**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION UPDATES**

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

**World Language - Level 3**

A World Language – Level 3 course for the less commonly taught languages was approved by the State Board of Education to be posted for 30 days of public review and comment from September 28 - October 27, 2017. The survey will close at 5:00 PM ESDT on October 27.

- Review the Draft Course for Comment

**Upcoming Conferences**

The Georgia Association for Elementary and Middle School Principals' Conference will be held in Savannah on November 5-7, 2017, at the Savannah Marriott Riverfront.

- Register for GAEL Conference

The Winter Conference for the Georgia Association for Curriculum and Instructional Leaders’ (GACIS) will be held at Lake Lanier at the Legacy Lodge on December 5-6, 2017. The Registration link will be posted soon on the GAEL Website.

**MATHEMATICS**

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

**Georgia Student Team Wins the 2016-2017 National Mathematics Video Challenge**

Georgia students were WINNERS of the 2016-2017 National Mathematics Video Challenge with their video production entitled The Ladder Challenge. The Georgia Quad Squad Team members are Keaton Tsepas Bucciero, Syndey Dinkins, Kamyah Hugee, and Jalelah Johnson, all students at the Ron Clark Academy. This innovative program involves a middle school team of students using technology to create videos about math problems.

- Learn More About the Math Video Challenge

**Georgia Team Ranks 4TH in the 2017 Mathcounts Middle School National Competition**

In the 2017 Mathcounts Middle School National Competition, Georgia’s team was ranked 4th out of 23 teams. The team, comprised of Georgia’s top four competitors, was coached by Fulton Science Academy teacher Sema Duzyo. Team members included: Holden Watson - Fulton Science Academy, Lawrence Zhou - Trickum Middle School, William Shi - River Trail Middle School, and Aaron Yu - Westminster Middle School.

- More Information

**Georgia’s 2017 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics FINALISTS**

The White House has announced Georgia’s 2017 State Finalists for the prestigious Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics. This national award recognizes teachers who develop and implement a high-quality instructional program that is informed by content knowledge and that enhances student learning. The award 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 twelfth grades. Congratulations to Georgia’s 2017 Finalists! Adam Crowley - Gordon Lee Middle School, Greg Lewallen - Habersham Ninth Grade Academy, Suzette Weinhardt - Sandy Creek High School, Billy Singletary - Coahulla Creek High School, and Melodie Carr - Parkview High School

- More Information about the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching

facebook.com/georgiadeptofed  @GaStandardsOrg  @georgiadeptofed
Curriculum & Instruction
Updates

WORLD LANGUAGES & GLOBAL WORKFORCE INITIATIVES

Patrick Wallace, pwallace@doe.k12.ga.us

International Skills Diploma Seal Accepting New Applications

In today’s global marketplace, students will have an advantage when they acquire the interdisciplinary skills needed for global competence. The International Skills Diploma Seal is awarded to graduating high school students who complete an international education curriculum and engage in extracurricular activities and experiences that foster the achievement of global competencies. It is a signal to employers and higher education institutions that a student is prepared to participate in the global economy.

This year, the International Skills Diploma Seal enters its 3rd year and interest in the program continues to grow! The program is also one of only three such programs in the United States that specifically recognizes students for engaging in an internationally focused curriculum in K-12. Participation in year two of the program grew by 30% with over 80 Georgia high schools in 28 systems now participating in this program which culminates with an awards ceremony for star ISDS students at the Georgia Department of Education. Last year, 640 students from these high schools received the Seal upon graduation and this year we expect more schools and students to be involved in this innovative program.

- More Information about the International Skills Diploma Seal Program

Superintendent Woods Signs Declaration of Intent with the German Central Agency for Schools Abroad and the Goethe Institute

On October 4, 2017 at a signing ceremony at the Georgia Department of Education, attended by representatives of the Georgia Department of Education, the German Central Agency for Schools Abroad and the Deputy Consul General of the German Consulate of Atlanta, the honorable Mr. Olaf Ladegast, a Joint Declaration of Intent was signed. Inspired by a common desire to promote global understanding in a complex world and recognizing the important role that language education plays in fostering global communication in economics, science, history and culture, all parties agree to cooperate in the coordination and implementation of German language programs conducted in line with the cultural relations and education policy of the Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany. General principles of the agreement include, advocating for high-quality instruction of the German language and culture in the state of Georgia, sharing resources and developing and improving tools for teaching the German language, supporting the networking of teachers, schools and students, allowing teachers and educational administrators to improve their knowledge by participating in training and educational programs and to foster cultural and educational ties between the citizens of Georgia and the Federal Republic of Germany. The agreement will foster expanded promotion of the German language, expanded collaboration between schools, expanded opportunities for student exchanges as well as allow for increased opportunities for teacher educational training and exchanges in all subject areas.
**ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS/LITERACY**

