

Quick Links:

- [Policy Update](#)
- [Assessment Updates](#)
- 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 \(FIP\)](#)
- Georgia Student Growth Model**
- [Georgia Student Growth Model](#)
- Accountability**
- [Accountability Update](#)
- [Key Training Dates for November 2019-January 2020](#)
- [Key Assessment Tasks and Reminders](#)
- [For Educators](#)
- [Online Georgia Assessment and Training Calendar](#)



[Online Georgia Assessment and Training Calendar](#)

Policy Update

Student Testing Rule (160-3-1-.07) Update

The State Board of Education approved an AP/IB amendment to the testing rule (160-3-1-.07) at its November 7 meeting. The amendment exempts a student from taking the end-of-course assessment for a core subject course if he or she passes an Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) course in certain related courses. According to our Legal and Policy Divisions of the GaDOE, amendments to SBOE rules take effect 20 days after adoption. Therefore, students completing and passing eligible AP/IB courses this winter would be exempt from the EOC. Districts will need to be in compliance with the testing rule in effect at the time **students are completing courses and final grades are being issued.**

Students enrolled and passing AP/IB American Literature, U.S. History, and Economics are exempt from the EOC. All students enrolled in Ninth Grade Literature and Composition, Algebra I, Coordinate Algebra, and Biology must take the EOC. As there are currently no AP/IB courses in Geometry, Analytic Geometry, or Physical Science, students enrolled in those EOC-required courses will also take the EOC.

CCRPI will utilize the same business rules as the dual enrollment exemption:

- Students earning an A (90-100) shall count as "Distinguished Learners;"
- Students earning a B (80-89) or C (70-79) shall count as "Proficient Learners;" and
- Students earning less than a C (70) shall count as "Beginning Learners" in CCRPI indicators that utilize achievement levels.

Students must pass the AP/IB course to exempt the EOC; however, if the AP/IB course is failed, the student will take the EOC when the required credit is earned through taking the actual EOC course.

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

Public Notice of ESSA Alternate Assessment Waiver for 2019-2020

GaDOE will seek a waiver from the U.S. Department of Education (ED) regarding the 1.0 percent participation cap put in place under the *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA). Prior to submitting the waiver, GaDOE is



seeking comments from local education agencies (LEAs) and other education stakeholders.

In submitting the 1.0 percent participation cap waiver, GaDOE is requesting that ED allow the State a year to further implement guidelines and interventions to support LEAs in ensuring the appropriate administration of the GAA 2.0. During the one-year waiver period, GaDOE's Offices of Special Education and Assessment and Accountability would work collaboratively to ensure LEAs are provided the necessary support and technical assistance.

Additional waiver details are available in the alternate assessment waiver public notice available on GaDOE's [Title I](#) webpage.

Contact: Allison Timberlake, Ph.D., Deputy Superintendent for Assessment & Accountability, atimberlake@doe.k12.ga.us, 404-463-6666 by November 22.

Assessment Updates

File Upload Guidance

When uploading files to eDIRECT or any online administration platform, be sure to consider the following common sources of error when troubleshooting any issues:

- **File format:** Is the file being uploaded in the correct format? Check that the file extension (e.g. .txt/.xlsx/.dat) matches the required file type.
- **Required fields:** Are all required fields populated? Within certain processes, some fields are required and cannot be blank without causing errors. For example, when using the Multiple Student Upload option in eDIRECT, ensure all student records are set to "Y" to be properly set up in online test sessions. Blanks are not allowed and will result in an error reported through the file validation process.
- **Allowable characters:** Do any fields contain values which cannot be accepted? Check the file layout for specification on which characters, numbers, and symbols can be included in each field.

Setting up Test Sessions in Alternative Sites

Setting up test sessions in eDIRECT (Georgia Milestones, ACCESS for ELLs) or Nextera (GAA 2.0) is

the responsibility of the home school district. System Test Coordinators (STCs) in the home district must collaborate with the alternative site to provide student test tickets with the necessary login information. The transfer of student test tickets must be secure and can include the district's courier service, first class mail, shipping service with tracking, or electronically through the MyGaDOE Portal email or a secure FTP provider. Student test tickets must never be transferred as an attachment to general email. Other possible secure options may be discussed with your GaDOE Assessment Specialist.

