

GaDOE Cancellation of All Required Spring 2020 State Assessments in Response to COVID-19 Pandemic – Frequently Asked Questions

Updated April 16, 2020

Which assessments are included in the declaration to cancel all spring 2020 assessments?

All state-required spring testing windows, including GKIDS 2.0, GAA 2.0, Georgia Milestones EOG and EOC, and NAEP assessments, are cancelled. The Georgia Department of Education applied for and will receive a waiver for this school year's federal testing and accountability requirements from the U.S. Department of Education. The waiver request can be viewed at accountability.gadoe.org under "ESSA." Window #4 of the Keenville Linking Study is also cancelled. ACCESS for ELs was not impacted as ACCESS testing was completed prior to the impact of COVID-19 in Georgia.

What assessment-related waivers did the State Board of Education (SBOE) approve at its March 26, 2020 meeting?

At the recommendation of Superintendent Woods, the SBOE approved three assessment-related waivers at its March 26, 2020 meeting:

- **Promotion and Retention: O.C.G.A. §§ 20-2-283, 20-2-284; SBOE Rule 160-4-2-.11**
Flexibility will allow districts to waive, modify, or set promotion/retention criteria, as well as protocols for making placement decisions in a timely manner.
- **Statewide Passing Score: SBOE Rule 160-4-2-.13(2)(d) and (f)**
Flexibility waives the requirement that the Georgia Milestones End-of-Course (EOC) assessment shall be used as the final exam in the courses assessed by a Georgia Milestones EOC and waives the requirement that the numeric score on the Georgia Milestones EOC shall count for 20% of the student's final numeric grade in the course assessed by the Georgia Milestones EOC.
- **Student Assessments: O.C.G.A. §20-2-281; SBOE Rule 160-3-1-.07**
Flexibility will waive the administration of, and related requirements for, state assessments scheduled for late Spring 2020 administration.

A fourth waiver also pertains to assessment in terms of validation of credit:

- **Awarding Units of Credit and Acceptance of Transfer Credits/Grades: O.C.G.A. §20-2-159.3; O.C.G.A. §20-2-159.4 (c); SBOE Rule 160-5-1-.15(2)(d)(3) and (4), and (2)(h)** Flexibility will allow districts greater ability to award credit based on district determination of student competency.



Additional information can be found at https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SB_Meetings/ViewMeeting.aspx?S=1262&MID=83168.

Given the SBOE-approved waiver of the 20% EOC requirement, what should be used in lieu of the EOC score for students' final grades?

It is a local district's decision regarding how to calculate final student grades without an EOC score.

Decisions to administer local assessments are solely determined by the local district. Superintendent Woods strongly encourages districts to suspend local assessments, in line with recent federal and state actions to suspend high-stakes assessments.

Does the SBOE-approved waiver of the 20% EOC requirement apply to EOC administration windows prior to or after Spring 2020?

The SBOE-approved waiver of the 20% EOC requirement applies to any students who complete an EOC-required course during the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year (spring/summer 2020) and were expected to participate in the EOC during the Spring or Summer 2020 EOC windows. Students who completed EOC-required courses prior to Spring 2020 already participated in the EOC and that score was included in posted final grades. Students who complete EOC-required courses after the end of the 2019-2020 school year (July 31, 2020) will be expected to participate in the applicable EOC administration and those scores shall be included in final grades.

Should EOC scores from the March 2020 mid-month administration be used in students' grades?

Districts may have experienced an impact of COVID-19 during the March 2020 EOC mid-month administration. For complete test sessions, districts can determine whether to include the EOC score in students' final course grades. For incomplete test sessions, districts should determine how to calculate students' final course grades without an EOC score. Incomplete test sessions and other irregularities should be reported to GaDOE through the MyGaDOE portal, consistent with existing procedures.

Will there be an EOG Summer Retest opportunity in summer 2020 to address issues of promotion, placement, and retention?

