



Georgia Department of Education

Curriculum & Instruction Updates

Educating Georgia's Future

August 2016

FROM ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT PAM SMITH

Pam Smith, pamsmith@doe.k12.ga.us

State Board of Education Updates

On August 18, 2016, the State Board of Education approved the posting of Rule 160-5-1-.15 AWARDING UNITS OF CREDIT AND ACCEPTANCE OF TRANSFER CREDIT AND/OR GRADES for 30 days of public review and comment. This rule is being amended to include an updated definition of accredited schools, updated assessment (Milestone) language, and updated titles of high school mathematics courses.

- [Access the draft amendments to the Rule](#)

The State Board of Education adopted amendments to the following two rules:

1) 160-4-4-.10 INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS SELECTION AND RECOMMENDATION.

This rule was amended in compliance with House Bill 739 from the 2016 legislative session. The title of the Rule was amended to read Instructional Materials Selection and Recommendation to align with the wording in O.C.G.A. § 20-2-1010. As stated in O.C.G.A. § 20-2-1012, the state recommendation process for instructional materials and content becomes optional by changing the wording from shall to may. Amendments provided that “locally approved instructional materials and content” will require a review and recommendation process, provide for public review of proposed and approved instructional materials and content, and provides for the designation of a school system coordinator.

2) 160-4-4-.20 INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

This rule was amended in compliance with House Bill 739 from the 2016 legislative session. The title of the Rule was amended to read Instructional Materials Advisory Committee to align with the wording in O.C.G.A. § 20-2-1010. As stated in O.C.G.A. § 20-2-1012, the state recommendation process for instructional materials and content becomes optional by changing the wording from shall to may.

In the event that the State Board of Education elects to provide for state-approved instructional materials and content, the State Board of Education shall establish a review and recommendation process in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 20-2-1012 section two. Also, this Code section states that the State Board of Education may select a committee or committees to examine instructional materials and content.

Note: The amended Rules will be posted 20 days from the adoption date.

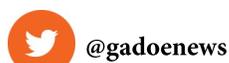
GaDOE Curriculum and GACIS Fall Conference

REGISTER NOW for the 2016 Curriculum Directors' and GACIS Fall Conference September 20-23, 2016 at the Classic Center in Athens.

Tuesday, Sept. 20: Training for New Curriculum Directors
Wednesday, Sept. 21: GaDOE Curriculum Directors' Conference
Thursday, Sept. 22 - 23: GACIS Fall Conference.

On September 21, 2016, School Superintendent Richard Woods will provide opening remarks followed by Professional Learning for the new Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE) for Science and Social Studies. Additional conference presentations will include topics such as TKES/LKES, PBIS, Open Educational Resources, Virtual Field Trips, KHAN Academy, and more.

On Sept. 22-23, the theme for GACIS is "Leading for Coherence" with a keynote presentation from Michael Fullan, a worldwide authority on educational reform. Melissa Fincher, GaDOE Deputy Superintendent for Assessment and Accountability, will include information regarding GA Milestones, waivers for the retention and promotion policy, student growth measures, and other assessment updates.



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MATHEMATICS

Sandi Woodall, swoodall@doe.k12.ga.us

Georgia's Presidential Award Finalists Named

It is a privilege to announce Georgia's 2016 State Finalists for the prestigious Presidential Award for Excellence in K-6 Mathematics Teaching. This national award recognizes teachers who develop and implement a high-quality instructional program that is informed by content knowledge and enhances student learning and is the nation's highest honor for teachers of mathematics. Each year the award alternates between teachers teaching kindergarten through sixth grade and those teaching seventh through 12th grades. Please join us in congratulating the 2016 Georgia finalists.

Lisa Duncan
GEAR Program
Colquitt County Schools

Dana Jackson
Windsor Springs Elementary School
Richmond County Schools

Christy Sutton
Lee County Primary School
Lee County Schools

Andrea Watts
Crabapple Lane Elementary School
Fayette County Schools

Cynthia (Erin) Yocum
Huddleston Elementary School
Fayette County Schools

Georgia Mathematics Educator Survey

In 2016-2017, the GaDOE Mathematics Program will focus on K-10 GSE mathematics standards that have proven to be difficult to interpret and challenging to teach. Our process will begin with the identification of targeted standards. To accomplish this first step, we will solicit participation from our Georgia mathematics educator taskforce in grade level/course statewide surveys via SurveyMonkey in early September.

