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Policy Update

State Board Initiates Amendment to Testing Rule

At its August 2019 meeting, the State Board of Education (SBOE) initiated rulemaking procedures to amend SBOE Rule 160-3-1-.07 TESTING PROGRAMS – STUDENT ASSESSMENT. The proposed amendment would exempt a student from taking the EOC assessment for a core subject area if he or she passes an Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) course in a related subject and takes the related AP/IB exam. Grades earned in AP/IB courses, in this situation, will be used in the state accountability system. All students enrolled in Ninth Grade Literature and Composition, Algebra I, Coordinate Algebra, and Biology must take the EOC. This proposed amendment is currently posted online for a 30-day public comment period. Additional information can be found on [Simbli](#).

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

Assessment Updates

Fall Assessment Conference – Part 2

Fall Assessment Conference – Part 2 focused on developing a district assessment plan. Use the links found in the Assessment Training table to register to review and/or to watch a recording of the broadcast.

Fall Assessment Conference – Part 3

Fall Assessment Conference – Part 3 will focus on accessibility and accountability issues specific to students taking state mandated assessments. The webinar training will look at the *Accessibility and Accommodations Manual for 2019-2020* and review specific details in support of those student requiring accommodations. Links to the training are provided in the Training Section at the end of this update.

ACCESS For ELLs 2.0

This month WIDA will publish *the 2020 Accessibility and Accommodations Supplement*. This manual will outline the universal design features, universal tools, test administration considerations, and accommodations that are available for test takers.

The overarching goal of **Universal Design** is to ensure standard versions of the assessment meet the needs of the broad range of learners. Applications of these principles include the availability of sample tests, use of simple graphics, presence of user-friendly item layouts, and inclusion of narrated test directions.

Test Administration Considerations give local educational teams the ability to individualize test sessions for students without compromising test security or threatening validity. District staff can make determinations regarding elements of the test setting and schedule, including special equipment, administration time, adaptive furniture, and frequency of breaks.

Accommodations are changes in the way an assessment is presented to a student or how the student responds to test items. Eligible students include those — students with an individualized Education Program (IEP), students with an Individual Accommodation Plan (IAP), and English Learners (EL) with a Test Participation Plan (EL/TPC). Accommodations are designed to reduce or even eliminate the effects of a student’s disability; they do not lower learning expectations. Accommodations vary by tests.

Together, accessibility features ensure students have an opportunity demonstrate their level of language proficiency without jeopardizing the integrity of assessment results.

To learn more about the WIDA accessibility framework, please view the helpful tutorials available on the WIDA Secure Portal in the Professional Courses section.

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

Georgia Alternate Assessment 2.0

Reports and ALDs

The GAA 2.0 score reports will be available in September. To support the use and interpretation of these scores, a Score Interpretation Guide will be posted when final reports are posted on the [Georgia Alternate Assessment 2.0 \(GAA 2.0\) webpage](#). Additionally, a webinar will be held in September to explain the reports

and scores for the GAA 2.0 and answer any questions. **Links to this training will be provided as soon as a specific reporting date has been finalized.**

[The GAA 2.0 Achievement Level Descriptors \(ALDs\)](#) are now available on the assessment website. These ALDs were developed by Georgia educators to align with the content inherent in the Extended Content Standards as measured by the GAA 2.0, and describe the knowledge, skills, and abilities represented at each achievement level. These are a key part of the reported results for the GAA 2.0 and are intended to provide educators and parents with information on what students know and can do, and what they may be ready to learn next.

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

Georgia Milestones Assessment System

Pre-ID

The window for transmission of a Pre-ID data file for the Winter EOC is Thursday, September 5 through Thursday, September 19. Given that we are now 100% online, there is no longer a need to produce student Pre-ID labels for answer documents. Therefore, this will be the last year that we will continue to transmit a Pre-ID data file through our Data Collections Department. Data Collections will continue to work with the SIS vendors across the state to implement any future changes to the file layout. Beginning in 2020-2021, all districts will be expected to upload a file through the Multiple Student Upload process in eDIRECT for both the EOC and the EOG administrations. This will allow you to submit student demographic information at a time closer to the testing window as well as provide an opportunity to update student information, if needed. Please begin conversations within your district to identify the person(s) who will be responsible for this task in the future.

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

Georgia Milestones Resources

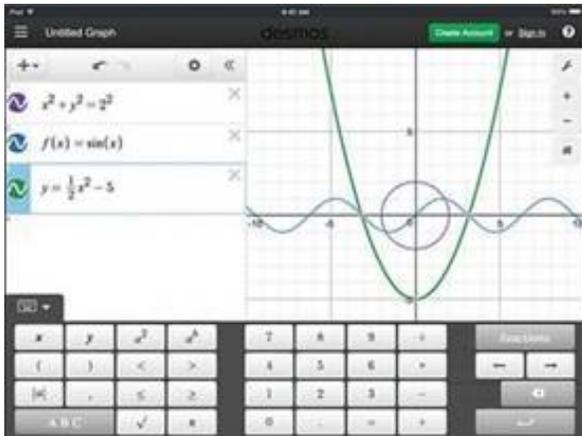
[Georgia Milestones Test Blueprints](#) for all content areas have been updated to reflect changes to the number and types of items on each assessment.

