

Teaching & Learning Updates

Educating Georgia's Future

December 2019

Deputy Superintendent Updates

Contact: [Caitlin McMunn Dooley](#)

PROPELLING OPPORTUNITY

What an exciting year! Educational leaders in Georgia are meeting the needs of all students through the collaborative work of innovative teaching and learning practices. At the Georgia Department of Education, we're looking forward to another successful year in Curriculum and Instruction.

Here are a few instructional resources that may be helpful in the New Year.

MEETING THE NEEDS OF STUDENTS WITH DYSLEXIA

Serving students who have dyslexia is of utmost importance. The National Institutes of Health estimates that about 10% of the population in the U.S. is dyslexic.

- If you want to learn more, please visit the [GaDOE website's page on dyslexia](#)
- Here you'll find a copy of the [new Dyslexia Handbook](#).

You can also see my talk about dyslexia conducted at Augusta State University on December 9: [Dyslexia Video](#)

APPLY FOR L4GA SUB-GRANTS



Literacy for Learning, Living, and Leading in Georgia (L4GA) continues to grow. Systems that want to apply for sub-grants from the most recent federal award of \$179+M for the Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grant should review information on the [L4GA webpage](#). The request for proposals will be live **December 20, 2019** and proposals are due **February 3, 2020**.

THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP OF READING

Be a part of the Ultimate Free National Reading Competition for Pre-K through 8th grade classrooms. **Kick Off – January 6, 2020!** Author and Super Bowl Champion Malcolm Mitchell will announce winners on Super Bowl Sunday!

READBowl inspires students to read and provides teachers with a free platform to motivate students to increase their reading minutes in school. Beginning the week before the College Football National Championship Game, classroom teams across the country will compete to see who can read for the highest student average in-school reading minutes. READBowl culminates with the crowning of the National Reading Champions on Super Bowl Sunday, **February 2, 2020**.

- Learn more about [READBowl](#)

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY TO PURSUE STEM TRAINING



Are you looking to pursue a teaching career in STEM? [Georgia State University](#) may have the opportunity you're looking for.

Contact: [Tattiana Hardwick](#) (404) 413-8005



@georgiadeptofed

gadoe.org

State Board of Education Updates

GA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE: MATH

GaDOE Chief of Staff Matt Jones provided an update about the math standards review process and the citizens Review Committee to the State Board of Education at the December 6 meeting. The Citizens Review Committee consists of 15 members appointed by Governor Brian Kemp and 15 appointed by State School Superintendent Richard Woods. The Committee will meet again after the Teacher Working Committee and Academic Review Committee have completed their work.

The Teacher Working Committee will meet during January and February to begin the review and revision process. Revisions to the Mathematics standards are expected to be posted in May for public review and comment, with proposed adoption slated for June 2020.

- Visit [Math & ELA Standards Process](#)

STATE BOARD RULES

160-5-1-.10 Student Attendance: This rule amendment clarifies that if "deemed by the local school board of education to have merit based on circumstances, which may include non-school sponsored activities" a student absence may be counted as excused. The final course grades shall not be penalized if the absence is justified and validated for excusable reasons and make up work completed satisfactorily.

160-5-1-.28 Student Enrollment and Withdrawal is being amended to add language from [HB 59](#) and [HB 530](#) passed in 2019: "A student whose parent or guardian is on active duty in the United States armed forces and has received official military orders to transfer into or within this state shall be eligible for enrollment, in the same manner and time as for students residing within the local school system, in the public school of the attendance zone in which he or she will be residing...prior to physically establishing residency."

- [Read the full statement here.](#)

The amendment also adds a paragraph stating that "In the event that a child is withdrawn from a public school to attend a home study program and does not have a Home School Program Declaration of Intent filed pursuant to Code Section 20-2-690 within 45 days of such withdrawal, the school shall refer the matter to the Division of Family and Children Services of the Department of Human Services to conduct an assessment.

Director Updates: Winter Literacy

Contact: [Justin Hill](#)

2020 WINTER LITERACY INSTITUTES

The GaDOE ELA/Literacy team in partnership with the Georgia Associations of Elementary and Middle School Principals (GAESP and GAMSP) is pleased to announce the 2020 Winter Literacy Institutes. These one-day institutes are aimed at increasing the expertise of school-based literacy teams in our state. Schools will have the opportunity to send members of their literacy teams to a winter institute as a follow-up to the 2019 Summer Literacy Conference.

[Cartersville Drive-in](#)

Date: February 5, 2020

Location: Cartersville – Clarence Brown Conference Center

[Dublin Drive-in](#)

Date: February 19, 2020

Location: Dublin – Oconee Fall-Line Technical College

[Tifton Drive-In](#)

Date: March 4, 2020

Location: Tifton – UGA Tifton Campus Conference Center

The 2020 Winter Literacy Institutes will provide school teams the opportunity to engage in evidence-based practices for literacy. It is anticipated the literacy teams will implement these strategies and processes within their respective school upon their return.