Stephanie Sanders, ssanders@doe.k12.ga.us

**Young Georgia Authors**

The Georgia Language Arts Supervisors (GLAS) organization will facilitate the Young Georgia Authors contest this 2017-18 school year.

Please contact Amy Fouse, President of Georgia Language Arts Supervisors (GLAS) for information about Young Georgia Authors at amy.fouse@hcbe.net.

- Official Rules for YGA 2017-2018

**HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

Therese McGuire, tmcguire@doe.k12.ga.us

**Teachers, TAKE 5! Access Healthy, 5-Minute Activities to Focus on YOU**

As an educator, you may often put your students’ needs before your own. Did you know that your own health can have a great impact on your physical, mental and social well-being?

That’s why we’re joining the Alliance for a Healthier Generation and Kaiser Permanente Thriving Schools for the #TeachersTAKE5 campaign. Visit TeachersTake5.org now to access healthy, 5-minute activities to focus on YOU. Share # TeachersTAKE5 with your colleagues, and together we can support each other.

**ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

Kelli Harris-Wright, kharris-wright@doe.k12.ga.us

**FIP PLGs for Teachers and Leaders**

Sample PLGs using the GA FIP Online Professional Learning resource are available at the links below.

- Teachers
- Leaders

**SCHOOL COUNSELING**

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

**AP/SAT Updates**

- 57% of Georgia’s AP test-takers scored 3 or higher on AP exams in 2017.
- The state of Georgia will fund one AP exam for all public-schools students (regardless of income) enrolled in AP STEM courses.
- The cost of any AP exam for eligible low-income students is $53.00.
- AP Potential, a free web tool, is used to identify students with potential to score 3 or higher on AP exams in 30+ courses
- Khan Academy provides Free SAT practice tests
- In December, schools may elect to administer the SAT on a “school day at the local high school.
- SAT School Day: 2018 SAT administration dates listed on website.
The TLSD team has created new User Guides pertaining to Contributing Professionals placement of PSC Goals or Plans and are located in the TLE Electronic Platform. They include:

- Educator PSC Professional Learning Goals/Plans
- Assigning Evaluator Rights to Contributing Professional Plans
- Evaluator Mid-Year PSC Goal/Plan Progress
- Evaluator Completion PSC Requirements
- Educator Reflection on PSC Goals/Plans

TLSD contact for questions regarding the TLE Electronic Platform: Melinda Moe mmoe@doe.k12.ga.us

Bryan Cox, bcox@doe.k12.ga.us

Computer Science Reminders

1. Computational thinking is an essential skill set for everyone in our society and thus an essential aspect of K-12 education.

2. Reminder: Nine designated high school computer science courses count as a 4th science course for high school graduation and will count towards admission to a University System of Georgia institution.

3. Reminder: Nine designated high school computer science courses count as a 4th math course for high school graduation purposes.

4. Reminder: Two courses in a sequence of the 9 designated high school computer science courses will satisfy the University System of Georgia’s foreign language requirement for admission.

5. GAVS offers 4 computer science pathways online (Computer Science, Programming, Game Design, and Web Design).

6. Microsoft offers vouchers to every school in Georgia for their End Of Pathway Assessments including the CS EOPAs.
SOCIAL STUDIES

Joy Hatcher, jhatcher@doe.k12.ga.us

Social Studies Milestone Assessments

From Assessment: “Generally, under Georgia Milestones for social studies, proper nouns that are present in the text of the content standards are used in test items. However, Georgia educators involved in the item development process have indicated that there are additional terms that are inherent to the instruction of the content defined in the standards, and the Georgia Department of Education has determined that it is in the best interest of instruction across Georgia to bolster the clarity and accuracy of the test items by providing an extended list of proper nouns implied through the implementation of the GSE.

