Deputy Superintendent Updates

Contact: Caitlin McMunn Dooley

GEORGIA 5-YEAR OUTCOMES

Georgia’s educational system has shown remarkable improvements no matter what outcome we look at! Graduation rates have improved to an all-time high: 83.8%. We also see the improvements across Milestones assessment outcomes. Below are the English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics scores by cohort for grades 3-8.

Note that each cohort seems to be coming in stronger than the previous and each cohort continues to progress across the grade levels at a higher level than previous cohorts. This is exciting news because it shows that our students are improving across the years! Please thank your students and teachers for this hard work!

ELA and Math scores have been improving each year in all grade levels, but especially in grade 3, as noted by the light blue dot on the Y axis in each figure.

We also can see progress among students experiencing economic disadvantage. On average, across the state, this group is improving at the same or faster rate than all peers. In other words, they are getting better, faster—closing “the gap”!

As we enter into the holiday season, give thanks to your students and teachers for all they do to brighten our days and make our state stronger. It’s thanks to them that our state entered this pandemic with academic strength. We will persist as best as we can throughout it. And know that we will continue to support you and yours as we recover and regain our strength after it.

Visit a few of our New Teaching & Learning supports:
**State Board of Education Updates**

The State Board of Education (SBOE) voted to withdraw its recommendation of a 10% course grade weight for Georgia Milestones End-of-Course (EOC) exams in 2020-21, and to post State School Superintendent Richard Woods’ original recommendation of a .01% weight for public comment.

Superintendent Woods originally proposed the .01% weight at the SBOE’s October meeting, after Georgia’s request to waive standardized testing requirements for 2020-21 was denied by U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos. In a split vote at the meeting, the SBOE voted to reject Superintendent Woods’ recommendation and post a 10% weight for public comment.

Following a public-comment period that saw large majorities of Georgians supporting the original .01% proposal, the SBOE voted to withdraw its 10% recommendation. The .01% recommendation will be posted for public comment for 30 days as legally required.

**Associate Superintendent Updates**

**Contact:** Justin Hill

**GET GEORGIA READING AT HOME LAUNCHES**

Get Georgia Reading at Home, online resources for parents and caregivers are now available! In addition to the parent tools, teachers can easily distribute these resources to students.

Simply, download the resource:

- Visit [Get Georgia Reading](#)

The resources feature examples of simple, fun activities to do at home, offline, and in the community that help children begin building skills from grades K – 3.

The GaDOE Division of Curriculum and Instruction identified these skills and activities based on the Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards (GELDS) and the Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE).

Get Georgia Reading at Home also links to the Georgia Home Classroom, a collaboration between GaDOE and GPB Education to support at-home learning for all grade levels.

Let’s Learn GA! is looking for more TEACHERS! Submit lesson ideas here. The 30-minute lessons will be posted on GPB.org/Education and broadcast on GPB!

**Contact:** Meghan Welch

**PBIS and EQUITY**

Educational systems cannot not be considered effective until they are effective for all student groups. PBIS provides an ideal framework for increasing equity in student outcomes. Research shows that schools implementing PBIS with fidelity have greater equity in school discipline, specifically for African American students. However, PBIS teams may need to include equity-focused strategies in their action plans to achieve outcomes for all student groups.

**What’s Equity?**

In education, equity is “when educational policies, practices, interactions, and resources are representative of, constructed by, and responsive to all people such that each individual has access to, can meaningfully participate, and makes progress in high-quality learning experiences that equitable outcomes for all student groups that empowers them towards self-determination and reduces disparities in outcomes regardless of individual characteristics and cultural identities.”

To learn more about PBIS visit:

- Using Discipline Data within SWPBIS to Identify and Address Disproportionality
- PBIS Cultural Responsiveness Field Guide
- Key Elements of Policies to Address Discipline Disproportionality

**Contact:** Jason Byars
Resources for English Language Arts

YOUNG GEORGIA AUTHORS

Young Georgia Authors entries are due February 25, 2021. You may view the rulebook on the Georgia Language Arts Supervisors website.