Assessment Guides for all content areas have been updated with changes to the assessment design tables to reflect the increase in technology-enhanced items. The new narrative writing checklists are also available in the Assessment Guides.

- [End of Grade Assessment Guides](#)
- [End of Course Assessment Guides](#)

Desmos Calculator for Instruction

The Desmos calculator available for Georgia Milestones Winter 2019 EOC administration can also be used as a teaching tool in the classroom. The [Desmos website](#) includes links to the online calculators along with many tools and resources to learn how to use it for classroom instruction.



You can find the Desmos online calculators at the following links. The Desmos Calculator for Georgia Milestones will be slightly different, but teachers can use the online versions of the calculators for instruction.

- www.desmos.com/fourfunction
- www.desmos.com/scientific
- www.desmos.com/graphing

Users can learn more about the Desmos online calculators at <http://learn.desmos.com>

The standard, scientific, and graphing Desmos calculators can also be accessed on a cellphone through an app. While the use of a cellphone is not allowed on Georgia Milestones, teachers may find the use of the Desmos App for cellphone a great tool for instructional use. To download, search for Desmos on the Google Play or Apple App stores. The free app allows the student to use the Desmos Calculators even when they aren't online.

Resources for classroom activities can be found at <http://teacher.desmos.com>. Here teachers can sign up for a free account and access bundles of activities for use in the classroom. If students enter a teacher-assigned class code for an activity, the teacher can monitor the student's work live through a dashboard. If students have an account, their work can be saved and accessed when they return.

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

The Long Term Trend (LTT) window is Monday, October 14 – Friday, December 20 for schools whose 13-year-olds will be testing. The pre-administration webinar for schools in the 9-year-old sample is Tuesday, October 8. Links to the training webinar are provided in the Training Section at the end of this update.

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

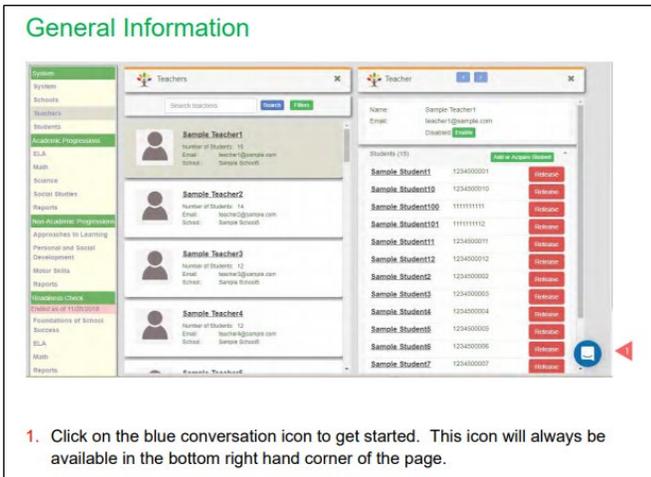
GKIDS 2.0 and GKIDS Readiness Check

The *GKIDS 2.0 Administration Manual* along with a *Manual Update* document has been revised and posted to the [GKIDS 2.0 Resources page](#). Clarifications were made to this manual regarding learning targets and DRA references.

The Readiness Check (RC) must be completed during the first six weeks of the district's school year. Users will see the deadline for their district's RC window after logging into the GKIDS platform.

Questions about the GKIDS platform should be addressed through the Intercom Customer Support Feature live chat in the platform (see the blue icon in the following screen snapshot). This chat feature is available Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. An online

searchable help desk and graphical user guides are also accessed through this link. Responses will be sent within 24 hours for any messages left outside of regular business hours. Contact the Georgia Center for Assessment (GCA) at 888-392-8977 regarding this feature.



1. Click on the blue conversation icon to get started. This icon will always be available in the bottom right hand corner of the page.

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

Keenville



The Keens and Peachlings are excited to return to Keenville later this month! They are bringing a total of 31 ELA and Math games, district and school dashboards, as well as updated teacher dashboards.

Visit keenville.gadoe.org/keenville-resources for more information about training and available resources.

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



Formative Instructional Practices (FIP)

GA FIP Online Professional Learning for Leaders

GA FIP Online Professional Learning provides great opportunities for leaders' development and growth. FIP Course 006, *Leading Formative Instructional Practices*, provides a deep understanding of how curriculum, instruction and lesson-based formative assessment work together to improve student learning. Highlights of FIP Course 006 are below.