ACCESS for ELLs 2.0

2019 ELP Assessment Participation Rate Notification

Title I, Part A directors will be receiving notification this week of their District's *2019 ELP Assessment Participation Rate*. Please check out the webinar recording link on the [Title I, Part A](#) and [Title III, Part A](#) Program websites to learn about the rationale and monitoring process for this federal requirement, as well as the technical assistance GaDOE Assessment and Federal Programs are providing LEAs. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your Title IA, Title IIIA, or Assessment Specialist.

2019-2020 Support for iPadOS 13.x

WIDA recently announced on the October 23 SEA Quarterly call that iPadOS 13.x is not a supported operating system for iPad administrations of ACCESS for ELLs due to compatibility concerns. In an effort to resolve these compatibility issues, DRC released a new iPad Secure Browser App to the App Store on **November 1**.

Upon release of this new version of the iPad Secure Browser App, WIDA will conduct additional user acceptance testing. WIDA will test the following configurations:

- NEW version of iPad Secure Browser App on iOS 12.x
- NEW version of iPad Secure Browser App on iPadOS 13.x

WIDA will provide the Consortium with additional guidance on supported iPad/iOS configurations for 2019-2020 ACCESS testing as soon as possible.

ACCESS for ELLs Writing BSC Review

The WIDA Assessment team is looking for educators to participate in the Bias, Sensitivity, and Content (BSC) Review of the new ACCESS for ELLs Writing test content. The purpose this review is to ensure that test item content is grade-level appropriate and factually accurate, as well as free of material that might favor any subgroup of students over another on the basis of gender, race or ethnicity, home language, religion, culture, region, or socio-economic status. This review also helps ensure that test items are free of material that might be upsetting to students. These reviews are conducted during online meetings the **week of November 18**, so no travel is necessary to participate.

WIDA is asking educators interested in participating to complete a [short survey](#).

WIDA English Language Development Standards, 2020 Edition Kindergarten – Grade 12

The WIDA ELA standards, 2020 Edition, illuminates a vision where all students can develop language and learn content together.

WIDA is looking for input on the draft WIDA ELD Standards, 2020 edition. All educators involved in multilingual learner education are invited to participate in the review process. Resources for Educators may be found on the [WIDA site](#). **WIDA will post a survey for input on November 18.**

WIDA estimates that new ACCESS Online test items based on the 2020 Edition of the ELDs would be operationalized no sooner than 2024-2025.

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

Georgia Alternate Assessment 2.0

Accessibility Supports

Teachers can use an array of accessibility supports on the Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA 2.0) to ensure that students with significant cognitive disabilities have an opportunity to demonstrate their achievement of the knowledge and skills outlined in in the Extended Content

Standards. This fall, Assessment staff reviewed specific supports designed to meet the needs of students with visual impairments.

CRITERIA

The provision of these supports must be based on what students regularly use in the classroom. The use of these devices cannot compromise the integrity of the assessment, interfere with a student's ability to provide an independent response, or clue an answer.

PRESENTATION MODES

Examiners may place color overlays on images or text to create visual contrast in images or text. At no time, however, may a test be scanned into an electronic device.

Examiners may provide tactile representations or other sensory objects related to images or text contained within the Student Test Booklet to give a student access to content. Objects must be closely related to the task and be meaningful to the student. Examiners may also incorporate tactile graphics in an image or text by increasing the weight of images or applying texture enhancers. STCs and examiners should carefully consider the amount of preparation time and the resulting quality of test material before any adaptations are performed.

Examiners may also enlarge tasks by allowing students to use a variety of projection methods, including page or tracking magnifiers, binoculars, and loupes. If content is magnified on a board, any adult who is able to view secure test content from the projected board must receive test security training regardless of that individual's role in the classroom.

READ-ALoud GUIDELINES

Examiners may read numbers as the numerals when the directions require the teacher to "Point to the answer options, but do not read them." They may also read text that appears in graphics and illustrations. When graphics contain information needed to answer a task, the image is described within the task or and additional "Say" statement with a description of the images is included.

BRAILLE

Braille versions of GAA 2.0 are available to students. STCs must complete the [GAA 2.0 Braille Materials](#)

Request Survey (survey link embedded) by November 14 to obtain the needed test forms.

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

Georgia Milestones Assessment System

Georgia Milestones Training

The Georgia Milestones Assessment System uses a train the trainer model for STCs, school test coordinators, test examiners, and students. To assist in this process, numerous resources have been created to support districts as they prepare staff and students. These resources can be found on the [Georgia Milestones Training Resources](#) page.



Webinars are live online trainings for STCs. Included are the presentation files along with links to the recordings.



Videos give short overviews of essential tasks for all users. Many of these videos assist or supplement district-specific training. Student videos introduce the INSIGHT platform and new item types.



