Deputy Superintendent Updates: Teaching and Learning
Contact: Caitlin McMunn Dooley

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES: WHAT’S THE EVIDENCE?

Children are the center of what we do in schools. As you consider how to create the types of learning opportunities that will ensure student success, please look to the children first.

Engagement is the name of the game, right now! Emotional engagement. Exciting engagement. Engagement with peers, friends, and caring adults. Too many children have lost loved ones, lost a line of sight to a foreseen future, and lost daily interactions with friends. Engage children through conversation, outdoor activities (while the weather is still springlike!), and shared stories. Learn more about how to improve climate through engagement here.

Assess what students know and can do. Ask them what they learned about themselves as learners during online and face-to-face schooling. Ask them how they learn best. Provide ways for children to show the amazing interests and aptitudes they have—for everything from cooking to calculus. Formative assessments can provide real-time information about children’s academic knowledge—use these assessments to propel students into the next level and next grade. Check out Georgia’s formative assessment and instruction practices here.

Accelerate learning to ensure that students do not get bogged down with skill-drill activities. We will find “gaps” in knowledge, but that does not indicate that a child has “lost” learning. Instead, it provides an opportunity to teach a particular skill or concept so that a child can make connections to deeper understandings and sophisticated skills. This is not a time to focus on remediation. We should avoid creating a system that focuses on low-level skills rather than the higher-reaching grade-level standard. Learn more about how to improve student learning here. This is a great lesson planning tool for accelerated learning.

Associate Superintendent Updates: Curriculum, Instruction, and School Climate
Contact: Justin Hill

INNOVATIVE EDUCATION FUND GRANT PROGRAM RELEASED

See this grant opportunity hosted by GOSA to support local innovations! Please apply.

C&I/GACIS WEBINAR SERIES

Curriculum, Instruction, and School Climate is partnering with GACIS to co-host a ten-part webinar series addressing learning loss. The first session, held on April 14, featured GaDOE Deputy Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, Dr. Caitlin McMunn Dooley, discussing the evidence base for recovery. The recording can be accessed on the Curriculum, Instruction, and School Climate homepage. Upcoming webinars:

- **Part III**: May 11, Back to the Classroom Basics 1: Supporting Social Emotional Behaviors in the Classroom
  Brandi Simonson, Ph.D.,
  Co-Director, Center for Behavioral Education & Research, University of Connecticut

- **Part IV**: May 26, Back to the Classroom Basics 2: Integrating Instructional Supports in the Classroom
  Steve Goodman, Ph.D., Director, Michigan’s MTSS Technical Assistance Center

Children are resilient. Historically, they have lived through many hardships, pandemics, wars, and crises. Psychologists remind us to center ourselves as caring adults, establish routines and boundaries, provide positive role models, offer dependability and consistency, provide care and compassion, and moderate the energy we bring to the situation as a way to mitigate negative responses to this pandemic. Ultimately, many children will rise up to today’s challenges, grow stronger, and emerge educated, optimistic, and kind.
GEORGIA HOME CLASSROOM UPDATES

Our Curriculum, Instruction, and Climate team continues to add Georgia-grown content to the Georgia Home Classroom. We now have 225 K-12 Remote Learning Plans across all content areas with new Science, Social Studies, Physical Health and Wellness plans just released!

The Georgia Home Classroom Getting Ready Guides will be updated this spring by adding Fine Arts and Nutrition for grades K-3 and posting complete guides (all content areas) for grades 4th and 5th. Please share these practical resources with adults working with elementary students this summer.

Look for new Let’s Learn GA! videos in Science Classroom Climate in April to support teachers and families. We’ve heard innovative ways (from all over the state!) that teachers are using these resources. Please continue to send us feedback and ideas.

Are you a Georgia public school teacher with a great video lesson you would like to share? If so please visit: Create a Video Lesson for LLG. Participating teachers will receive a stipend for completed videos.

Associate Superintendent Updates: Curriculum, Instruction, and School Climate
Contact: Justin Hill

STANDARDS UPDATE

PHYSICAL HEALTH AND EDUCATION REVISED STANDARDS APPROVED

The State Board of Education approved the revised Physical Health and Education standards. Check the Physical Health and Education website for the approved standards.

