



Georgia Department of Education

Educating Georgia's Future

Curriculum & Instruction Updates

January 2016

FROM C&I DIRECTOR PAM SMITH

January 2016 State Board of Education Update

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

A formal review process was conducted for the Science and Social Studies Georgia Performance Standards (GPS). The review process included several public survey opportunities from April 16, 2015, through September 15, 2015. Teacher and stakeholder survey results informed the revision process for drafting the K-12 Science and Social Studies Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE). Working, Advisory, and Academic Review Committees representing K-12 Georgia public school teachers and education stakeholders from across the state made revisions to the K-12 Science and Social Studies GPS based on survey results.

On January 14, 2016, the State Board of Education granted permission to post the draft Science and Social Studies GSE for 60 days of public review and comment. Surveys for both Science and Social Studies will be posted from January 15, 2016, through March 14, 2016. The survey opportunity will close on March 14, 2016, at 5:00 P.M. EST. Please forward this communication to appropriate staff, PTA/PTO members, and other education stakeholders.

Click this [link](#) for access to an overview of the Science and Social Studies revision process, draft standards, crosswalk documents, and survey instruments.

For related information, contact Juan-Carlos Aguilar, Science Program Manager, via jaguilar@doe.k12.ga.us or 404-6579072 or Shaun Owen, Social Studies Program Manager, via sowen@doe.k12.ga.us or 404-651-7271.

Thank you for your assistance with communication and survey participation.

MATHEMATICS

Correction

Brooke Kline, bkline@doe.k12.ga.us

Georgia winners and finalists of the prestigious Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics were recognized in the December 2015 newsletter. Regrettably, information about finalist Stormi Johnson was inaccurately reported. Please see below for the corrected information.

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

REMEDIAL EDUCATION (REP)

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

Over the next several months, the State Board of Education Rule, 160-4-5-.01 Remedial Education will be updated to reflect the new assessment levels included in the Georgia Milestones. In addition, the REP Guidance will be updated to reflect changes in the rule. We anticipate this process will be completed by May 2016.

For additional information, please contact Randall N. Lee at rlee@doe.k12.ga.us.

Curriculum & Instruction Updates



ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Stephanie Sanders, ssanders@doe.k12.ga.us
Dr. Cassandra Matthews, camatthews@doe.k12.ga.us

Young Georgia Authors Writing Competition

The purpose of the Young Georgia Authors (YGA) writing competition is to encourage students to develop enthusiasm for and expertise in their writing, to provide a context to celebrate their writing successes, and to recognize student achievement in arts and academics. Unlike many writing competitions, the YGA does not provide a prompt to which students must respond or provide any other boundaries to their genre choice or creativity beyond a five-page maximum length limit (if typed, Times New Roman, 12 point font, double-spaced). Entries may include:

- Short Stories
- Poetry
- Essays/Literary Criticism/Analysis
- Journalism
- Academic/Research Reports
- Personal Narratives
- Any Other Original Student Writing

How To Enter YGA: Writings can only be entered into the state-level competition by winning the tiered levels: (a) local school, (b) district, (c) RESA, and then (d) state.

For detailed guidelines and information, please visit the [GCTE Student Contest webpage](#).

GCTE Annual Conference

2016 GCTE Conference Information

Dates of Conference: Feb 19-20, 2016

Location: Lanier Islands Legacy Lodge

Conference Theme: A Legacy of Learning

- [Register for the Conference](#)

FINE ARTS UPDATE

Jessica Booth, jbooth@doe.k12.ga.us

The Capitol Art Exhibit will be held from January 23 through February 20, 2016. The annual event is presented by the Georgia Art Education Association and is sponsored by the Office of the Secretary of State. The exhibit contains kindergarten through twelfth grade student artwork from across Georgia and is open to the public. The reception will be held on February 10, 2016 from 4:30 to 5:30 P.M. at the Veterans Memorial Building in Atlanta.

- [More information](#)

Tourism, Hospitality, and Arts Day at the Capitol is on January 26, 2016. Please join statewide arts supporters for a day of arts education and advocacy at the State Capitol in Atlanta, GA.

- [More information](#)

GaDOE introduces a STEAM certification for schools across Georgia. STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics and infuses design thinking and creativity into traditionally STEM subjects. STEAM certification rubrics, presentations, and guiding documents are [available for public review for thirty days](#).

GEORGIA VIRTUAL SCHOOL

2016 DRAFT ISTE Standards for Students

Sharon Synan, sharon.synan@gavirtualschool.org

International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) has just released the first draft of the new framework. ISTE will be collecting feedback until March 31, 2016.

- [Access the draft](#)

Curriculum & Instruction Updates



SCIENCE

Juan-Carlos Aguilar, jaguilar@doe.k12.ga.us

Training on Forensic Molecular Biology

Georgia BioEd is seeking applications for a professional development training on forensic molecular biology on January 28, 2016, at the Kennesaw State University Marietta campus. For more information please contact GaBio Main Office at admin@gabio.org or by phone at 404-221-0617 opt. 3.

Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision Program

Registration for the 24th annual Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision program—the world's largest K–12 student science competition—is now open. The deadline for all project submissions is February 1, 2016.

- [More information](#)

STEM Internships

The Cockrell School of Engineering at The University of Texas at Austin has received a five-year, \$1.3 million grant from NASA. This grant will support the national expansion of a STEM program that gives high school students and teachers the opportunity to use NASA resources and work directly with engineers at UT Austin's Center for Space Research (CSR). Applications for summer internships will be available starting March 1, 2016, on the UT Austin Center for Space Research.