For example, in grade 5, consider standard SS5H4, Explain America’s involvement in World War II. While “Axis powers” and “Allied powers” are not stated explicitly in the standards, Georgia educators involved in the review process understand that those terms are necessary in the instruction process for this standard, and that avoiding those two terms would create less clarity in the test items. Instead of simply saying “Axis powers,” ambiguous phrasing would have to be created to describe “countries that fought on the side of Germany during the war” or “countries that fought against the United States during the war”; thereby increasing the reading load for the student and decreasing clarity.”

A Social Studies Supplemental Resource for Instructional and Assessment Practices has been posted to the Georgia Milestones website under both EOG Resources and EOC Resources.

Social Studies Teacher Resource Library

We continue to build our library of great resources. Visit the Social Studies GSE page on GSO or follow GaDOE Social Studies on social media to discover new resources for social studies content and instruction. You can also find these resources through the Teacher Resource Link. Don’t forget to encourage your colleagues to visit the Social Studies Professional Learning page to join their virtual community of Georgia educators.

TEACHER AND LEADER EFFECTIVENESS

Leslie Waldon, leslie.waldon@doe.k12.ga.us

Redesigned Teacher Resource Link (TRL)

Leslie Waldon, leslie.waldon@doe.k12.ga.us

TRL now has a new look! The Redesigned Teacher Resource Link is a One-Stop-Shop for Teachers. Over 28,000 downloadable resources are available. In addition, the Essential Toolkit for K-5 teachers provides curriculum planning tools. The redesigned features include user-friendly search options categorized by grade-level standards as well as Curriculum Maps, Frameworks, Glossaries, and Teacher Guidance documents.

Here are a few teacher resources you can expect to download:

- Khan Academy - 2,000 instructional materials
- SAS Curriculum Pathways - 1,200 interactive lesson plans
- Read! Write! Think! Graphic organizers and literacy lessons
- eSpark Learning videos and target skills
- National Endowment for the Humanities - 500 cultural subjects
- PBS Learning Media - 700 lessons and games for instruction
- Watch Know Learn - 2,800 educational videos
- Open Up Resources - 2,000 math games

To access these resources, click the “TRL” tab within the State Longitudinal Data System (SLDS). If you do not have SLDS access, please request access through your district’s Student Information System (SIS) Coordinator.
Curriculum & Instruction Updates

CAREER, TECHNICAL, & AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

Kyle Hood, kyhood@doe.k12.ga.us

Fall Events and Activities

Don’t forget to register for one of the remaining Regional Economic Development Meetings being held across the state this fall. Availability for additional attendees is open in these communities:

- October 30, Richmond County

The 2017 Work-Based Learning/Youth Apprenticeship Conference will be at Lake Lanier Islands on November 1, 2, & 3, 2017. This gathering of WBL/YAP professionals is focused on providing the newest best practices and legislative changes that affect the ability to build meaningful partnerships with industry and get students out of the classroom and into these increasingly valuable on-the-job training experiences that complement their institutional instruction.

- More Information and Registration Links to These and Other Professional Learning Events

During the month of October each of our Career Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) hold an exciting day of competition and leadership activities at the Georgia National Fairgrounds in Perry, GA. Students will be inspired by dynamic keynote speakers, have an opportunity to win Award Ribbons, and other prizes, as they can take advantage of this outstanding occasion to network with other CTSO members from across the state. There are also CTSO Fall Conferences, a FIRST Robotics tournament and a national conference taking place. If you have any questions about these events, please visit the respective CTSO website or contact your CTSO Executive Director.

- More Information and Registration Links to These and Other CTSO Events

CTAE Dates and Events

- October 17-19, 2017
  FCCLA Fall Conferences, FFA FHA Camp & Camp John Hope

- October 19-20, 2017
  DECA Fall Leadership Conference, Renaissance Waverly, Atlanta, GA

- October 23-24, 2017
  SkillsUSA 2RE Fall Conference, Marriott Marquis, Atlanta, GA

- October 28-29, 2017
  Georgia Robotics Invitational Tournament and Showcase GRITS, Riverside Military Academy, Gainesville, GA

- November 3-5, 2017
  TSA Fall Leadership Conference, Jekyll Island Convention Center, Jekyll Island, GA

- November 5-6, 2017
  HOSA Fall Leadership Conference, Marriott Marquis, Atlanta, GA

- November 10-12, 2017
  FCCLA National Cluster Meeting, Washington, D.C.