Quick Start Guides are paired with videos to give users a handy desk reference for essential tasks.



PowerPoint Presentations are paired with videos for district who prefer to redeliver in person. Most presentations include a script for easy redelivery.



Two **Online Courses** available in SLDS. *The School Test Coordinator* course gives districts the option for state-level Georgia Milestones training. Test Coordinators take the course, pass a quiz, and provide the certificate to the STC as part of local training. *The System Test Coordinator Course* allows new STCs to learn about content for all the state assessment programs.

Contacts:

Taiesha Adams, Ed.D., Assessment Specialist, taadams@doe.k12.ga.us, 404-656-5975.

Joe Blessing, Assessment Specialist, jblessing@doe.k12.ga.us, 404-232-1208.

Robert McLeod, Ed.D., Assessment Specialist, rmcleod@doe.k12.ga.us, 404-656-2589.

NAEP/NCES

NAEP 2019 Results Released October 30

NAEP, or the “Nation’s Report Card,” is a nationally representative and continuing assessment of what America’s students know and can do in various subject areas. The test is administered every two years to a sample of fourth and eighth graders, from a sample of schools across each state.

The 2019 state results for mathematics and reading were released on October 30. NAEP allows student achievement to be compared, not ranked, from state to state. Trends in achievement in each state are also a part of the NAEP results. Students in Georgia have made significant improvement in mathematics since 2000. The percentage of grade 4 students scoring Below Basic has decreased from 43% to 23%, the At or Above Basic performance has increased from 57% to 77%, and the At or Above Proficient performance has increased from 17% to 36%. Georgia scored higher than all the other southeastern and southwestern states, except Florida and New Mexico, in grade 8 reading. The full report is available at <https://www.nationsreportcard.gov/>.

“There remains work to do to ensure all Georgia students have access to a well-rounded education that expands the opportunities available to them,” State School Superintendent Richard Woods said. “With that said, it is important to note that Georgia’s students are nearing or reaching the national average in all subject areas on the ‘Nation’s Report Card.’ While our state’s public schools have so often been labeled ‘last in the nation,’ that is clearly not the case.”

Upcoming NAEP Assessment Window

The Long-Term Trend (LTT) window is October 14 – December 20 for schools whose 13-year-olds will be testing. The window for e-filing the student lists opened October 28 for schools in the sample for 9-year-olds. The list must be submitted by November 15.

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

GKIDS 2.0 and GKIDS Readiness Check

General Updates

The SLDS course for GKIDS 2.0 has been updated to GKIDS 2.0 version 2 due to some difficulties with accessing the training certificate. Users currently registered for the prior version of the course may continue in that course. Previous data has not been lost. New users will need to register for version 2.

New GKIDS 2.0 FAQ Webinar

Date: November 14

Time: 2 – 3 p.m.

Intended Audience: STCs, School Leaders, and Teachers

Content: Addresses a series of Frequently Asked Questions. The webinar will cover topics such as the administration of a formative assessment, test security, administering the assessment to students with special needs, and using the platform most effectively.

GKIDS Readiness Check Updates

The GKIDS 2.0 Readiness Check window has closed for all districts. The baseline data collected in the Readiness Check collection period can support teachers and parents for students early in the kindergarten year. The table on the next page indicates the summary of activity for GKIDS 2.0 Readiness Check across the state as of October 1.

School Coordinators	Teachers	Active Students
2,160	7,198	124,403

FOUNDATIONS OF SCHOOL SUCCESS

Knowledge and Skills (7 Activities)	NYA	NYD	EM	DV	DM	EX
Make statements and appropriately answers questions about how objects/materials can be used to solve problems.	2%	9%	18%	27%	44%	—
Engages in independent activities and continues tasks over a period of time.	1%	4%	18%	32%	45%	—
Uses senses to observe, classify, and learn about objects and environment.	2%	7%	—	40%	52%	—
Perform fine motor tasks that require small muscle strength and control.	2%	5%	—	37%	56%	—
Effectively uses words, sentences, and actions to communicate needs, ideas, opinions, and preferences.	2%	5%	—	29%	64%	—
Independently follows rules and routines.	1%	7%	—	41%	50%	—
Plays cooperatively with a few peers for a sustained period of time.	1%	4%	—	27%	68%	—