MATHEMATICS STANDARDS PUBLIC COMMENT

The Georgia Department of Education has posted the K-12 Mathematics Standards for a public review and comment period beginning 3/26/2021 through 5/7/2021. Draft standards and additional information can be found at the following links:

- K-12 Mathematics Standards
- Mathematics Standards Comparison Chart
- K-12 Mathematics Standards Review Timeline
- Mathematics Standards Revision Process
- Provide Feedback on the Proposed Standards

Innovative Programs and Research Updates

Contact: Juan-Carlos Aguilar

GRE4T GEORGIA’S PATH TO PERSONALIZED LEARNING APPLICATION

The GRE4T (pronounced GREAT) Personalized Learning (PL) Initiative is designed to improve student engagement across all sub-groups, especially during this transition period of educational progress across Georgia. GRE4T is part of the “Rethinking Education Models” or REM Initiative from the US Department of Education. This initiative awarded $18,594,304 to GaDOE to improve personalized learning based instruction by providing targeted professional learning to schools/district learning and teachers and the infrastructure of Georgia Virtual School (GaVS) to ensure statewide access to personalized learning and better interoperability so students can earn Comprehensive Learner Records (CLRs) and benefit from personalized instruction. If your school is interested in participating in this initiative please complete the GRE4T application.

For additional questions please contact Julie Noland or Tawni Taylor.
Resources for Fine Arts Teachers
Contact: Jessica Booth

SPRING 2021 ONLINE FINE ARTS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WEBINARS

The fine arts team at GaDOE continues to provide GA fine arts teachers with high-quality and content-specific professional development webinars to engage in professional learning as their schedule allows throughout the Spring 2021 semester...

FOR FREE! These upcoming webinars can be found on our GaDOE Fine Arts website or you can register directly by using this GaDOE Professional Development Registration Form. If you may have missed a webinar, don’t worry! You can always request access to past recorded webinars by using this GaDOE Recorded Webinars Request Form.

Resources for ESOL

WIDA ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT (ELD) STANDARDS FRAMEWORK, 2020 EDITION - STATEWIDE PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

The Fall 2021 roll-out of the WIDA ELD Standards Framework, 2020 Edition, has begun in Georgia. During the months of February, March, and April 2021, more than 400 ESOL educators and leaders from city, county, and charter school systems across 16 RESA regions in Georgia took part in the Planning for the WIDA ELD Standards professional learning sessions. This two-part virtual webinar series consisted of four modules that focused on equity of opportunity and access, integration of content and language, collaboration among stakeholders, and a functional approach to language development. Upon completion of the four modules, participants received a WIDA certificate of attendance.

If you or your school team is interested in learning about the WIDA ELD Standards, you can visit the WIDA website or consider asking the school system ESOL Director for a WIDA login/password to access the WIDA Self-Paced Modules in the eLearning Center tile.

Contact: Margaret Baker

Resources for World Languages

NEW ONLINE WORLD LANGUAGE COURSE AVAILABLE VIA SLDS

The Georgia Department of Education World Languages and Global Workforce Initiatives is pleased to announce that a new world language course for teachers is now available via the State Longitudinal Data System (Link - https://www.gadoe.org/Technology-Services/Enterprise-Systems-and-Applications/SLDS/Pages/SLDS) The course, entitled Strengthening Your Core Competencies in World Language, reviews the core competencies of world language teaching and builds upon the concepts introduced in the previous three courses reviewing the NCSSFL-ACTFL Can-Do Statements.

Contact: Patrick Wallace
Georgia's Tiered System of Support for Students Updates

VIRTUAL TRAININGS OFFERED BY GEORGIA’S TIERED SYSTEMS OF SUPPORT (GATSS)

Georgia’s Tiered Systems of Support is excited to announce that Dr. Tessie Rose Bailey, a national expert on the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) framework with the American Institutes for Research, will provide two opportunities for training on MTSS in Georgia.

Session: Overview of MTSS
May 6, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Don’t miss Dr. Bailey’s overview of MTSS. This session is open to all educators in Georgia.

• Register

In addition, steps for joining the Go-MTSS platform in SLDS are included in the March 2021 newsletter edition. The Go-MTSS platform provides a method for districts to maintain data for students receiving Tier 3 support electronically at no cost to districts. This fall the platform will allow data entry for students receiving Tier 2 supports.