- November 15-16, 2017
  FBLA Fall Leadership Conference, The Classic Center, Athens, GA

- November 16-17, 2017
  CTI Fall Leadership Conference, Evergreen Marriott Resort, Stone Mountain, GA

- December 1, 2017
  SkillsUSA Region 1 Championships

KSU iTeach Coach Feature Podcast - Personalized Learning

Listen to Kennesaw State University iTeach Instructional Technology Specialist Ana Hale discuss personalized learning strategies and tools when presented with a unique set of challenges with two elementary schools.

- Listen to Personalized Learning Podcast
Curriculum & Instruction Updates

POLICY

Jeff Hodges, jhodges@doe.k12.ga.us

School Climate Surveys

Please note that the school climate surveys for the 2017-2018 school year will officially open on Monday, October 2, 2017, and will remain open through Friday, March 2, 2018. Please share this important information with your school principals, counselors and other school staff members responsible for administering the surveys.

Please note that you will not be able to use the same survey links that you used last year because the links have changed.

Federal law requires that the student survey be made available for review by all interested parties; therefore, copies of the student survey may be reproduced and made available to parents or other parties upon request. Also, please make sure that your parents/guardians know about the student survey and are given the option to opt out if so desired. Student survey results, copies of the student survey questions, and parent permission forms are available on this Georgia Department of Education webpage.

Alternative schools with a school ID number must participate in the surveys. However, virtual schools, alternative programs without a school ID number and other “non-traditional” schools or programs are not required to participate.

Each school must have a 75% participation rate on the Georgia Student Health Survey 2.0 and the Georgia School Personnel Survey. Failure to meet the 75% participation rate on these two surveys will result in a 0.00 score; thereby, significantly reducing a school’s School Climate Star Rating. Although there is no mandatory participation rate for the Georgia Parent Survey, schools that have no participation in the survey will receive a 0.00 score. Schools with less than 15 parent surveys will be designated as Low Participation (LP) and the results will not be calculated. Either way, no parent or low parent participation will negatively impact a school’s School Climate Star Rating.

Georgia Student Health Survey 2.0

There are two versions of the Georgia Student Health Survey (GSHS) 2.0. The first version is for middle and high school students (grades 6 – 12), and the second version is a shorter survey for elementary students (grades 3-5). At least 75% of students at each grade level (3-12) must participate in the GSHS 2.0 to be eligible for the School Climate Star Rating. Please make plans for your elementary, middle and high school students to participate in the GSHS 2.0. Survey responses are anonymous and will be submitted directly to the Georgia Department of Education for analysis. The GSHS 2.0 is also available in Spanish. Students may select the Spanish version within the survey.

- Georgia Student Health Survey 2.0 – ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (grades 3-5)
- Georgia Student Health Survey 2.0 - MIDDLE SCHOOL (grades 6-8)
- Georgia Student Health Survey 2.0 - HIGH SCHOOL (grades 9-12)

Georgia School Personnel Survey

The Georgia School Personnel Survey (GSPS) is modeled after the student survey and includes 31 questions. The GSPS is for all certified and classified staff members who work at least 50 percent of the day in the school. At least 75% of certified and classified staff members must participate in the survey to be eligible for the School Climate Star Rating. Most teachers should be able to participate in the GSPS using their classroom computer. The survey is also accessible using a tablet or smartphone. Survey responses are anonymous and will be submitted directly to the Georgia Department of Education for analysis. Results from the Georgia School Personnel Survey will not be available to the public and will not be posted online.

- Georgia School Personnel Survey
**Survey Participation Website**

The survey participation website is available to help you monitor survey participation rates for each of your schools.

- [Survey Participation Website](#)

Please note that the survey totals will display on the survey participation website within one hour after students, personnel, and parents complete the survey.

If you have any questions about the school climate surveys, please contact [Jeff Hodges](mailto:jhodges@doe.k12.ga.us).

