ga.us, 404-657-6168.

GKIDS 2.0 and GKIDS Readiness Check

Mid-year Checkpoint Training

When: February 11 and February 19 (live Repeat)

Links: Key Training Dates

Audience: District-level staff, STCs, and Instructional Coaches

This presentation will provide information for district staff in utilizing current data and reports to support principals and kindergarten teachers in making decisions regarding their students. A brief overview of the GKIDS platform, releasing and acquiring students, re-assigning GNETS students, accessing and reading the available reports, and planning final instruction/rating for the students will be included.

Platform questions: Intercom Live Chat Feature or GCA, 888-392-8977

Contact: Bobbie Bable, Assessment Specialist, bbable@doe.k12.ga.us, 404-657-6168.

Keenville

The Keens and Peachlings LOVE helping Georgia's first and second grade students grow and learn important reading and math skills.

Visit keenville.gadoe.org for more information!

Contact: Lisa Hardman, Assessment Specialist, lhardman@doe.k12.ga.us, 404-651-9405.

Formative Instructional Practices (FIP)

Enrolling in, completing, and planning use of FIP course practices directly relates to developing a supportive learning environment. A supportive learning environment means the district office and schools are organized in ways that intentionally facilitate students' participation in school and their willingness to expend effort for their own learning. This also means professional learning is planned for this purpose.

One of the four core components of FIP is that students are directly involved in their learning during the lesson and this involvement is planned by the teacher *and* students. Student involvement takes place by using multiple forms of self, peer and teacher feedback about learning progress. Teachers are not the only experts in a well-designed plan for developing student ownership of learning. FIP Course FP005 is *Fostering Student*

Ownership of Learning and it shows educators *how to* help students take an active part in the lesson.

One simple FIP practice to gather information from students about their understanding of a lesson is to use a self-analysis scale that students can check, circle and/or write to indicate how secure they are with learning. This type of information is extremely useful to appropriately plan the next lesson to address misunderstandings or to accelerate learning. Consider how FIP online learning courses can support your district and school improvement efforts and share this resource with your colleagues.

Task MGSE2.NBT.4	Use > or < to compare the numbers below. Write your answers in the space. 6___2 21___23 130___125 172___180
0	I don't know what to do.
1	I can tell you where I need help.
2	I can do it and can help my classmates.

Contact: Kelli Harris-Wright, Assessment Specialist, kharris-wright@doe.k12.ga.us, 404-463-5047.

Accountability Update

If you have questions about the CCRPI, please contact the accountability specialist at the GaDOE assigned to work with your district or consult the accountability and the CCRPI Resources for Educators webpages.

Key Training Dates for February-April 2020

*Please note: for all GoToWebinar meeting links below, if the meeting date has passed, the meeting link will take you to the recording. Meeting links are embedded within the title.

Assessment Training

Date	Title	Time
2/14/2020	February 2020 Assessment Lunch and Learn	12 – 1 p.m.
3/13/2020	March 2020 Assessment Lunch and Learn	12 – 1 p.m.

ACCESS for ELLs* WIDA Webinars indicate Central Time. Note Eastern Times below.

Date	Title	Time
2/6/2020	During Testing: Monitoring Completion for Test Coordinators (Online)	12 – 1 p.m. ET

Date	Title	Time
3/4/2020	Post-Testing: Data Validation	2 – 3 p.m. ET
3/12/2020	Post-Testing: Interpreting Score Reports	12 – 1 p.m. ET

GAA 2.0

Date	Title	Time
2/18/2020	GAA 2.0 Pre-Administration	10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
2/20/2020	GAA 2.0 Pre-Administration – Live Repeat	2 – 4 p.m.

GKIDS 2.0

Date	Title	Time
Currently Available	GKIDS 2.0 Version 2 Training Modules Available via SLDS; information found on the GKIDS 2.0, Resources webpage	24/7
2/11/2020	GKIDS 2.0 Mid-Administration Training	2:30 – 3:30 p.m.
2/19/2020	GKIDS 1.0 Mid-Administration Training – Live Repeat	9 – 10 a.m.

Georgia Milestones

Date	Title	Time
2/11/2020	INSIGHT/eDIRECT Training	10 – 11:30 a.m.
2/13/2020	INSIGHT/eDIRECT Training – Live Repeat	1 – 2:30 p.m.
2/25/2020	Spring/Summer 2020 EOG & EOC Pre-Administration	10 – 11:30 a.m.
2/27/2020	Spring/Summer 2020 EOG & EOC Pre-Administration – Live Repeat	1 – 2:30 p.m.
3/3/2020	Spring/Summer 2020 EOC & EOG Online Test Set-Up Training	10 – 11:30 a.m.
3/5/2020	Spring/Summer 2020 EOC & EOG Online Test Set-Up Training – Live Repeat	1 – 2:30 p.m.

Key Assessment Tasks and Reminders

ACCESS for ELs

Dates	Assessment Tasks and Reminders
12/5/2019 – 3/6/2020	WIDA AMS Test Setup Available for Test Sessions
1/6/2020 – 2/28/2020	Additional Materials Window
1/15/2020 – 3/6/2020	ACCESS for ELs 2.0/Alternate ACCESS Administration Window
4/6/2020 – 4/17/2020	Pre-Reporting Data Validation Window

GAA 2.0

Dates	Assessment Tasks and Reminders
3/9/2020	GAA 2.0 Materials Arrive in Districts
3/9/2020 – 4/28/2020	Additional Materials Window
3/23/2020 – 5/1/2020	GAA 2.0 Administration Window
5/11/2020	Deadline to Return all Materials

GKIDS 2.0

Dates	Assessment Tasks and Reminders
7/8/2019 – 5/18/2020	GKIDS Administration Window

Georgia Milestones

Dates	Assessment Tasks and Reminders
9/23/2019 – 5/1/2020	Secure Practice Test with Response Transmission is available
1/2/2020 – 3/27/2020	eDIRECT Test Setup Open for Spring 2020 Mid-Month
2/10/2020 – 2/21/2020	EOC February 2020 Mid-Month Administration
3/9/2020 – 3/20/2020	EOC March 2020 Mid-Month Administration
4/6/2020 – 5/15/2020	EOG Spring 2020 Main Administration
4/20/2020 – 5/29/2020	EOC Spring 2020 Main Administration

NAEP

Dates	Assessment Tasks and Reminders
1/6/2020 – 3/13/2020	NAEP Age 9 (Sampled Districts Only) Administration
3/16/2020 – 5/22/2020	NAEP Age 17 (Sampled Districts Only Administration