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Knowledge and Skills (8 Activities)	NYA	NYD	EM	DV	DM	EX
Listens and differentiates between sounds that are the same and different.	2%	9%	13%	21%	55%	—
Recognizes and names some uppercase letters of the alphabet.	2%	6%	14%	14%	23%	41%
Recognizes and names some lowercase	2%	8%	13%	15%	24%	39%

Knowledge and Skills (8 Activities)	NYA	NYD	EM	DV	DM	EX
letters of the alphabet.						
Tracks words from left to right, top to bottom, and page to page.	2%	12%	18%	25%	43%	—
Draws pictures and copies letters and/or numbers to communicate.	2%	10%	—	38%	51%	—
Listens to and follows multi-step directions.	2%	5%	18%	34%	41%	—
Uses spoken language that can be understood with ease.	2%	3%	7%	20%	69%	—
Uses writing tools.	2%	3%	—	28%	68%	—

MATHEMATICS

Knowledge and Skills (5 Activities)	NYA	NYD	EM	DV	DM	EX
Recites numbers up to 20 in sequence.	2%	5%	11%	23%	60%	—
Counts at least 10 objects using one-to-one correspondence.	2%	4%	8%	12%	31%	43%
Recognizes numerals.	2%	6%	12%	24%	57%	—
Sorts and classifies objects using one or more attributes or relationships.	2%	14%	29%	21%	34%	—
Recognizes and names common two-dimensional shapes.	2%	5%	20%	25%	48%	—

For some big ideas, activities from the GKIDS Readiness Check can serve as the entry point to skills described in the GKIDS 2.0 learning progressions. For some progressions, the GKIDS Readiness Check and an additional task work in combination to provide the evidence that a child may be matched to a progression stage. In all cases, the GKIDS 2.0 Readiness Check data moving forward to GKIDS 2.0 data will help teachers in making decisions related to grouping, remediation, enrichment, and planning.

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



We are pleased to announce that the Keenville training course is available within SLDS. Directions for accessing the course can be found on the [Keenville Resources](#) webpage.

The course consists of the following modules:

- Introduction to Keenville
- Introduction to English Language Arts Games
- Introduction to Mathematics Games
- Keenville Teacher Dashboard
- Keenville Administrator Dashboard

The modules are aligned to the *Keenville User Guide* and include short videos that provide the opportunity to view information in small chunks.

In addition, curriculum maps with alignment of the Keenville games are also available on the [Keenville Resources](#) webpage.

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



Formative Instructional Practices (FIP)

FIP: District and School Effectiveness Resource

<https://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Assessment/Pages/GeorgiaFIP.aspx>

The agency’s Systems of Continuous Improvement framework focuses on the systems and structures required for sustained improvement in student outcomes. One focus in the improvement framework is the *Selection of Interventions*, including evidence and assessment to show that the intervention has positively impacted student learning with Tier 1 interventions as most promising.

Formative Instructional Practices (FIP) Online Professional Learning is a resource that is available to all educators in Georgia. It includes professional learning content that is based on Tier-1 interventions and shows educators how to use FIP processes in their work setting. There are 25 individual FIP courses with five FIP Foundations courses that educators should complete first as pre-requisites for understanding remaining courses. FIP can be accessed through district and school-unique access codes that are available from the STC. Share the course offerings with colleagues and discuss how FIP might support your improvement work.

FIP FOUNDATIONS COURSE SERIES

- Introducing Formative Instructional Practices
- Creating and Using Clear Learning Targets
- Collecting and Documenting Evidence of Student Learning
- Using Evidence and Feedback to Increase Learning
- Fostering Student Ownership of Learning
- Leading Formative Instructional Practices

CLEAR LEARNING TARGETS COURSE SERIES

- Creating Clear Learning Targets for ELA in the Elementary School
- Creating Clear Learning Targets for ELA in the Middle School
- Creating Clear Learning Targets for ELA in the High School
- Creating Clear Learning Targets for Math in the Elementary School
- Creating Clear Learning Targets for Math in the Middle School
- Creating Clear Learning Targets for Math in the High School
- Creating Clear Learning Targets in Physical Education (non-core courses)

REACHING EVERY STUDENT SERIES

- Formative Instructional Practices: Reaching Students with Disabilities
- Formative Instructional Practices: Reaching English Language Learners
- Formative Instructional Practices: Reaching Gifted Students

DESIGNING SOUND ASSESSMENT SERIES

- Designing Sound Assessments Overview

- Creating and Using Rubrics
- Creating and Using Assessment Rubrics
- Creating and Using Assessment Blueprints
- Creating and Using Written Response Assessments
- Creating and Using Verbal Response Assessments
- Creating and Using Performance Assessments
- Creating and Using Selected Response Assessments
- Designing and Critiquing Sound Assessments: Putting the Pieces Together
- Implementing Evidenced-Based Grading

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

Georgia Student Growth Model

The 2019 EOG and EOC Student Growth Percentiles (SGPs) are now available in the SLDS growth model application. The information can be accessed by entering the SLDS and selecting the "Growth Model" tab. The public release of school- and district-level SGP results (both EOG and EOC) will be Wednesday, November 13. There will not be a press release accompanying this public release.