- Determining “My Assessment Competencies” to lead FIP and addressing areas for growth and improvement
- Leveraging my strengths with others in the district or school to provide high quality leadership for FIP
- Knowing how to plan for change and promote a systemic approach to FIP
- Viewing FIP as a formative learning system where everyone in the district or school learns together and engages in using the practices in their own setting with the leader(s) having parallel FIP actions to those that teachers are learning to use
- Fostering a supportive learning environment where mistakes are viewed as opportunities to try something different and where teachers and student learners feel comfortable talking about and sharing their learning with others

Considering how the FIP course for leaders can support your overall improvement work. Share this FIP update with your colleagues in curriculum and instruction, professional learning, and Title I.

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 **updated** [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 September-November 2019

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

Assessment Training

Date	Title	Time
9/3/2019	Fall Assessment Conference Webinar Part 2 (Chief Planning Considerations for the Assessment Calendar)	9 – 10:30 a.m.
9/5/2019	Fall Assessment Conference Webinar Part 2 (Chief Planning Considerations for the Assessment Calendar – Live Repeat)	1 – 2:30 p.m.
9/10/2019	Fall Assessment Conference Webinar Part 3 (Accessibility)	9 – 10:30 a.m.
9/12/2019	Fall Assessment Conference Webinar Part 3 (Accessibility – Live Repeat)	1 – 2:30 p.m.
10/11/2019	October 2019 Assessment Lunch and Learn	12 – 1 p.m.
11/8/2019	November 2019 Assessment Lunch and Learn	12 – 1 p.m.

Alternate ACCESS for ELLs 2.0

Date	Title	Time
10/11/2019	Alternate ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Pre-Administration Training	10 – 11:30 a.m.

ACCESS for ELLs 2.0

Date	Title	Time
9/18/2019	Welcome Back: What's New This Year?	2 – 3 p.m. ET
9/24/2019	Pre-Testing: ACCESS for ELLs for New Test Administrators	12 – 1 p.m. ET
9/26/2019	Pre-Testing: ACCESS for ELLs for New District Test Coordinators	2 – 3 p.m. ET
10/3/2019	Pre-Testing: Software Updates & Technology Readiness Checklist	2 – 3 p.m. ET
10/8/2019	Pre-Testing: Technology Installations	2 – 3:30 p.m. ET
10/9/2019	ACCESS for ELLS 2.0 Pre-Administration Training	9 – 10:30 a.m. ET
10/10/2019	Pre-Testing: Ordering Materials in WIDA AMS	12 – 1 p.m. ET
10/17/2019	Pre-Testing: Test Scheduling	2 – 3 p.m. ET
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	3 – 4 p.m. ET

GAA 2.0

Date	Title	Time
10/1/2019	GAA 2.0 Test Administration Procedures Part 2	1 – 3 p.m.
10/3/2019	GAA 2.0 Test Administration Procedures Part 2 – Live Repeat	10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

GKIDS 2.0

Date	Title	Time
Currently Available	GKIDS 2.0 Training Modules Available via SLDS; information found on the GKIDS 2.0, Resources webpage	24/7

Georgia Milestones

Date	Title	Time
9/24/2019	INSIGHT/eDIRECT Training	10 – 11:30 a.m.
9/26/2019	INSIGHT/eDIRECT Training – Live Repeat	1 – 2:30 p.m.
10/15/2019	End of Course Winter 2019/Spring 2020 Mid-Month Pre-Administration	10 – 11:30 a.m.
10/17/2019	End of Course Winter 2019/Spring 2020 Mid-Month Pre-Administration – Live Repeat	1 – 2:30 p.m.
10/22/2019	Winter 2019/Spring 2020 EOC Mid-Month Online Test Set-Up Training	10 – 11:30 a.m.
10/24/2019	Winter 2019/Spring 2020 EOC Mid-Month Online Test Set-Up Training – Live Repeat	1 – 2:30 p.m.

NAEP

Date	Title	Time
10/8/2019	NAEP Pre-Administration Training (Age 9 Sampled Systems Only)	1 – 2 p.m.

Key Assessment Tasks and Reminders

GKIDS

Dates	Assessment Tasks and Reminders
7/8/2019 – 10/18/2019	GKIDS 2.0 Readiness Check Window (Must be completed six weeks from the posted start of the local district or charter school year.)
7/8/2019 – 5/18/2020	GKIDS Administration Window

Georgia Milestones

Dates	Assessment Tasks and Reminders
9/5/2019 – 9/19/2019	Cycle 2 Pre-ID Transmission for EOC Winter 2019 in Data Collections
9/9/2019 – 9/20/2019	EOC September 2019 Mid-Month Administration
9/23/2019 – 5/1/2020	Secure Practice Test with Response Transmission is available
10/7/2019 – 10/18/2019	EOC October 2019 Mid-Month Administration
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

NAEP

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

PSAT

Date	Assessment Tasks and Reminders
10/16/2019	PSAT Primary Test Day
10/30/2019	PSAT Alternate Test Day