While we will disseminate the surveys via our educator email lists, we are requesting that you assist us in this first step of forwarding the request for participation to all mathematics educators in your district.

Thank you in advance for your efforts to ensure that every K – 10 mathematics educator in our state has an opportunity to participate in the survey.

- [View SAMPLE survey](#)

GEORGIA VIRTUAL SCHOOL

Sharon Synan, sharon.synan@gavirtualschool.org

Important Dates

GaVS is in full swing and continuing to take enrollments.

- August 22: 16 week session begins
- August 24: Last day to start 16 week session (AP and non-AP)
- September 1: Last day to apply and pay for 14 week session (AP courses)
- September 5: Labor Day Holiday
- September 6: 14 week session begins and last day to start AP courses
- September 7: Last day to start 14 week session (non-AP)
- September 15: Last day to apply and pay for 12 week session (non-AP)
- September 19: 12 week session begins

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COLLEGE READINESS

Becky Chambers, rchambers@doe.k12.ga.us

2016 AP Regional Workshops

GaDOE is offering six Advanced Placement Regional Workshops for the fall of 2016. Dates and locations are:

- Friday, September 30, 2016, AP Studio Art only at Savannah College of Art and Design, Atlanta campus
- Friday, October 14, 2016, multiple courses at Richmond Hill High School in Richmond Hill, GA
- Monday, October 17, 2016, multiple courses at Columbus High School, Columbus, GA
- Friday, October 21, 2016, multiple courses at Lambert High School, Suwanee, GA
- Friday, October 28, 2016, AP Art History, AP European History, AP Music Theory only at High Museum of Art/Woodruff Arts Center, Atlanta, GA
- Monday, November 7, 2016, multiple courses at Eagle's Landing High School, McDonough, GA

Registration is now open. All high school principals have registration info.

Link your students to KHAN Academy FREE

Assist your students in linking their PSAT/NMSQT results to Khan Academy. This will help prepare juniors for their second PSAT and prepare all students who previously took the PSAT for the SAT and ACT. Khan Academy provides students with practice in areas of weakness anytime, anywhere, at no cost; Khan allows them to see personalized recommendations of where they need to focus their time; Khan gives them access to four FREE practice exams.

- [Georgia District Khan Flyer](#)

SCHOOL & DISTRICT EFFECTIVENESS

Karen Suddeth, ksuddeth@doe.k12.ga.us

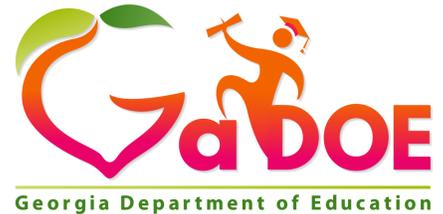
School Improvement Grants 1003(g)

Georgia's state application for additional funding under the School Improvement Grant (SIG) 1003(g) was recently approved by the U.S. Department of Education. The anticipated total award is over \$32,000,000, and the funding awards will run through September 30, 2021. This is wonderful news for schools in Georgia that are in need of resources, professional learning, and effective best practices for turnaround efforts to ultimately improve student achievement. A new competition for Cohort 5 was recently announced as well as the timeline for this round of applications which includes a due date of September 6th. Twenty-four priority schools submitted an intent to apply for this competitive grant.

In addition, the world of School Improvement Grants 1003(g) is very busy this summer with the announcement of sustainability funding opportunities. Additionally, for the first time, Georgia has an approved state-developed model for use in SIG schools. The new model, A Community-Based Vertical Approach, is getting much attention from the U.S. Department of Education and other states. Due to the high interest in the new model, which is based on feeder school patterns and community support, three of the Cohort 3 SIG schools transferred to the state-developed model.

Those schools are Quitman County High School, Twiggs County High School, and Wilkinson County High School. Recommendations for continuation funding for SIG sustainability awards and the three state-developed model awards as well as Cohort 4 - Year 3 allocations were approved in July by the Georgia State Board of Education. The turnaround work taking place in these current SIG 1003(g) schools is impressive as student achievement and graduation rates increase.

