



Georgia Department of Education

Educating Georgia's Future

# Curriculum & Instruction Updates

December 2015

## CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION DIRECTOR UPDATES

Pam Smith, [pamsmith@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:pamsmith@doe.k12.ga.us)

### December 2015 State Board of Education Updates

On December 10, 2015, the State Board of Education adopted three new courses in the Information Technology Career Cluster Pathway. The courses are:

- 1) Web Development
- 2) Embedded Computing
- 3) Game Design: Animation and Simulation

These courses have been added to the [List of State-Funded K-8 Subjects and 9-12 Courses](#) for use beginning in January 2016.

You can access the [Summary of Changes for the List of State-Funded K-8 Subjects and 9-12 Courses](#) for the nine designated Computer Science courses to be used as follows:

- Course meets fourth science or fourth mathematics requirement for high school graduation purposes;
- Course meets University System of Georgia (USG) admissions requirements for fourth science;
- Course meets University System of Georgia admissions requirements for foreign language, i.e., two computer science courses from the same pathway will satisfy two years of required sequenced foreign language courses for USG admissions;
- Course meets fourth science and fourth mathematics admissions requirements for the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG).

Please contact Delda Hagin at [dhagin@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:dhagin@doe.k12.ga.us) for additional information.

### Architecture and Construction Career Cluster Pathways

The State Board of Education granted permission for the posting of the Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE) for courses in the Architecture and Construction Career Cluster Pathways for 60 days of public review and comment.

- [Access the Survey](#)

## SOCIAL STUDIES

### Social Studies Updates

Shaun Owen, [sowen@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:sowen@doe.k12.ga.us)

Teacher notes for 4th and 5th grade were posted in November. If you have not had the opportunity to view them, they are available on the [GeorgiaStandards.Org](http://GeorgiaStandards.Org) under the Content Areas Frameworks tab. select the Social Studies Content K-5, and they are just below the Instructional Guides.

Bruce Lesh, author of the book "Why Won't You Just Tell Us the Answer?", scheduled two presentations in February for Coastal Plains, and Chattahoochee Flint RESA. Contact the appropriate RESA for details.

Visit the [Social Studies program page](#) regularly for updates on the precision review process, new resources, and professional development opportunities.

# Curriculum & Instruction Updates



## ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA)

Stephanie Sanders, [ssanders@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:ssanders@doe.k12.ga.us)  
Dr. Cassandra Matthews, [camatthews@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:camatthews@doe.k12.ga.us)

### Literacy Initiative

The ELA/Literacy division is working on a Literacy Initiative and additional teacher resources. If you have questions or need assistance, you may direct inquiries to the ELA Specialists Stephanie Sanders, [ssanders@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:ssanders@doe.k12.ga.us), or Dr. Cassandra Matthews, [camatthews@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:camatthews@doe.k12.ga.us).

### Young Georgia Authors (YGA) Contest

The GCTE (Georgia Council for Teachers of English), in cooperation with the Georgia DOE, published the Official Guidelines for 2015-2016, regarding The Young Georgia Authors Contest for all Georgia's public schools and districts. There are four levels of competition: 1) local school, 2) local district, 3) RESA Districts, and 4) state.

All K-12 student entries must begin at the school level in order to be eligible to participate at each successive level. The important deadlines to remember are as follows:

1. Recommend end of February (specific date to be set by designated District ELA coordinator) - Local schools send grade level winners to District designee for judging.
2. March 18, 2016 - District Winners to RESA ELA Specialists
3. April 15, 2016 - RESA Winners sent to GCTE, Kathleen McKenzie, Director of YGA Competition
4. May 13, 2016 - State Winners K-12 announcement

- [Guidelines for Young Georgia Authors Contest 2015-2016](#)

## MATHEMATICS

Sandi Woodall, [swoodall@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:swoodall@doe.k12.ga.us)  
Brooke Kline, [bkline@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:bkline@doe.k12.ga.us)  
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### Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics Teaching Honored

Congratulations to the following state finalists and state winners of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics Teaching who were honored at the Superintendent's Recognition Ceremony in October.

