



Georgia Department of Education

Educating Georgia's Future

Curriculum & Instruction Updates

November 2015

FROM C&I DIRECTOR PAM SMITH

2015 Four-year Cohort Graduation Rate

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

Congratulations to Georgia educators, students, parents, and stakeholders for the hard work and dedication which contributed to the increase in our Graduation Rate! Georgia's 2015 high school Graduation Rate rose significantly from 72.5% in 2014 to 78.8% in 2015. This represents the fourth straight increase in our Graduation Rate.

- [2015 Four-year Cohort Graduation Rate](#)

For more information contact: Matt Cardoza, GaDOE Communications Office, (404) 651-7358, mcardoza@gadoe.org.

COLLEGE READINESS

2016 AP Teacher Training Grant

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

Superintendents and high school principals received the 2016 AP Teacher Training Grant announcement and application from Dr. Caitlin McMunn Dooley on October 16, 2015.

Completed applications are due to Becky Chambers no later than December 15, 2015. Questions? - email or call Becky Chambers at rchambers@doe.k12.ga.us or 404-463-5098.

MATHEMATICS

Mathematics and Mindset

Turtle Toms, tgunn@doe.k12.ga.us

Please watch and share this video from Stanford University's Jo Boaler: Just 8 1/2 minutes long, and packed with powerful ideas about mathematics and mindset for students, parents, teachers, and administrators. [Watch and learn!](#)

GEORGIA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

Sign Language Use for Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Hearing Babies

Bobby Bond, bbond@doe.k12.ga.us

Drawing from a large body of research, there is a clear argument favoring the use of sign language with all children, regardless of their hearing status. This argument is based on three basic points:

- Early language learning experiences affect other areas of development and are critical to children's future success.
- Sign language provides the earliest possible mode through which children can learn expressive language skills.
- All children can benefit from the use of sign language, with no risk to other language skills.

This includes Hearing, Deaf, and Hard of Hearing children, and any child benefiting from technological auditory assistance.

Visit the [American Society for Deaf Children website](#) for more information.

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ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Welcome to Georgia Classrooms, Live!

Carolyn Waters, cwaters@doe.k12.ga.us

Five exceptional Georgia teachers, who are working with the English Language Arts Georgia Standards of Excellence, are featured in [four segmented videos](#) designed as a professional learning resource for building capacity for student writing. The classrooms are authentic Georgia classrooms, featuring Georgia students in these productions.

Teachers were asked to prepare lessons that reflect standards-based, performance-based, research-based, and TKES-based instructional practice. Because there are numerous strategies from which to choose, these featured teachers purposefully selected “a tool from the toolbox” of sound instructional practices to incorporate into their video segments. Viewers will see these strategies delivered with great fidelity. Please know, teachers are invited to use the instructional practices that work best for their respective students. Teachers are encouraged to work with peers in Professional Learning Communities (PLC) to [watch the videos in segments](#), create lessons from the videos, and share ideas about how to tailor the work to meet their students’ needs. Document your PLC work for TKES evaluation purposes; this work is important to build teacher-leadership skills on your campus – beyond the walls of your own classroom!

REVISION OF STANDARDS: SCIENCE & SOCIAL STUDIES

Science Program Manager, Dr. Juan-Carlos Aguilar, jaguilar@doe.k12.ga.us

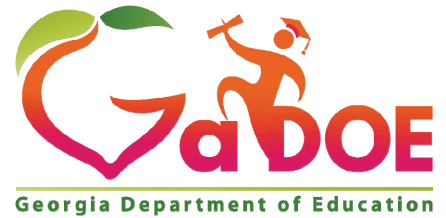
Social Studies Program Manager, Shaun Owen, sowen@doe.k12.ga.us

K-12 Science and Social Studies Standards are being revised.

Tentative Timeline for Revision:

- October 2015 - K-12 Working Committees utilized survey results to make recommendations for revisions.
- November 2015 - Advisory and Academic Review Committees reviewed recommended changes for comment.
- January 2016 - Recommendations for revisions will be presented to the State Board of Education (SBOE) for approval to post for 60 days of public review and comment.
- March or April 2016 - Draft K-12 Science and Social Studies Georgia Standards of Excellence will be presented to the SBOE for approval.
- 2016-2017 - Initial communication, resource development, and professional learning will begin.
- 2017-2018 school year - K-12 Science and Social Studies Georgia Standards of Excellence will be implemented for the first time. Communication, resource development, and professional learning will be ongoing.

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SCIENCE

The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching

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

The Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching are the highest honors bestowed by the United States Government specifically for K-12 mathematics and science teaching. Awardees serve as models for their colleagues, inspiration to their communities, and leaders in the improvement of mathematics and science education. Since 1983, more than 4,400 teachers have been recognized for their contributions to mathematics and science education.

Presidential Awardees receive a citation signed by the President of the United States, a trip for two to Washington, D.C. to attend a series of recognition events and professional development opportunities, and a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation.

Who can nominate? Anyone! Principals, teachers, parents, students, or members of the general public.