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Instructional Materials (Formerly Known as Learning Resources/Textbooks)

Randall N. Lee, rlee@doe.k12.ga.us

In previous years, the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) has conducted a review of textbook/instructional materials for core curriculum courses. The process was based on a six-year staggered schedule. Publishers submitted materials for consideration. Evaluation sites, one in each congressional district, were open in the summer so educators and the general public could view and evaluate the materials and submit comments to an advisory committee. Based on the recommendations of the advisory committee, the State Board of Education (SBOE) voted to approve a list of resources aligned to the State Board of Education adopted standards for a particular content area.

During the 2016 legislative session, laws related to textbook adoption were revised to allow for the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) to opt out of this role and leave adoption decisions up to local school districts. The revised legislation to the Georgia Code can be found in House Bill 739. Currently, the GaDOE is considering how to support districts in evaluating high-quality programs without being part of the formal, facilitated adoption, and review process.

If you have any questions, you may contact - Randall N. Lee. at rlee@doe.k12.ga.us.

JROTC Updates

Gary Mealer, gmealer@doe.k12.ga.us

The Second Annual Statewide JROTC Crossover Service Meet has been rescheduled for Saturday, March 25, 2017, at Georgia Military College. Registration and meet information will be coming out later this fall. Please mark that date on your calendar and plan to participate.

School Counseling

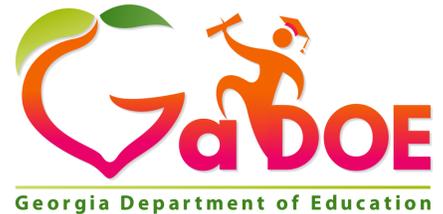
Myrel Seigler, mseigler@doe.k12.ga.us

Changes in Career Planning and Reporting

Over the past couple of weeks, the GaDOE has received numerous calls regarding GAcollge411 and the new GAFutures. In an effort to help clear up any confusion, we are pleased to announce that for the 2016-2017 school year, Georgia Career Information System (GCIS) will be at no cost to the local systems for middle and high schools due to the collaborative efforts of staff between state agencies and divisions. As the old GAcollge411 will no longer be functioning, and students need the opportunity to explore careers, take career-related assessments, and have a tool to help develop an individual graduation plan, Georgia Career Information System will be available for all middle, high, and state schools to utilize in fulfilling the BRIDGE legislation as well as CCRPI indicators. This is great news for our students across Georgia!

GAFutures, the replacement for Gacollge411, will be available for postsecondary planning ONLY. High School Counselors will be able to use GAFutures for college and career exploration and planning, financial aid planning (i.e.HOPE, FAFSA, MOWR) and transcript exchange through STARS. Counselors will not be able to use GAFutures to satisfy the requirements for BRIDGE/CCRPI for middle and high school. GCIS will serve as the tool needed for students to complete the career assessments and Individual Graduation Plan as required by the BRIDGE law as well as the CCRPI indicators relating to BRIDGE.

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CTAE

Richard Goble, rgoble@doe.k12.ga.us

Return on Investment (ROI) = The Foundation of Successful Partnerships

One of the most important concepts in creating and maintaining strong and sustainable partnerships is Return on Investment (ROI). For people to contribute to a partnership – and especially for them to be willing to stay for the long haul – they need to get something back. Here are some returns that various stakeholders need:

- Students want to feel successful and purposeful and to have a bright future
- Parents want to know their children are on a promising path to the future
- Educators want their students to be successful – this contributes to their belief that they are making a meaningful contribution to their students and communities
- Business and industry partners want their community's economy to be strong with a good customer base and a ready supply of skilled talent
- Citizens and civic organizations want to see their community healthy and prosperous and want to address challenges that emerge, as well as improve the local quality of life for everyone (Pawloski & Katz, 2014)

The Georgia STEM Forum

Gilda Lyon, glyon@doe.k12.ga.us

Register now to present, attend, and/or exhibit at Georgia's premier Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Conference, The Georgia STEM Forum. The Forum will be held in Athens on Oct. 24-25th at The Classic Center.