#### 2012

2012 State Winner - Jeanne Rast, St. John's the Evangelist, Hapeville

#### 2013

2013 State Finalist - Angie Wood, East Jackson Middle School, Jackson County School System

2013 State Finalist - Amy Bettner, Arthur Williams Middle School, Wayne County School System

2013 State Finalist - Charles Garner, Rockdale Magnet School for Science and Technology, Rockdale County School System

2013 State Finalist - Jamie Gabel, McCleskey Middle School, Cobb County School System

2013 State Winner - Dr. Valerie Jones, The Ron Clark Academy, Atlanta

#### 2014

2014 State Finalist - Katherine Nims, Trinity School, Atlanta

2014 State Finalist - Stormi Johnson, Marietta Center for Advanced Mathematics, Cobb County School System

2014 State Finalist - Amanda Cavin, Unity Grove Elementary, Henry County School System

# Curriculum & Instruction Updates



## SCIENCE

Juan-Carlos Aguilar, [jaguilar@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:jaguilar@doe.k12.ga.us)

### Atlanta Brain Bee

The Atlanta Regional Brain Bee competition will be held at the Whitehead Auditorium at Emory University Saturday, January 23, 2016. In this elimination-style competition, students answer questions about the functioning of the brain and nervous system one by one until a single winner remains. The winner is sent to the National Brain Bee to represent the state of Georgia, and the top three finishers receive monetary prizes. The Bee provides a great chance to show off impressive knowledge of neuroscience and promotes the development of critical thought.

For more information and please contact Reagan Koski, Atlanta Regional Brain Bee Head Coordinator, at [rkoski1@gsu.edu](mailto:rkoski1@gsu.edu).

- [Register for the Atlanta Brain Bee](#)

### Adopt-A-Stream

The Georgia Adopt-A-Stream organization is pleased to announce the second annual Adopt-A-Stream Student Water Science Poster Competition. Abstract submittals are due by January 15, 2016 via the [Abstract Submission Form](#).

For more information about the conference and to view the Competition Flyer, Student Abstract Competition Guidelines, and Judging Criteria please visit the [Confluence page](#). For questions please contact Seirisse Baker (404-651-8512) or [AAS@gaepd.org](mailto:AAS@gaepd.org).

### Fossils, Bones, and Primates: Enriching Middle and High School Teaching

The Education Committee of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists (AAPA) invites you to their annual workshop for teachers.

This FREE half-day hands-on workshop will provide teachers with access to science materials and methods. The workshop is intended primarily for high school biology teachers, but all interested teachers are welcome to attend. The workshop will include practice with teaching materials for a 50-minute lesson incorporating early human skull replicas that will be available in Atlanta for teachers to borrow until April 2017.

Participating teachers will also have their \$300 conference registration fees waived so they can attend as much of the AAPA conference as they would like for free.

- [More conference information](#)

Date: Saturday, April 9th, 2016

Time: 8:00 am - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Atlanta Marriot Marquis

Georgia Contact: Dr. Kania Greer, [kagreer@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:kagreer@georgiasouthern.edu), or 912-478-2549. For more information about the workshop and AAPA conference, contact Dr. Briana Pobiner, Education Committee Chair, [pobinerb@si.edu](mailto:pobinerb@si.edu), or 202-633-1985.

### Science Week 2016

Science Week 2016 will be held at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta, March 5-10, 2016. The conference presents a trade show known as [Pittcon](#), which is the world's largest annual premier conference and exposition on laboratory science.

For students from grades 4 to 7, there are workshops on March 7, 8, and 9.

For further information, go to:

- [Student Workshops](#)
- [Teacher Workshops](#)

# Curriculum & Instruction Updates



## CTAE

### Important Move On When Ready (MOWR) Updates

Gary Mealer, [gmealer@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:gmealer@doe.k12.ga.us)

1. MOWR Application deadlines set by the Georgia Student Finance Commission are not the deadlines for the high schools and students to complete the application. These are deadlines for the whole process to be completely finished by the high school, student, and colleges. High schools need to complete their part much earlier than the MOWR deadlines to ensure the entire application process can be completed on time.

2. Question: Are MOWR students who are receiving high school credit for End of Course (EOC) classes required to take the EOC exam? Does the EOC exam grade count as 20% of their final grade? The answer is YES. This has always been required and the requirement has not changed. Nothing has been sent out or included in any MOWR documents issued by GaDOE stating this requirement has changed or been dropped this year. All high school students, whether MOWR or traditional students, must take the EOC test and count the grade as 20% of their final grade for any EOC course.

3. MOWR students should not be registered for courses that are not on the approved MOWR Course Directory available on the GaCollege411 website. They will not receive credit or be funded for those courses.

4. Question: Can MOWR students earn a full Carnegie unit of credit (college class of 3+ hours) for only 9 weeks of college instruction, especially if the course is being taught at the high school on the high school schedule? The answer is NO. This has not been approved by GaDOE at any time and all MOWR courses earning a full Carnegie unit of credit are based on a full semester of college instruction over the full semester as are all college courses. MOWR courses taught at the college campus follow the college schedule and MOWR courses taught at the high school campus follow the high school schedule for the semester.