Districts interested in learning more about how MTSS can support school improvement by improving outcomes for students may contact Karen Suddeth, SPDG Project Director for Georgia’s Tiered Systems of Support, at ksuddeth@doe.k12.ga.us or (404) 548-4348.

• Georgia’s Tiered Connection - March 2021

Contact: Carole Carr

Resources for Health and Physical Education

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION (HPE) VIRTUAL LEARNING COMMUNITY

JOIN NOW! Health and Physical Education (HPE) VIRTUAL LEARNING COMMUNITY. Looking for a way to connect with HPE teachers and administrators from across the state of Georgia? The HPE office at GaDOE is now offering HPE teachers and administrators across the state of Georgia an opportunity to collaborate and connect on a new, virtual platform. On GaDOE Community, you will be able to join groups of like-minded educators and share valuable thoughts, resources, strategies, and encouragement as a way of professional learning. Join today!

• Visit HPE community on GaDOE Community

Contact: Therese McGuire

Jimmy Carter National Historic Site Resources

JIMMY CARTER NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK VIRTUAL FIELD TRIPS

Georgia students can walk in the footsteps of a future president and first lady as they learn about the life and legacy of President and Mrs. Carter. The Jimmy Carter National Historical Park has standards-based, virtual education programs available for K-12th grade students. We still have spots available for the remainder of this school year.

• Visit our website www.jimmycartereducation.org

Contact: Marle C. Usry
Resources for STEM/STEAM

Contact: Meghan McFerrin

MAY STEM/STEAM TRAININGS

Register now to attend an upcoming STEM/STEAM training. Don’t miss the opportunity to connect with educators around Georgia, ask questions, and discover new ideas. All sessions are hosted virtually and are FREE to attend.

Planning STEM/STEAM Units
May 11, 3:30 p.m.

Join us for an interactive session where you will learn an approach to collaborative planning that you can use with colleagues in your school. During the session, we will break out into groups and use strategies learned to create a mini-unit. This will be a camera on session and space is limited.

• Register

Resources for Science Teachers

Contact: Amanda Buice

A NEW SELF-PACED SCIENCE MODULE

“3D Science Design and Supports” is our latest course developed for both general and special education science teachers. This will be of special interest to teachers in a co-teaching setting but is open and applicable to all K-12 science teachers. The course specifically addresses designing three-dimensional science lessons to support all learners. The course is in the PL tab of the SLDS. Educators can take the course at their own pace and stop and start as needed to fit their schedules. Upon successful completion, they will earn a badge.

Resources to Improve Classroom Climate

Contact: Jason Byars

HOW TO RESPOND EFFECTIVELY TO PROBLEM BEHAVIOR

An ongoing challenge for educators is responding effectively to problem behavior. Ideally, we aim to keep students in the learning environment and find ways to teach the skills they need to be successful. Two responses to consider are Dr. Ross Greene’s Collaborative and Proactive Solutions (CPS) and Restorative Questions. CPS and Restorative Questions both convey empathy by asking students open-ended questions and listening to understand. Dr. Greene’s Drilling Cheat Sheet is another short, but helpful guide to facilitate this process. These approaches can serve to strengthen relationships and the connection our students have with their trusted adults.

HOW DO WE SUPPORT OUR STAFF AS THEY BUILD STRONG PARTNERSHIPS WITH PARENTS?

Developing a schoolwide approach for parent phone calls and conferences is one way leaders can proactively support all staff members at Tier I. This may involve a script or sentence starters that staff members can use as a reminder of best practices after a long day. The Learner’s Edge blog has some helpful tips and free downloads for phone calls and building parent partnerships to get you started. Involving stakeholders in the process of creating schoolwide guidance may provide the added benefits of deeper learning and staff investment.
Resources for Social Studies Teachers

#GaDOESocialStudies Updates

#GaDOESocialStudies is excited to announce two new high school electives added to the list of state-funded courses for 2021-22.

Civil Rights in the United States (45.0196) Course Description: This course is an in-depth study of civil rights in the United States. Students will explore, through various disciplinary lenses, the challenges and achievements in the march towards economic, societal, and political equality by marginalized groups throughout United States history. Students can also explore how these ideas connect to a modern global society.

