

## Quick Links:

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

### Summative Assessments

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

### Early Learning Formative Assessments

- [GKIDS 2.0 and GKIDS Readiness Check](#)
- [Keenville](#)

### Formative Assessment Resources

- [Formative Instructional Practices \(FIP\)](#)

### Accountability

- [Accountability Update](#)

[Key Training Dates for March-May 2020](#)

[Key Assessment Tasks and Reminders](#)

[For Educators](#)

[Online Georgia Assessment and Training Calendar](#)



[Online Georgia Assessment and Training Calendar](#)

## Policy Update

### Planning for Unexpected and/or Emergency Situations

As we move toward the spring testing session, several districts have expressed concerns about how testing may be impacted in those districts. In this and any unexpected and/or emergency situation, the first priority for the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) and the district must be to assure the safety and well-being of all children and adults. While test security is critical and must be maintained as much as possible, student safety and well-being must remain the priority.

Regular communication is being sent from the Office of School Safety and Climate here at the GaDOE to Superintendents that includes updates from the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH).

Complete CDC Interim Guidance for Administrators of US Childcare Programs and K-12 Schools to Plan, Prepare, and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/guidance-for-schools.html>.

For information about COVID-19 and contact information for local public health in Georgia, please visit the DPH website: <https://dph.georgia.gov/novelcoronavirus>.

At this time, no changes have been made to the state testing window. Additional guidance will be provided should changes become necessary. Districts and state charter schools should work closely with local health officials in making decisions about large-scale dismissal or canceling of events.

Additional information from the GaDOE may be found here:

<https://www.gadoe.org/External-Affairs-and-Policy/communications/Pages/coronavirus.aspx>

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

## Assessment Updates

### Local Testing Calendars

As we move into the spring assessment windows, please ensure your testing calendar adheres to the following posted guidelines found in the *Student Assessment Handbook* (SAH). System Test Coordinators (STCs) should review the SAH for further guidance found there. Some reminders:

- Local testing calendars may encompass the entire state testing window; however, individual grade-level content assessments must maintain the same testing dates across all schools within the district.
- Districts may elect to administer content assessments through same-day or multiple-day administrations (except for ELA Section 1).
- Testing sessions may not continue over a weekend in any content assessment (Ex. ELA Section 1 administered on Friday and ELA Sections 2 and 3 continued the next week is not allowed).
- Make up dates must be designated within the local testing window (Make up tests are intended for students who are unavoidably and unexpectedly absent on the regularly scheduled testing day(s). The scheduling of school-sponsored activities that would require students to be away from school (e.g. field trips) should not be scheduled during the local testing window.
- Changes in local testing calendars must be requested from the Assessment Specialist prior to the change for review of test security issues and the need for additional guidance.

### New Lexile® & Quantile® Resource for Educators, Parents & Students

The **Lexile® & Quantile® Hub** is a new online platform that provides educators, parents and students with easy access to several new and enhanced reading and math tools. Featured tools include:

- **Lexile® Find a Book** that helps identify just right books for students based on their Lexile® level and interests,
- **Lexile® WordLists** which creates custom lists of key vocabulary by grade level and domains and
- The **Quantile® Resource Center** where lists of your favorite resources across all of the Quantile® tools can be created, saved and shared.

Because of Georgia's partnership with MetaMetrics® educators are allowed free access to all of the Hub's Premium features. You must use your school-or state-issued email address when registering to access these Premium features.

Visit [Hub.Lexile.com](http://Hub.Lexile.com) or access [this flyer](#) to learn more.

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

## Test Development

Thank you again to all districts who nominated educators for the upcoming Georgia Milestones and GAA 2.0 test development meetings. All nominees were recently asked to submit an application for participation. GaDOE is in the process of reviewing these applications and selecting participants.

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 applicant pool. **Please note** that invitations will be sent from the meeting planning platform (CVENT). Educators may need to check their Clutter, Junk, and/or Spam folders, as these emails will occasionally be received in those folders.