Who can apply? This year the program will be recognizing unique and talented elementary teachers (K-6).

Visit the PAEMST to [nominate or apply](#).

For more information on the program, please contact Dr. Juan-Carlos Aguilar at jaguilar@doe.k12.ga.us.

NOAA Climate Stewards Grants



The 2016 NOAA Climate Stewards Education Project (CSEP) Stewardship Community

NOAA is accepting applications for stewardship projects. This \$2,000 funding can be used for project equipment, supplies, or even buses to help active science education.

Selected educators who meet project requirements will be eligible for

- Mini-grants up to \$2000 to support a climate stewardship action project.
- Travel reimbursements to attend select workshops and/or national conferences.
- Special professional development opportunities.
- Additional monetary and educational resources.

Applications are due by midnight PST, November 22, 2015.

To learn more, go to the [NOAA Climate Stewards Education Project Web Site](#) or contact the project

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SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES AND SUPPORTS

Save the Dates!

Anne Ladd - aladd@doe.k12.ga.us

2016 IDEAS Summer Conference

June 6th-10th, 2016

St. Simons, Georgia

(More information after the first of the year)

2016 Federal Programs Summer Conference

(Special Education will no longer have the March Spring Leadership Meeting but is merging with Federal Programs for this conference)

June 21st-23rd, 2016

Atlanta, Georgia

(More Information coming soon!)

TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

Speak Up, Today!

Angela Baker, anbaker@doe.k12.ga.us

District leaders, we want to hear from your schools! Join the conversation about the use of technology for learning through [Speak Up](#), a Research Project on digital learning and the use of technology to support future-ready schools. Since 2003, over 4 million K-12 education stakeholders have participated in this annual online surveys. The survey results, collected by the nonprofit Project Tomorrow, will remain confidential, and you will receive a summary of your district's findings. This valuable benchmarking resource will be made available at no charge to you in February 2016, and will include the state and national data for comparison.

- [Take the survey today, and pass it on!](#)

For more information, contact Jenny Hostert on the Project Tomorrow team at jhostert@tomorrow.org.

CTAE

Correct Coding and Withdrawing of Move On When Ready Students

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

Move On When Ready Coding

Reporting Dual Enrollment for FTE

- All dual enrollment programs have been combined into one program called Move On When Ready (MOWR).
- The valid program code for dual enrollment is '6' or '7'. All MOWR segments should come in with program code '6' or '7' if being reported for FTE funding.
- These program codes do not have a weight, but are converted to D or K weight once the data has been collected.
- The 'M' program code is no a longer valid code.
- The Dual Enrollment Type and Fiscal Agent are no longer valid data elements and have been removed from the layout.

Withdrawal of MOWR students

1. Number of classes scheduled for a MOWR student - If the student is not attending the college as a full-time MOWR student, the student must have at least six (6) courses scheduled in order for the local system to receive full FTE funding. A MOWR student is considered full time at the college when taking a minimum of four(4) courses and those courses must have a total of 12 hours or more.
2. Withdrawal from MOWR course during the semester - A student must FIRST contact the high school counselor before taking any WITHDRAWAL action. If the decision is reached to allow the student to withdraw or drop a course, then the student must return to the high school and be enrolled in the matched high school course corresponding to the college MOWR course. The student should be provided a schedule just as any high school transfer student.

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SCHOOL COUNSELING

Georgia's 2015 School Counselor of the Year

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

Torri Jackson, counselor in Liberty County, has been named the 2015 Georgia School Counselor Association's Counselor of the Year. She was recognized at the GSCA annual conference on November 4, 2015, in Savannah.

She served as a math teacher for six years and a school counselor for the past 10 years at Bradwell Institute in Hinesville, Georgia. Mrs. Jackson has written numerous articles for the GSCA publications, given presentations at various conferences and Georgia Department of Education workshops, and recently appeared before a Georgia House study committee on school counseling and the role of school counselors.

In addition, Mrs. Jackson has conducted college admissions and financial aid workshops for organizations and churches in Liberty and surrounding counties. Currently, Mrs. Jackson is the student services support specialist for the Liberty County Board of Education where she is working to ensure all Liberty County schools have effective counseling programs.

Mrs. Jackson will be recognized at the Georgia Department of Education in May 2016.



Upcoming Webinars

Maria Grovner, mgrovner@doe.k12.ga.us

Please note the upcoming November 2015 School Counselor Webinars.

November 17

2:00-3:00 pm Small Groups for Middle School

November 18

11:00 am-12 pm Small Groups for High School

2:00-3:00 pm Small Groups for Elementary School

State School Nurse Program Specialist



The CTAE division of the GaDOE would like to welcome Krista Lowe as the State School Nurse Specialist. Krista has been a nurse for 15 years and taught Healthcare Science for seven years. She has also served as the HOSA advisor for the past seven years. Krista comes to us from Lambert High School in Forsyth County where she was a teacher and HOSA advisor. We are excited about the ideas Krista has for working with school nurses across Georgia to help keep our children safe and healthy.

Welcome, Krista!