Electronic files of student growth reports will be available to STCs for download in the MyGaDOE Portal by November 15. If your district opted in for the receipt of paper copies of student growth reports, your local delivery date can be found in a spreadsheet available at <http://gca.coe.uga.edu/gsgm/>. Individual student growth reports will be available in the SLDS Parent Portal by the first week of December.

SGP resources, including a [tutorial](#) for using the SLDS growth model tool, can be accessed on the Georgia Student Growth Model (GSGM) [website](#).

Contact: Niveen Vosler, Assessment Specialist, nvosler@doe.k12.ga.us, 404-463-0166.

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 November 2019-January 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
11/8/2019	November 2019 Assessment Lunch and Learn	12 – 1 p.m.
1/10/2020	January 2020 Assessment Lunch and Learn	12 – 1 p.m.

Alternate ACCESS for ELLs

Date	Title	Time
12/3/2019	Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Test Administration	12 – 1 p.m.
12/11/2019	During Testing: Managing Test Sessions (Online)	2 – 3 p.m.

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

Date	Title	Time
11/7/2019	Pre-Testing: Technology Coordinator Support for Test Administrators	12 – 1 p.m. ET
11/13/2019	During Testing: Managing Students in WIDA AMS (Online)	3 – 4 p.m. ET
12/17/2019	During Testing: Managing Students in WIDA AMS (Paper)	2 – 3 p.m. ET
1/9/2020	During Testing: Managing Test Materials (Paper)	2 – 3 p.m. ET
1/15/2020	During Testing: Technology Troubleshooting	12 – 1 p.m. ET
1/30/2020	Post-Testing: Returning Materials (Paper)	2 – 3 p.m. ET

GAA 2.0

Date	Title	Time
1/16/2020	GAA Nextera	10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
1/23/2020	GAA Nextera – Live Repeat	1 – 3 p.m.

GKIDS 2.0

Date	Title	Time
11/14/2019	GKIDS 2.0 FAQ Session – NEW!!	2 – 3:30 p.m.
Currently Available	GKIDS 2.0 Version 2 Training Modules Available via SLDS; information found on the GKIDS 2.0, Resources webpage	24/7

Georgia Milestones

Date	Title	Time
1/7/2020	eDIRECT Enrollment Count Training	10 – 11:30 a.m.
1/9/2020	eDIRECT Enrollment Count Training – Live Repeat	1 – 2:30 p.m.

NAEP

Date	Title	Time
12/11/2019	NAEP Pre-Administration Training (Age 17 Sampled Systems Only)	1 – 2 p.m.

Key Assessment Tasks and Reminders

ACCESS for ELs

Dates	Assessment Tasks and Reminders
10/9/2019 – 11/25/2019	Test Materials Ordering in AMS
10/9/2019 – 11/25/2019	Pre-ID File into AMS
12/5/2019 – 3/6/2020	WIDA AMS Test Setup Available for Test Sessions
1/6/2020	Districts receive Test Materials
1/15/2020 – 3/6/2020	ACCESS for ELs 2.0/Alternate ACCESS Administration Window

GAA 2.0

Dates	Assessment Tasks and Reminders
11/14/2019	GAA 2.0 Braille Materials Request Survey Due

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
10/21/2019 – 1/15/2020	eDIRECT Test Setup Open for Winter 2019
11/4/2019 – 11/15/2019	EOC November 2019 Mid-Month Administration
11/4/2019 – Ongoing	Updated Practice Tests with New Item Types, Desmos Calculator, and Narrative Checklist
11/18/2019 – 1/8/2020	EOC Winter 2019 Main Administration
1/13/2020 – 1/24/2020	EOC January 2020 Mid-Month Administration

NAEP

Dates	Assessment Tasks and Reminders
10/14/2019 – 12/20/2019	NAEP Age 13 (Sampled Districts Only) Administration
1/6/2020 – 3/13/2020	NAEP Age 9 (Sampled Districts Only) Administration