Meeting Dates:

- Georgia Milestones
  - Rangefinding: June 1-5
  - Item & Data Review: July 13-17
  - Math Blueprint & Item Review: October (TBD)
- Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA) 2.0
  - Content & Bias Review: June 22-23
  - Math Blueprint & Extended Content Standards Review: July 20-24

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

## ACCESS for ELLs 2.0

Now that the ACCESS for ELLs window has closed, we would like to share some important reminders to help STCs as they return their testing materials:

- Remember only secure test materials must be returned to DRC. Review the list of secure testing materials in the [District and School Test Coordinator Manual](#).
- Review Georgia's ACCESS for ELLs Checklist and Georgia-Specific Directions for deadlines, guidance around shipping materials, and how to handle unused booklet labels. Georgia-Specific Directions resources can be found by selecting "Georgia" from the Member/State drop down at the top of the [WIDA website](#).
- Materials returned **after** March 13, 2020 for UPS pickup **will not** be processed with on-time materials. These materials will not have a data validation window. Reports for late materials will not be issued until the late return reporting dates.
- If, after the deadline, a district/school locates any additional materials and needs to send them back to DRC, UPS and DRC Return Labels can be ordered by contacting **DRC Customer Support at 1-855-787-9615**.
- **STCs must notify GaDOE and complete a Testing Irregularity Form in the MyGaDOE Portal if secure materials have been found after the published materials return deadline.**

The Pre-Reporting Data Validation Window extends from April 6 to April 17, 2020.

STCs and designated staff should 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.

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

## Georgia Alternate Assessment 2.0

STCs need to be mindful of key program components as they prepare for the GAA 2.0 test administration window.

### TEST SECURITY

Each district will be assigned either Form 1, 2, or 3 for each grade content area test. Tests are color coded by content area.

GAA 2.0 Examiners must hold a valid GaPSC certificate and complete the proper assessment trainings before handling secure test materials.

Examiners are expected to follow the script found in the Test Examiner Booklet.

Examiners may not paraphrase passages, scenarios, or questions in any way.

Examiners can preview test material in order to prepare for individual test sessions. However, the following activities are prohibited:

- Revealing information from passages, tasks, or script.
- Copying information from passages, tasks, or script.
- Interpreting test items for students.
- Changing or interfering with student responses.

School Test Coordinators must place these documents in a secure, locked location following preview opportunities and test administration sessions.

Test materials may not remain outside of the designated area overnight. During test administration, examiners must record the student's answers to test questions on the Student Response Document.

STCs may allow School Test Coordinators to prepare one set of material for students who require the same customized presentation material. For example, if a school has two students who use eye gaze to select their answer choices, a booklet can be prepared and used per the directions in the Test Administration Manual. Materials may not be reused if they have been compromised in any way.

Examiners must input the student's responses into the Nextera online platform in front of another GaPSC-certified educator.

The Test Examiner and the witness must sign the Validation Form for Transcription of Answer Documents. The Validation Form for Transcription of Answer Documents can be found in the GaDOE Student Assessment Handbook.

### STOPPING RULE

While we must give all students an opportunity to participate in the assessment, the GAA 2.0 stopping rule provides a standardized procedure to end the assessment for students who do not have an established communication system.

To implement the stopping rule properly, Test Examiners must administer ALL PARTS of two consecutive tasks. Next, Test Examiners must tell the School Test Coordinator that the student did not respond to two complete tasks and does not have an established communication system. Then, the STC or School Test Coordinator must update the Status Code to 'Stopping Rule' under the student's profile in Nextera Admin.

### SCHEDULING

Districts may use the entire window to complete their test administrations and enter student information to Nextera. Examiners may determine the order in which they administer content area tests to students. However, tasks must be administered sequentially. This is an untimed assessment.

Additional materials may be ordered via Nextera Admin March 9 to April 28.