**GEORGIASTANDARDS.ORG**

Tony Vlachakis, [tyvlachak@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:tyvlachak@doe.k12.ga.us)

**Website Usage**

- Pageviews: 93,518,801
- Sessions: 20,221,524
- Users: 7,710,752
- Avg. Pages / Session: 4.62
- Avg. Session Duration: 3 Mins 52 Secs
  (Google Analytics 9/1/2008 to 9/30/2017)

- [Visit GeorgiaStandards.Org](#)

**GeorgiaStandards.Org YouTube Channel**

- Watch Time: 444,360 Mins
- Views: 106,987
- Average View Duration: 4 Mins 09 Secs
- Likes: 138
- Shares: 1,461
- Videos in Playlists: 1,107
- Subscribers: 304
  (YouTube Analytics 4/26/2013 to 9/30/2017)

- [Visit and Subscribe to the GSO YouTube Channel](#)

---

**POLICY**

Jeff Hodges, [jhodges@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:jhodges@doe.k12.ga.us)

**Georgia Parent Survey**

The Georgia Parent Survey is also modeled after the student survey and contains 24 questions. Parents may complete the survey using their personal computer, smartphone or tablet. For parents that do not have access to the Internet, school administrators should consider scheduling dates and times to allow parents to complete the Georgia Parent Survey at school. All parents should be encouraged to participate in the Georgia Parent Survey because the data will be used as part of the calculation of the School Climate Star Rating. Survey responses are anonymous and will be submitted directly to the Georgia Department of Education for analysis. The Georgia Parent Survey is also available in Spanish. Parents may select the Spanish version within the survey. Results from the Georgia Parent Survey will not be available to the public and will not be posted online.

- [Georgia Parent Survey](#)

**Survey Administration**

Each of the surveys is administered online through the provided survey links. As soon as the school administrator enters the survey link into the web browser, a drop-down menu will appear and the school administrator will use the drop-down menu to select their school district and their school. If there are new schools that wish to participate that are not included in the drop-down menu, please contact us using the contact information at the end of this e-mail and we will add the school to the list.

Please do not allow students to use the drop-down menu to select their school system and school. Students will often select the wrong school system or the wrong school on the drop-down menu. If this happens your school will not get credit for their survey responses. A teacher or administrator should always be assigned to select the school system and school name on the drop-down menu.
**SCIENCE**

Amanda Buice, abuice@doe.k12.ga.us

**Opportunity for Students to Share Water Science and Citizen Science Projects**

New Georgia Adopt-A-Stream (AAS) announces the Adopt-A-Stream 2018 Water Science Poster Session! Participants will present their posters at Confluence, the AAS volunteer monitoring conference, held on Friday and Saturday, March 23-24, 2018 at the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center in Buford, GA. Abstract submittals are due by Monday, January 15, 2018, via the Abstract Submission Form. Visit the Confluence page for more information about the conference and the Water Science Poster Session page to view the event Flyer, Abstract Submission Form, and Poster Session Guidelines. Abstracts and posters from previous years can be viewed on the Poster Presenters and Winners page. This year’s poster session is open to both students and AAS volunteers! Space is limited, and all participants are asked to submit a short abstract for their poster to help us select as many participants as possible. Travel stipends are available for eligible participants.

This poster session is an opportunity for students and volunteers to share their water science and citizen monitoring projects and to receive recognition from peers and professionals in water science fields. Accepted abstracts will also be published in the AAS newsletter and on the website!

For questions, contact Harold and Seira at 404-651-8512 or AAS@gaepd.org.

---

**Instructional Resources!**

Please visit the Science GSE page on GSO to see the recently released resources aligned to High School Biology GSE. Other resources will be dropping soon, so please check back often.

Additionally, we have added a professional learning resource to our Science GSE page on GeorgiaStandards.Org. Take a look at the 10 guided discussions that can be used throughout the year to learn more about the structure, background, and intended outcomes of the GSE. Teachers are encouraged to work in a PLC with department or content/grade level groups to learn about different aspects of the standards. There is an introduction through a video or reading, discussion questions, and additional resources if you want to learn more. The PLC’s will take 20-30 minutes. It is recommended that a different topic be introduced each month to give teachers time to process and start incorporating these ideas into their classrooms. A special thanks to the Georgia Science Teachers Association, Donna Barrett-Williams, and Jeremy Peacock for developing and sharing this work with the Georgia Department of Education and for allowing us to collaborate with them to adapt their original work.