5. Students must go through the following steps before participating or attending a MOWR course:

a. Must meet with counselor and complete a MOWR Student Participation Form. This is required each term before participating.

b. Must complete a MOWR application. The MOWR application must be completed each term of participation.

c. Must be approved by postsecondary institution student plans to attend.

d. Must provide high school counselor with a copy of their MOWR transcript from the previous semester of MOWR participation if this is not their first semester as MOWR student.

6. MOWR students are not allowed to drop courses without a conference with their high school counselor, receiving their approval and rescheduling of a class at high school for replacement if needed, for student to maintain full-time status at high school.

### JROTC Updates

1. Congratulations to:

a. First Sergeant Michael Johnson, a JROTC Army Instructor at Chattahoochee County High School in Cusseta, Georgia has earned the Teacher of the Year for SY2015-2016.

b. MCJROTC Cadet Major Nina Carter from North Forsyth HS was presented an Army ROTC four year scholarship to attend either the University of North Georgia or the University of Georgia.

2. The first Georgia JROTC All Service Drill competition will be held on Saturday, February 27, 2016, and will be hosted by the Georgia Military College (GMC) in Milledgeville. JROTC units from all services in Georgia are invited to participate. The entry fee is \$200.00 per school. Entry will be limited to the first 20 schools to submit their Registration Form and check that was distributed earlier by email. Refunds will not be given after Feb. 1, 2016.

3. New Air Force course descriptions have been posted on the GaDOE JROTC website.

4. Instructor needed to submit a proposal to share a best practice session at GACTE by December 31, 2015. Please contact Gary Mealer ASAP if interested at

[gmealer@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:gmealer@doe.k12.ga.us).

# Curriculum & Instruction Updates



## SCHOOL COUNSELING

Myrel Seigler, [mseigler@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:mseigler@doe.k12.ga.us)

### 2016 ACTE Career Guidance Award

Congratulations to Dr. Sheryl Neely. The Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) announces Sheryl Neely, a professional school counselor at Frederick Douglass High School in Atlanta, Georgia, as the winner of the 2016 ACTE Career Guidance Award. As the Region II winner of ACTE's Career Guidance Award, Neely was one of five finalists competing for the national title. The ACTE Career Guidance Award recognizes guidance counselors and career development professionals who have made significant contributions to advocate, educate, and communicate the value of CTE as a viable career option to a variety of audiences in their communities. Neely was announced as the national winner during the ACTE Awards Banquet on Thursday, November 19 at ACTE's CareerTech VISION 2015 in New Orleans, Louisiana.

### Support Georgia Counselor in ACTE National Elections

Brian Law, counselor at Valdosta High School, is running for Association for Career and Technical Educators (ACTE) Region II Vice-President. Brian is a former American School Counselor Association President and has held numerous other positions at the state and local levels. If you are an ACTE member, please show your support for Brian and keep Georgia represented on the national level.

### January 2016 Webinars

- Jan. 20, 2:00 - 3:00 pm  
Strengthening the Principal Counselor Relationship  
ALL LEVELS
- Jan. 20, 11:00 am - 12pm  
Mid-year Reflections  
ALL NEW COUNSELORS
- Jan 27, 2:00 - 3:00pm  
Improving High School Graduation Rates  
HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELORS

## STEM

### Newly STEM Certified Schools

Gilda Lyon, [glyon@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:glyon@doe.k12.ga.us)

Congratulations to the following schools that have recently been awarded STEM Certification from the Georgia Department of Education:

- Clark Creek Elementary in Cherokee County Schools
- Gilbert Elementary in Walker County Schools
- River Eves Elementary in Fulton County Schools
- The STEM Academy in Savannah Chatham County Public Schools
- Tritt Elementary in Cobb County Schools

## GEORGIA VIRTUAL SCHOOL

Sharon Synan, [sharon.synan@gavirtualschool.org](mailto:sharon.synan@gavirtualschool.org)

### Recent Georgia Credit Recovery (GaCR)

GaCR has provided over 70,000 students with credit since it started in 2007. Contact Sarah Newman at [sarah.newman@gavirtualschool.org](mailto:sarah.newman@gavirtualschool.org) for more information about GaCR and opportunities for your students to recover credits and prepare for graduation.

### Spring Registration is Still Open

Georgia Virtual School is still enrolling for Spring 2016 classes. We have a number of courses that can help expand a school's course catalog. Fall 2015 grades will be available December 10th.

- [Sign Up Now](#)