- For more information contact your local RESA or contact Dr. Amy Fouse, GLAS President.
- Visit Georgia Language Arts Supervisor

ARE YOU NEED OF EARLY LITERACY RESOURCES TO SUPPORT FAMILY INVOLVEMENT?

The Regional Educational Laboratory (REL) Southeast has developed two resources to support family involvement in early literacy learning:

- Kindergarten Teacher’s Guide to Supporting Family Involvement in Foundational Reading Skills
- First Grade Teacher’s Guide to Supporting Family Involvement in Foundational Reading Skills

In addition, REL Southeast has created a website to support literacy in families—especially during these times when families may be more involved in providing instruction to their children:

- Supporting Your Child’s Reading at Home You may access all three here.

Contact: Breanne Huston

Resources for Mathematics

2020 GUIDE FOR EFFECTIVE MATHEMATICS INSTRUCTION

The GADOE Mathematics Team has released 2020 Guides for Effective Mathematics Instruction for all grade levels and multiple high school courses. All Georgia teachers, teacher leaders, and parents are encouraged to review the materials provided in the guides to support student learning in the remote and intermittent face-to-face learning environments.

- Visit 2020 Guides to Effective Mathematics Instruction

Contact: Lya Snell

Resources for Fine Arts

JOIN NOW! FINE ARTS VIRTUAL LEARNING COMMUNITY

Looking for a way to connect with Fine Arts teachers and administrators from across the state of Georgia?

The Fine Arts Team at GaDOE wanted to offer Fine Arts 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 Fine Arts educators and share valuable thoughts, resources, strategies, and encouragement as a way of professional learning.

Join today! Watch a short introductory video and create an account on GaDOE Community.

- Visit Fine Arts on GaDOE Community

Can’t wait to connect with you in the future!

Contact: Jessica Booth
Resources for English to Speakers of Other Languages

SPOTLIGHT ON STRATEGIES—AMPLIFYING THEIR VOICES

Imagine you are in your hybrid science classroom with English Learners (ELs). Students have just watched a short video clip on global warming. You pose a question to the class about ways to slow global warming and are met with silence.

In our “new normal,” educators often wonder how to ensure ELs have a voice and are comfortable participating in virtual classes and in-person environments.

Video conferencing can give ELs a safe space to record themselves, listen back, and re-record if necessary, before sharing with others. These educational applications also help facilitate academic discourse among all students (ELs included) by allowing students to view and respond to their peers’ video posts.

“It matters who’s talking in class because the amount of talk students do is correlated with their achievement. (Fischer & Frey, 2014)”

Two ways to facilitate academic discourse:
• Upload the video with the captions to the educational platform so that students can watch and re-watch the video as needed
• Strategically group students to account for English language proficiency (ELP).

For more strategies on engaging English Learners:
• Visit GaDOE ESOL

Contact: Meg Baker    Contact: Ariana Magee

Resources for College Readiness and Talent Development

ADVANCED PLACEMENT AND VIRTUAL ACADEMY

Registration for the second session of GaDOE Advanced Placement Virtual Academy is now open!

AP Virtual Academy is designed to offer professional development to support AP teachers in 16 subject areas:

The webinars, focusing on content and best practices/instructional strategies and activities, will be led by Georgia high school AP teachers. Class schedule and registration details will be shared with AP Coordinators and the AP teacher network.

PSAT UPDATE FOR FALL 2020

GaDOE has continued to fund the PSAT/NMSQT test for all Georgia public high school sophomores including funding for the new January 26, 2021 administration. College Board has provided updates to allow schools to adhere to safety guidelines such as the option to test across multiple dates and flexible start times.

• Please visit this helpful guide for details.

Contact: Martha Smith

CALLING ALL NEW GIFTED COORDINATORS

Are you a new gifted coordinator or know someone who would like additional support? We can add you to our new gifted coordinators’ cohort. If you have joined, we are grateful that you are part of our networking/training sessions and our conference calls.