English Language Arts and Literacy

SUMMER LITERACY MINI-GRANTS ARE ON THE WAY IN 2020

The English Language Arts & Literacy team is excited to offer school media specialists in rural school districts the opportunity to apply for a summer mini-grant. The purpose of the mini-grant is to provide district media centers in rural school districts the chance to create and/or expand innovative literacy initiatives/activities to engage their students during the summer months. **More details to come in January 2020.**

POET LAUREATE'S PRIZE



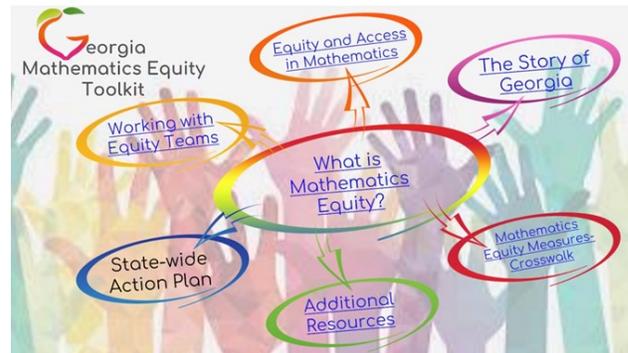
Georgia Council for the Arts is pleased to announce the call for entries for the Poet Laureate's Prize. Designed to encourage high school students to participate in the literary arts, the program seeks to improve literacy and language skills for participating students.

- Visit [Georgia Council for the Arts](#)

Contact: [Stephanie Sanders](#)

Mathematics

MATHEMATICS EQUITY TOOLKIT



The Georgia Mathematics Equity Summit kicked off with a resounding YES! More than 130 district leaders and supervisors, higher education professionals, researchers and K-12 teacher leaders convened at the Georgia Tech Student Center to engage in GaDOE's inaugural Mathematics Equity Summit.

Fueled by the story of Georgia through the presentation of data by Dr. Lya Snell, the passionate keynote address regarding the preparation of ALL learners for life by Dr. Zephine Smith-Dixon and impactful conversations from the panel of equity experts, participants spent the day working to establish a key component of the soon-to-be-released Mathematics Equity Toolkit.

- Visit [Georgia Mathematics Equity Toolkit](#)

Contact: [Lya Snell](#)



Computer Science

NEW! K-8 COMPUTER SCIENCE VIDEOS TO USE IN YOUR SCHOOL

GaDOE has partnered with GPB to create computer science videos to use in your classroom. The videos are centered on Computational Thinking and Digital Citizenship and feature Georgia teachers and students. Each video highlights two of the central pillars of Computer Science for the new K-8 standards.

Feel free to share and use these computer science videos to advocate for your school or system.

- [K-8 Computer Science Sizzle Video](#)
- [K-8 Computational Thinking Video](#)

ARE YOU READY TO STEAM AHEAD IN 2020?

GaDOE has released the first online, go-at-your-own-pace courses to prepare computer science teachers for success. Currently, there are two courses available:

- The *Planning a Computer Science Classroom* course is designed for teachers wanting to learn more about teaching computer science.
- The *Computer Science: Data* course is the first in a series designed to address the topics identified by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission as important to teaching computer science.

The online courses are available through your local student information system under the SLDS tab.

Contact: [Bryan Cox](#)

Science

CONNECT SCIENCE TEACHERS WITH GADOE SCIENCE

Please help us spread the word and let your teachers know they can join a science email list to receive updates and newsletters directly from the GaDOE science team. We are ready to connect! They just need to send a blank email to one or more of the following email addresses:

Science K-5: join-science-k-5@list.doe.k12.ga.us

Science 6-8: join-science-6-8@list.doe.k12.ga.us

Science 9-12: join-science-9-12@list.doe.k12.ga.us

Also, encourage your teachers to visit the TRL Essential Toolkit to find newly added supports for struggling learners embedded in our science segments.

Contact: [Amanda Buice](#)

Innovative Programs and Research

NOW OPEN! 2020 PAEMST NOMINATIONS AND APPLICATIONS

Nominations and applications for K-6 teachers are now open for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST).

The PAEMST award is the highest honor bestowed by the United States government for K-12 STEAM and computer science teaching. The award recognizes teachers with deep content knowledge in mathematics and science. This year's awards will honor K-6 grade teachers. Nominations close on **March 1, 2020**.

- Register [PAEMST](#)

Science Contact: [Juan-Carlos Aguilar](#)

Math Contact: [Brooke Kline](#)

Social Studies

FREE GEO-INQUIRY AND ART OF STORYTELLING WORKSHOP

Date: **February 26, 2020**

Location: Ragan Center, Perry

Time: 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

We are excited to share with you the Geo-Inquiry and the Art of Storytelling Workshop. Join GaDOE staff and National Geographic Explorer Asha Stuart to integrate science, social studies and visual arts centered around real-world issues and phenomena. This FREE workshop is hosted by Middle GA RESA and Houston County Schools.

Registration is now open. Don't miss out on this opportunity to discover the integral role of images in storytelling.

- Register [Geo-Inquiry and the Art of Storytelling](#)

Contact: [Joy Hatcher](#)

Fine Arts

GEORGIA MUSIC EDUCATORS CONFERENCE IN JANUARY

The Georgia Music Educators Association 2020 conference takes place **January 23-25, 2020** at the Classic Center in Athens. It is the most comprehensive music education training in the state for your teachers.