Holocaust and Genocide Studies (45.0197) Course Description: This course is an in-depth study of the Holocaust and genocide. Students will explore the ramifications of antisemitism, prejudice and indifference, the potential for government supported terror, and acts of resilience, resistance, and valor.

#GaDOESocialStudies is partnering with the Georgia Council on Economic Education (GCEE) for an amazing two-day virtual experience. The GCEE K-5 Econ Ed Expo is this first of its kind for K-5 teachers in Georgia. Join GCEE as award-winning author Deborah Wiles kicks off the expo followed by breakout sessions with grade-specific resources, strategies, read-alouds, and lesson plans. Registration is FREE, and resources, including books, will be given to every LIVE participant.

- Registration and additional details

Contact: Joy Hatcher

College Readiness and Talent Development Resources

Interested in Talent Development? Join Our Gifted Virtual Specialists for More Webinars

Talent Development Webinar #1, held Thursday, April 22nd (recording available)

Talent Development Webinar #2, Thursday, April 29th 4:00-5:00 PM

Talent Development Webinar #3, Tuesday, May 11th at 4:00-5:00 PM

Links will be sent via email.

Contact: Mary Jean Banter

AP Virtual Academy

In September 2020, College Readiness launched the Advanced Placement Virtual Academy to offer professional development to support current AP teachers in 16 subject areas. The webinars, focusing on content and best practices, were led by Georgia AP teachers, and were offered four times throughout the year. The final sessions were completed in March and the links to all 80 sessions are available on the GaDOE’s AP webpage. These sessions provide teachers with pacing recommendations, activities, resources, and strategies unique to each course and will be valuable resources as they prepare students for the AP Exams and plan for the new school year.

Contact: Martha Smith
REGISTER NOW TO ATTEND THE UPCOMING MATH CONFERENCES!

Teachers and leaders are invited to participate in a series of virtual professional learning opportunities. GaDOE is hosting several pre-conferences and two summer mathematics conferences. These virtual conferences will provide opportunities for principals, assistant principals, instructional coaches, grade level chairs, and department chairs to review and discuss the Georgia mathematics standards, engage in purposeful work to plan for the implementation of the standards, and network with other school leaders from across the state.

Registration links are provided below:

- **Register for District Leaders Pre-Conference**: April 28, 2021
- **Register for School Leaders Pre-Conference**: May 7, 2021
- **Register for Georgia Mathematics Summit for Georgia Mathematics Supervisors, Coordinators, and Leaders Pre-Conference**: May 12, 2021
- **Register for Summer Leaders Conference**: June 8-9, 2021
- **Register for Summer Teachers Conference**: July 19-22, 2021

**GA’S K-12 MATHEMATICS STANDARDS 2021**

GaDOE has posted the K-12 Mathematics Standards for a public review and comment period beginning 3/26/2021 through 5/7/2021. The survey will close at 5:00 PM EDT on 5/7/2021. The draft standards and additional information can be found at the following links:

- **K-12 Mathematics Standards**
- **Mathematics Standards Comparison Chart**
- **K-12 Mathematics Standards Review Timeline**
- **Mathematics Standards Revision Process**
- **Provide Feedback on the Proposed Standards**

**VIRTUAL MATHEMATICS PROFESSIONAL LEARNING**

The GaDOE Mathematics Team is excited to announce several virtual PL sessions for mathematics teachers at all levels. These engaging PL sessions are facilitated by our Virtual Mathematics Specialists each month. Teachers can register for live sessions and engage with facilitators in real time or watch recorded sessions created for each grade level and course.

- **View catalog of all Virtual Mathematics Specialist PL sessions**

In addition, our Virtual Mathematics Specialists utilize the GaDOE Community to engage with educators from across the state. Here, community members can ask follow-up questions about activities and resources shared, share strategies and ideas from their own classrooms, and help build a learning community of professional educators that is beneficial to all.

If you haven't already, please [join a mathematics group (or groups) in the GaDOE Community](#).
Resources for Teacher and Leader Support and Development

Contact: Karen J. Wyler

GEORGIA INDUCTION VIRTUAL SUMMIT 2021 REGISTRATION

Registration ($30) is now open for the Georgia Induction Virtual Summit 2021, May 6 and May 7, 2021 from 9 a.m. to noon. The summit will provide a statewide venue for quality professional learning and network opportunities to support induction educators.