Contact: MaryJean Banter
Resources for Jimmy Carter National Historic Site

JCNHS PRESIDENTS DAY COMPETITION

The Jimmy Carter National Historic Site is pleased to announce its 2021 Presidents Day competition. The contest is open to students enrolled in public, private, virtual, and homeschool classroom. Students in Kindergarten through 12th grade are invited to submit essays, poems, or artwork relating to the theme; A journey of Excellence: The Extraordinary Life of President Jimmy Carter.

Certificates for first and third place winners will be awarded for each of the three categories, in each grade level. Grand prize winners will be selected from each category and invited to participate in a virtual President’s Day program broadcast from the Jimmy Carter National Historic Site Museum located at the historic Plains High School. For complete contest guidelines:

- Visit Jimmy Carter Education

Contact: Marle Usry

Resources for Georgia Virtual School

GEORGIA VIRTUAL LEARNING ENROLLMENTS SOAR

The Fall 2020 semester brought record enrollments across Georgia Virtual Learning programs.

Here are just a few ways collaborating with Georgia school districts has helped support students:

- Georgia Virtual School is privileged to educate students in more than 18,000 course enrollments this semester.
- Georgia Virtual Professional Learning has equipped over 15,000 educators with the tools to adapt to virtual instruction.
- Georgia Credit Recovery continues enrolling students in courses where a student was previously unsuccessful.

GaVS is currently registering for the Spring 2021 semester. Enrollment in Georgia Virtual Professional Learning and Georgia Credit Recovery will continue throughout the school year.

- Visit Georgia Virtual Learning

Please let us know how GaVS can assist in serving the teachers and students in your district.

Contact: Margaret Thomas
Resources for Talent Development

WELL-BEING AND POSITIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

Creating a culture of positive learning and ensuring the well-being of teacher leaders is essential to student growth and performance. During this time of year, when many educators are reflecting on student achievements, cultivating compassion, and looking through the lens of uncertainty, it’s important to structure in-person and online learning environments that promote positive behaviors. Title II Part A will host a webinar called:

Reimagining Communication through the Lens of Well-being

Date: December 3
Time: 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Reimagining Communication through the Lens of Well-being will provide participants with the knowledge and resources necessary to build, maintain, and support effective communication and positive well-being to education leaders, teachers, students, and parents.

- Register Reimaging Communication through the Lens of Well-being

GaDOE Teacher Keys Effectiveness Module for Standard 7: Positive Learning Environment

Teacher Keys Effectiveness Module Standard 7: Positive Learning Environment has also been updated. This course consists of six sections.

In this module, participants learn the definition of positive learning environment, and dig into how to create a positive learning environment with classroom management and structures to create a climate for success. You will also break down the TKES Rubric for Standard 7 and learn what a level I, II, III, and IV look like for this standard. To learn more:

- Visit Teacher Leader Support and Development

Contact: Shauntice Wheeler

Resources for STEM/STEAM

UPCOMING STEM/STEAM TRAINING

Wrap-up 2020 with the GaDOE STEM/STEAM Team. Consider joining our upcoming trainings:

VIRTUAL TRAINING: INTRODUCTION TO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STEM AND STEAM CERTIFICATION

Date: December 3
Time: 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

During this live webinar, STEM/STEAM Specialists will walk through the certification process and criteria at the elementary school level. This session will explore the importance of student choice, the value of interdisciplinary planning, and strategies to engage students in real-world problem-solving experiences.

- Register Introduction to Elementary School STEM and STEAM Certification

VIRTUAL TRAINING: ALL BOYS STEM CLASS (PART 2)

Date: December 8
Time: 4:30 p.m. - 5:20 p.m.

One of the three goals of the national strategy for STEM Education is to increase diversity, equity, and inclusion in STEM. During this webinar session, participants will learn about the profound impact of STEM on a cohort of males as they traveled from grades 6 - 8 at Thompson Middle School.

- Register All Boys STEM Class

VIRTUAL TRAINING: WHAT IS YOUR WHY? SOCIAL ACTION AND EMPATHY IN STEM/STEAM PBLs

Date: December 15
Time: 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Come learn about the benefits of social action and empathy being a part of STEM/STEAM PBLs. There will also be an opportunity to hear how to involve your school counselor in STEM/STEAM PBL planning.

- Register What is your why?

Contact: Felicia Cullars