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

## Georgia Milestones Assessment System

### DRC Customer Service Portal

In an effort to improve the district support process, DRC is implementing a new online Customer Service Portal. The new portal will allow the STC and a designated Technology Coordinator to access a portal website that will allow users to chat with a service representative in real time. This portal will keep a record of all cases that users can refer to and a Knowledge Base of helpful articles for users to access.

You and your designated technology coordinator will automatically be listed to have access to the system, but you will need to register using details that will be sent at a later date. Please identify one technology coordinator so they can have access by completing the survey below.

### [District Technology Coordinator Designation Survey](#)

If you have any questions regarding the system, please contact your GaDOE Assessment Specialist directly.

### Content Management

Test content must be downloaded to the COS Service Device for each administration of the Georgia Milestones. If the test content isn't downloaded, students will be unable to test. Content Management check boxes are available now for Spring and Summer EOG and EOC in the Content Management section of Central Office.

### Student Practice

Districts should ensure that all students are familiar with the format of Georgia Milestones using the practice tests and Experience Online Testing Georgia [www.gaexperienceonline.com](http://www.gaexperienceonline.com). The [Training Page](#) includes student training Resources including the Student Test Tutorial Video, Secure Practice Test Directions, and resources for the Technology-Enhanced Items.

### Georgia Milestones Narrative Writing Resources

Updated Study/Resources Guides, including a new section for narrative writing, are now available!

- [EOG Study/Resource Guides](#)
- [EOC Study/Resource Guides](#)

Narrative writing prompts on the Georgia Milestones English Language Arts assessments are based on text(s) as a stimulus. The stimulus text may be a literary passage, an informational passage, or a paired passage set. Paired passage sets may consist of two literary passage, two informational passages, or one of each passage type. A resource noting the locations of sample passages associated with narrative prompts across all supplemental resources has been posted to the [EOG Resources](#) and [EOC Resources](#) pages. The **Narrative Prompt Passage Types** resource is intended to assist

educators in locating samples of the different passage types that may be associated with narrative writing. It is advised that educators review resources across multiple grade levels to obtain a better understanding of how narrative writing prompts may appear.

## Accommodation Reminders

Below are a few reminders regarding the provision of testing accommodations as your district prepares for the Spring 2020 Georgia Milestones administration. It is critically important to ensure that testing accommodations have been confirmed and entered into the INSIGHT (eDirect) platform *prior* to printing test tickets/rosters. This helps reduce the risks of testing irregularities and ensures students receive appropriate accommodations as outlined in their IEP/IAP/EL Plan.

- Examiners should be familiar with any testing accommodations required for each student they will test before the day of testing and, if necessary, should seek clarification from the school test coordinator if unsure about the accommodation.
- Examiners and proctors must be provided with their own copies of the appropriate manual(s) during training.
- For example, examiners administering read-aloud tests must consult the Read Aloud Guidelines.
- Examiners and school test coordinators need to check that the appropriate abbreviation (TTS-S or TTS-C) appears on Student Test Tickets and Student Test Rosters for students who should be assigned a Read-Aloud test form.
- Some accommodations require specific test forms, which are assigned when students are placed into test sessions and reassigned when accommodations are entered.

**IMPORTANT** – If you enter accommodations after printing test tickets, be sure to check if the password has been regenerated. A new test ticket will need to be printed.

Contacts:

Taiesha Adams, Ed.D., Assessment Specialist,  
[taadams@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:taadams@doe.k12.ga.us), 404-656-5975.

Joe Blessing, Program Manager,  
[jblessing@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:jblessing@doe.k12.ga.us), 404-232-1208.

## NAEP/NCES

### Reminders

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

The LTT assessment window for 17-year-olds is March 16 – May 22.

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](mailto:bbable@doe.k12.ga.us), 404-657-6168.

## GKIDS 2.0 and GKIDS Readiness Check

### Reminders

Teachers should make sure they are releasing and acquiring transferred students in order to have an accurate student roster for year-end reporting.

Districts and schools should be reviewing the Progression Analysis and Summary reports to check the progress of schools/teachers and to see which students might need attention between now and the end of the school year.