- [More information](#)

2016 CDC Science Ambassador Free Workshop

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) invites middle and high school teachers to attend the 2016 Science Ambassador Workshop.

- [Visit the CDC Science Ambassador website](#)

The Atlanta Science Festival

The [Atlanta Science Festival](#) is an annual public celebration of local science and technology. This year's festival will take place from on March 19-26, 2016.

The Clean Tech Competition

The Clean Tech Competition is an international research and design challenge for 15-18 year old pre-university students. This is a prestigious educational opportunity for students across the world that challenges students to be innovative while encouraging their passion for the sciences. For more information please [visit the official competition website](#) or Mr. Frank DiGiovanni at cleantech@cstl.org or call (516) 764-0045.

Georgia Aquarium Workshops

For information about teacher workshops please visit the [Georgia Aquarium Workshops website](#).

Date: April 23, 2016

Target Audience: Grades K-12

Cost: \$18

The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST)

Nominations are being sought for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching program. If you know of an outstanding K-6 science teacher and would like to nominate her/him for this award, please visit the [PAEMST website](#).

Curriculum & Instruction Updates



SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES AND SUPPORTS

Institute Designed for Educating All Students (IDEAS) 2016 Conference

IDEAS Conference

June 6-7, 2016 Pre-Conference

June 7-10, 2016 IDEAS Conference

St. Simons Island, GA

The 2016 IDEAS Conference Committee is seeking proposals that reflect best practices in education in a wide variety of topic areas.

The 2016 IDEAS Proposal Packet contains a direct link to the proposal application as well as all the information regarding the application process, topic areas and presentation details.

[Download the 2016 IDEAS Proposal Packet](#) from the Institute Designed for Educating All Students (IDEAS) 2016 webpage.

Contact Gina Gelinas at ggelinas@doe.k12.ga.us with questions.

Through A Child's Eyes

It is often said that in order to understand someone you need to “walk a mile in their shoes.” While educators work hard every day to help our students with learning difficulties, it is often challenging to understand how those difficulties affect our students. Understood.org has developed an interactive webpage that allows parents and educators to experience, to a small degree, the difficulties that students with learning disabilities encounter. It is part of their Parent ToolKit and is called “Through Your Child’s Eyes.” Parents and educators will be able to hear from a child what it is like for them when they experience difficulties in the areas of reading, writing, math, attention and/or organization. An expert will discuss how these difficulties impact students and parents. Educators will have the opportunity to experience a simulation of those difficulties.

- [Try it for yourself!](#)

COLLEGE READINESS

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

Advanced Placement (AP) Champion Schools

Congratulations to these five schools who have been selected by The College Board for submitting the best proposals for celebrating AP Day in their school. These five were selected from among applications submitted by 65 Georgia high schools. Each of these five schools received a cash award from The College Board to use in promoting, supporting, and celebrating their school's AP program. Central High School in Carroll County

- Dutchtown High School in Henry County
- Carver High School in Muscogee County
- Islands High School in Chatham County
- Peachtree Ridge High School in Gwinnett County

2016 AP Day in Georgia

February 16, 2016, is AP Day in Georgia. Be sure to celebrate and promote your program. Send a short description of your celebration and plans to the College Readiness unit at GaDOE. Send to rchambers@doe.k12.ga.us.

Curriculum & Instruction Updates



SCHOOL COUNSELING

Upcoming Webinars

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

February 1-5, 2016: National School Counselors' Week

February Webinars

Feb. 10

2:00-3:00 pm

Understanding the Counselor's Role in Building School Morale

Feb. 17

11:00 am-12pm

Academic Achievement Initiatives

Feb. 17

2:00-3:00 pm

Using Art in Your School Counseling Program

Feb. 24

11:00 am-12pm

Empower & Inspire to Avoid the Drama

Feb. 24

2:00-3:00 pm

College Entrance Exams Resources for Your Students

EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM (EIP)

Update

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

The Early Intervention Program Guidance Document has been updated to reflect the language and levels of the Georgia Milestones. This is the only change made to the 2016-17 EIP Guidance. The updated document has been posted on the GaDOE.org website in the [Curriculum and Instruction Department under Early Intervention Program](#).

Look for information about an EIP Webinar in February. During the webinar we will discuss student identification, model implementation and FTE guidelines for the EIP program.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Shaun Owen, SOwen@doe.k12.ga.us

The Social Studies Precision Review

The draft Social Studies Georgia Standards of Excellence are ready for public comment. Review the revised standards and access a survey for public comment and feedback. The revised standards will be posted for 60 days until March 14, 2016, at 5:00 P.M. EST. The finalized standards will be presented to the State Board of Education for approval on March 31, 2016. Resource development, professional learning, and assessment alignment will begin after the standards are approved. The first year of implementation is planned for the 2017-2018 school year.

Professional Development Opportunities

Bruce Lesh, author of the book "Why Won't you Just Tell us the Answer?" will provide workshops for several Georgia RESAs. Check the Social Studies Page for an updated presentation schedule and additional professional development opportunities.

Plains, Pollinators and a President

Explore the biology and ecology of the monarch butterfly by exploring the historic resources in the hometown of Jimmy Carter, the 39th President of the United States and the Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Trail.

A teacher workshop will be offered June 16-17, 2016, in Plains. Teachers can receive PLU credits. Space is limited to 20 teachers. We are pleased to have US Fish and Wildlife Service, Monarchs Across Georgia, Environmental Education Alliance, and the Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Trail as workshop presentations.

[Teachers can register online](#) or contact Annette Wise at 229-824-5843 for additional information.