- [Registration Information](#)

MOWR Important Reminders For The Year

Gary Mealer, gmealer@doe.k12.ga.us

Please see the following 2016-2017 Move On When Ready (MOWR) Reminders:

- Local school systems receive FTE funding for MOWR students, and colleges/universities receive funding through the Georgia Student Finance Commission
- Students must be enrolled as full-time students in order for systems to receive full FTE funding
 1. Full-time status may be met by a MOWR student taking a combination of MOWR and high school courses to equal the high school periods per day---Six (6) period day = Six (6) total courses OR
 2. Full-time status may be met by a MOWR student taking a minimum of four (4) MOWR college courses totaling 12 hours or more
- Required End of Course Exams must be taken by MOWR students and the exam score counts as 20% of the final grade
- MOWR students attending colleges/universities on a Non-Traditional Quarter or Semester Schedule must be enrolled in an active, current class on the actual FTE count day in order for the local system to receive FTE funding for that student
- Students must have a completed Student Participation Form on file at the school and have completed an advisement session with their high school counselor before participating in MOWR
- MOWR classes being taught on high school campuses must have MOWR students only and cannot include any Non-MOWR students
- MOWR Student Withdrawal information:
 1. No withdrawal is allowed from MOWR courses without high school counselor approval
 2. If a withdrawal from MOWR is approved by the high school counselor, the student must complete the corresponding high school course
 3. If a student withdraws from a MOWR course before the end of the term and does not return to complete the corresponding high school course, a failing grade should be recorded on the student's high school transcript

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GIFTED

Gail Humble, Ghumble@doe.k12.ga.us

Fall Gifted Regional Meetings

Dates and Locations have been posted for the Gifted Fall Regional Meetings. The Agenda for all meetings will include a review of the Georgia Department of Education Gifted Guidelines and FTE information. We would all like to hear about how districts are implementing the Gifted Program if changes have been made due to Strategic Waiver or Charter Status. We will continue our discussion of identification and talent development and start a discussion about developing creativity. District directors may have other interesting initiatives or ideas to share as we all learn from each other.

Meeting Dates and Times, Locations

August 30 - Pioneer RESA, 12:30 pm, 1342 Highway 254, Cleveland, Host Martha Cantrell

September 6 - Houston County Schools, 9:00 am, Houston County Annex Building - Auditorium, 1600 Macon Rd/ Hwy 41; Perry, Georgia, Host Jan Jacobson

September 8 - Okefenokee RESA, 1:00 pm, 1430 N. Augusta Ave, Waycross, Host Cindy Hitt

September 12 - Coastal Plains RESA, 1:00 pm, 245 N Robinson, Lenox, Host Laura Frizzell

September 14 - DeKalb County Schools, 9:00 am, Administrative and Instructional Complex, 1701 Mountain Industrial Blvd, Stone Mountain, GA 30083, Host Donyell Atkinson

September 20 - Oconee RESA, Baldwin County Board of Education, 110 N ABC St., Milledgeville, Host Cathy Mayberry

September 29 - Dalton City Schools, 9:00 am, Administrative Annex, 105 N Thornton Ave, Dalton, Host Lisa Hackney

You don't have to call or email anyone to register - just choose the location and date that works best for you and come.

Student Support

DeeDee Bunn, dbunn@doe.k12.ga.us

2016-2017 Live Universal Design for Learning Webinar Series

During the 2016-2017 school year, a series of free webinars are available that will focus on various aspects of the instructional framework of Universal Design for Learning. The UDL Center at OCALI, in collaboration with the State Support Teams (Ohio), PATINS (Indiana), and the Georgia Department of Education will be hosting these webinars. The [Universal Design for Learning in Education Live Webinar](#) schedule for these webinars along with descriptions and registration links can be found on the Special Education Professional Learning Resources webpage and can be accessed by using the link above.

- [UDL Webinar Schedule](#)

World Languages

Michaela Claus-Nix, mclausnix@doe.k12.ga.us

International Skills Diploma Seal Application Open

Applications to become eligible to award the International Skills Diploma Seal to graduating high school students are now being accepted until December 15, 2016. Schools that were approved in February do not need to apply again. Please see our website for more information and to download the application form.

Do you remember the Georgia Middle School Association?

John Pritchett, jpritchett@doe.k12.ga.us

International Skills Diploma Seal Application Open

The Georgia Middle School Association has experienced recent changes and access to web resources dedicated to helping public middle schools promote excellence. Several schools looking for these resources, information about the February 26-28 annual conference, teacher grants, and awards were unable to locate the web site. The new web site can be found at gamiddleschoolassociation.org along with more information about educator and team award entry forms.