Given the cancellation of the spring 2020 EOG testing window and the SBOE's approval of a waiver to the promotion, placement, and retention requirement, there will not be a summer EOG retest window in summer 2020. Local districts will make determinations of promotion, placement, and retention according to local policy that utilizes information other than Georgia Milestones scores.

Will the summer administration of the EOC be available for first time administrations of the EOC as well as test-out and validation of credit opportunities for students?

Due to the continuing nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, the summer administration of the EOC has been cancelled. Students who completed EOC-required courses prior to July 31, 2020 (Spring/Summer 2020) are waived from the EOC requirement and are not expected to participate in the EOC in any

subsequent windows. The waiver includes flexibility for districts in awarding credit based on a district's determination for student competency (i.e., validation of credit).

Districts will be able to utilize the August mid-month and other future administrations for students who complete EOC-required courses after July 31, 2020 (2019-2020 school year) as well as Test-Out opportunities for 2020-2021.

Are districts allowed to continue to use GKIDS for progress reports or report cards?

The required administration of GKIDS has been suspended by the state. However, districts may choose to add any collected data to the GKIDS platform to allow for the production of progress reports or report cards. Individual and summary reports will remain accessible in the platform for the duration of the school year. No additional assessment of students is expected for spring 2020.

Is Keenville still available in spring 2020?

Yes, Keenville is available to all Georgia 1st and 2nd grade students through the Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS). For additional information, please contact Lisa Hardman at lhardman@doe.k12.ga.us.

How should districts handle secure test materials (Keenville Linking Study, ACCESS for ELs, GAA 2.0, Georgia Milestones EOG) that have already been delivered and received at the district?

When spring assessment windows were initially suspended, all shipments of secure test materials were stopped and additional materials windows with vendors were closed. Any secure test materials that were delivered and received at the district should remain in a secure location at the district and not be returned to the vendor at this time. While maintaining test security is important, the priority is the safety and well-being of students and staff. Additional guidance will be provided on returning secure test materials when districts are able to resume regular functions. Any specific questions should be directed to the [Assessment Administration Team](#).

Will GaDOE still hold its test development meetings with educators this summer?

All scheduled summer educator meetings have been cancelled. GaDOE may hold a virtual item review meeting in late summer or early fall. We will contact system test coordinators and educators directly with additional information and invitations to participate.

How will school closures and the cancellation of spring assessments impact the CCRPI?

The Georgia Department of Education has applied for a waiver and received approval from the U.S. Department of Education to waive federal assessment and accountability requirements. The waiver request can be viewed at accountability.gadoe.org under "ESSA." Therefore, there will not be a 2019-2020 CCRPI.

Will the GaDOE require the administration of End of Pathway Assessments?

The state will not require the administration of EOPAs this school year. If a district returns to normal operations and time is available to administer EOPAs, this may be offered as an option for students who wish to take them to earn a credential before graduating. Districts should not require that all students take them. Additional information was sent to district CTAE directors and school counselors from the GaDOE CTAE Office.

Are BRIDGE Bill requirements expected to be completed before the end of the school year?

All BRIDGE Bill requirements are suspended for this school year including the interest and aptitude assessment. If a district returns to normal operations and time is available, districts are encouraged to deliver the career development activities to students before the end of the school year; however, the inability to deliver the career development activities will not be held against the system. Additional information was sent to district CTAE directors and school counselors from the GaDOE CTAE Office.

Will students be able to take the ACT, SAT, and/or AP/IB exams?

National exams have been modified, rescheduled, or cancelled. Please refer to the links below for updated information on each national exam.

- ACT: <http://www.act.org/content/act/en/covid-19.html>
- SAT: <https://pages.collegeboard.org/natural-disasters>
- AP: <https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/about-ap/news-changes/coronavirus-update>
- IB: <https://www.ibo.org/news/news-about-the-ib/covid-19-coronavirus-updates/#examinations>

Additional information was sent to district Superintendents from the GaDOE Office of School Safety and Climate.