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

Contact: Bobbie Bable, Assessment Specialist,  
[bbable@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:bbable@doe.k12.ga.us), 404-657-6168.

## Keenville

Updated [Keenville System Requirements](#) for the 2020-2021 school year are now available. Districts planning to implement Keenville should refer to these updated requirements when planning technology needs for the upcoming year.

Not implementing Keenville yet? Here's why you should!

“The students love the program and find it very engaging. It provides immediate feedback, and standard

alignment is evident. Teachers like being able to assign the games based on the pacing of instruction.” ~ Joy Perren, Director of Assessment and Accountability, Coffee County.

Visit [keenville.gadoe.org](http://keenville.gadoe.org) for more information!



Contact: Lisa Hardman, Assessment Specialist, [lharden@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:lharden@doe.k12.ga.us), 404-651-9405.

## Formative Instructional Practices (FIP)

### Learning about Balanced Assessment

When educators implement a balanced assessment system well, student achievement improves significantly. Additionally, time management becomes more efficient when the benefits of a balanced assessment system are known and used. This is because educators learn the type of assessment to use and how much information is needed to make a judgement about learning because the purpose for collecting data is planned *prior to student participation in the assessment*.

A balanced assessment system can be thought of in terms of short-, mid- or long-cycle assessments. Short-cycle or classroom-based assessments influence learning the most because they take place during the lesson and allow both teachers and students to see, study and discuss results, and use feedback *immediately* to confirm or change learning. Mid-cycle or interim assessments help teachers, students and leaders make predictive judgments about how students

are likely to perform on end-of-unit or end-of-year assessments. Long-cycle or summative assessments provide data and information for overall program evaluation, the effectiveness of a teacher or an instructional method.

FIP online professional learning is available to help educators develop assessment literacy skills that are essential for a balanced assessment system. A balanced assessment system means that there is a comprehensive approach for gathering and using data. FIP helps combat data overload and the notion that educators can often be data rich, but information poor. Moreover, FIP helps answer questions that teachers, coaches and leaders often ask; *What do I change because of the data? Show me how to do this?*

FIP online learning coupled with use of the provided PLC Facilitation and Participant Guides offer the “what” and “how to” for a balanced assessment system through a series of 25 online learning courses. Five of the courses are considered as core or foundations courses. As your district prepares for summer professional development, consider how FIP can support your work. Share the availability of FIP with colleagues in Curriculum and Instruction, Professional Learning and Title I.

Contact: Kelli Harris-Wright, Assessment Specialist, [kharris-wright@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto: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 March-May 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
3/13/2020	<a href="#">March 2020 Assessment Lunch and Learn</a>	12 – 1 p.m.

**ACCESS for ELLs\*** [WIDA Webinars indicate Central Time. Note Eastern Times below.](#)

Date	Title	Time
3/12/2020	<a href="#">Post-Testing: Interpreting Score Reports</a>	12 – 1 p.m. ET
5/15/2020	<a href="#">ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Post-Administration Training</a>	9 – 10 a.m. ET
5/15/2020	<a href="#">Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Post-Administration Training</a>	11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

**GKIDS 2.0**

Date	Title	Time
Currently Available	GKIDS 2.0 Version 2 Training Modules <a href="#">Available via SLDS; information found on the GKIDS 2.0, Resources webpage</a>	24/7

**Georgia Milestones**

Date	Title	Time
5/26/2020	<a href="#">EOG/EOC Post-Assessment Training</a>	10 – 11:30 a.m.

**Key Assessment Tasks and Reminders****ACCESS for ELs**

Dates	Assessment Tasks and Reminders
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
5/11/2020 – 5/22/2020	Post-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
3/5/2020	eDIRECT Test Setup Opens for Spring EOG and EOC 2020
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
5/11/2020 – 7/17/2020	EOG Summer 2020 Retest Administration
6/15/2020 – 7/17/2020	EOC Summer 2020 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