Intended Audience: P12 district induction leaders, teacher mentors, building level leaders; IHE faculty members; SEAs and RESAs.

- [Register](#)

For additional information: Dr. Kathy Reese, Leader Induction and Dr. Karen J. Wyler, Teacher Induction.

PROMOTING TEACHER RETENTION THROUGH EQUITY AND INCLUSIVE LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

We invite you to join us for our virtual statewide leadership summit, “Promoting Teacher Retention through Equity and Inclusive Leadership.” As a response to the persisting teacher shortage in our state, this event is intended to share strategies, programs, and issues that are central to addressing the teacher pipeline through recruitment, preparation and retention. We will showcase innovations used in P-12 and IHE settings, and within the USG to promote teacher preparation. We want to highlight the interrelated role of stakeholders at each level with the intention of promoting scale up efforts leading to teacher retention. In this event, we will focus on:

- Inclusive leadership
- Strategic partnerships
- Advancing a school culture that promotes equity

This summit will be held virtually on Wednesday, May 5, 2021 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

- [Register](#)

We look forward to seeing you there!

Resources for English Language Arts

SAVE THE DATE: SUMMER VIRTUAL LITERACY CONFERENCE

- [Summer Literacy Conference Save the Date](#)

MAY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- [The Intersection of Teacher Preparation, the Science of Reading, and Dyslexia](#)
  May 7, 10-11:30 a.m.

GEORGIA MILESTONES ELA FIELD TEST DESIGN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

As a result of the new test design for Georgia Milestones, all ELA test forms will include a field-test narrative writing prompt.

- This field test design means that students will respond to two narrative writing prompts on the ELA assessment (one field-test prompt and one operational prompt).
- One of the two narrative writing prompts will appear in Section 2 of the ELA test and one will appear in Section 3 of the test.
- Field-test items do not count in a student’s test score.

The inclusion of field-test narrative writing prompts on ELA test forms is not new to the field test design. With the previous test design, both constructed response items and narrative writing prompts were field tested on the ELA assessments. Under that previous design, some students received a field-test narrative writing prompt. With the new test design, all students will receive a field-test narrative writing prompt.

Contact: Breanne Huston
Resources for Computer Science Teachers

WHOLE CHILD TOOLKITS: COMPUTER SCIENCE

For several years now GaDOE has made it a point to ensure that the "whole child" is supported in our school systems. This means that, while core content areas are important, there are additional experiences that ensure a child is well-rounded and truly ready to engage the world. One of these experiences is exposure to computer science education opportunities. The georgiaInsights.com website has a page with a whole child toolkit that boasts many suggestions for supporting Georgia's students beyond the core content areas.

Under the Challenged section, you'll find computer science. There are lots of resources and supports listed but one in particular is how to take advantage of Title Funds when supporting CS Education. This infographic is phenomenal and essential for anyone looking to implement CS.

COMPUTER SCIENCE MICROCREDENTIAL PROJECT

GaDOE has partnered with Georgia State University and the International Society for Technology Education (ISTE) to create a series of professional learning courses for any teacher wishing to teach or integrate computer science accessible here.

If you complete all three micro-courses, each equivalent to a 1-credit-hour course, and successfully earn the associated ISTE badges, you will have earned ISTE's Integrated Computational Thinking Endorsement. In addition, these 3 badges can count towards graduate-level course credit at Georgia State University, and they can be used to complete the first 25% of the Computer Science Endorsement program. If you are interested in pursuing the full endorsement program, please contact lmargulieux@gsu.edu for more information.

The micro-courses (see the link below) are available to access free of charge. They are competency-based, so if you're already familiar with a topic, you may skip to the assessments, which are used to earn ISTE badges. Instructions to submit badges to ISTE are included at the end of the course. Evaluation of the badges by ISTE costs $70/each.

If you are interested in receiving a scholarship to cover the cost of ISTE badges and are willing to complete surveys about your experience in the micro-courses, please complete this survey accessible here.

COMPUTER SCIENCE FAQs

Here are a few valuable FAQs regarding computer science education, particularly the pending legislative requirement and the flexibility of CS, which can serve as an academic or CTAE pathway option.

- Computer Science Counts for Science and Foreign Language Graduation Credit
- Computer Science Teacher Credential Options