- [Registration](#)

Fine Arts TRL Resources have been updated for Music and Dance.

UPDATED FINE ARTS TRL RESOURCES FOR MUSIC AND DANCE

More than 1,000 new instructional resources have been added to the Essential Toolkit for Music and Dance. Resources include curriculum maps, unit plans, lesson plans, handouts, presentations, worksheets, and videos for General Music K-6, Music Technology, Beginning Band, Beginning Orchestra, Chorus, Modern Dance, Dance I, Dance for Theatre, and World Dance Forms.

- [Find the resources here](#)

Contact: [Jessica Booth](#)

Physical Education

ANNUAL FITNESS ASSESSMENT PORTAL IS NOW OPEN!

The FitnessGram portal is open until June 15, 2020. The requirements are:

- Each local school system must conduct the annual fitness assessment for students in grades 1-12.
- FitnessGram must be conducted only during a physical education course that is taught by a certified physical education teacher in which a student is enrolled.
- Each local school system shall report the individual results of the fitness assessment to the parent or guardian of each student assessed and the aggregate results of the fitness assessments by school to the Georgia Department of Education annually.

Contact: [Therese McGuire](#)

World Languages and Global Workforce Initiatives

DON'T MISS THE THIRD ANNUAL STATEWIDE BILINGUAL WORLD LANGUAGE JOB FAIR

Date: **Saturday, February 8, 2020**

Location: North Atlanta High School

Time: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Calling all bilingual or second language proficient job seekers! Georgia's statewide World Language Bilingual Job Fair is coming in February. This unique opportunity is a way for school systems to connect with certification professionals. There are no fees to register.

- [Job Fair](#)

GLOBAL WORKFORCE & INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION RESOURCES

GaDOE World Languages is proud to announce a new webpage:

- [Georgia Global Workforce & International Education Resources.](#)

The new site provides resources and links to world language educators and others who are seeking information on Georgia's global footprint. Visit our new site to learn more about global economic and educational resources available to teachers in Georgia.

REGISTER TODAY! GAPSC WEBINAR ON CERTIFICATION PATHWAYS

Date: **January 16, 2020**

Location: Webinar

Time: 4:30 p.m.

Do you want to know how you can become a certified World Language teacher in Georgia?

Now's your chance. GaDOE World Languages is partnering with the Georgia Professional Standards Commission to offer information on earning your certification.

- [Register World Language Certification Webinar](#)

Contact: [Patrick Wallace](#)

Teacher and Leader Support and Development

TLSD Updates

2018-19 SGP AND MGP ROSTERS

Student Growth Percentiles (SGP) and Marginal Growth Percentiles (MGP) Rosters 2018-19 will be uploaded for superintendents, and those with superintendent rights, by December 31. Also, SGP and MGP individual results for teachers and school leaders (principals and assistant principals) will be uploaded to the TLSD Electronic Platform at this same time.

Contact: [Melinda Moe](#)

REGISTER NOW! SUPPORT FROM THE START 2019-2020 INDUCTION WEBINAR

Please join us for an upcoming webinar to support induction phase teachers and their mentors.

Webinar: Ongoing Performance Assessment

Date: **January 8, 2020**

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Support from the Start for Induction Phase Educators (2019 -2020 Induction Webinar Series)

- [Register Now!](#)

Check out a [New Professional Learning Resource](#) to support induction phase teachers and their mentors. This resource was created by the East P-20 Induction Collaborative.

1. Scroll down to Georgia Resources
2. Explore [Induction Professional Development Series Focused on High-Leverage Practices](#).

Contact: [Kathy Reese](#) **Contact:** [Karen Wyler](#)

The TLSD division is excited to announce that 69 modules have been published in the Professional Learning Platform. Modules aligned with TKES and LKES Performance Standards are designed to enhance teacher and leader effectiveness.

Please note that the current PL Platform will soon be known as GaLearns.

- Visit the [quarterly course catalog](#) published on the TLSD Professional Learning/Resources Webpage.

Please visit GaDOE.org and review the

- [TLSD revised Professional Learning/ Resources Webpage](#)

Georgia Virtual School

OPENSALT UPDATE



GSE courses codes have been added to OpenSalt.

What is OpenSalt?

OpenSalt is a FREE open source repository for the Georgia Standards of Excellence, categorized by clusters, domains and content standards. The OpenSalt project provides tools to educational organizations to help publish frameworks and crosswalks. OpenSALT is an MIT-licensed, open source management tool for Competency and Academic Standards Exchange (CASE) Frameworks.

Coming Soon! CTAE Standards will be available by the end of January 2020.

Contact: [Keith Osburn](#)

SPRING 2020 ENROLLMENT NOW OPEN!



Do you have a student with a course requirement needed for spring graduation? Trying to find a solution for a student schedule that just won't work at the local school?

Don't make your students wait until next school year to take required courses; partner with Georgia Virtual School to meet the educational needs of your students. Georgia Virtual School will be enrolling students for Spring semester through **February 13, 2020**.

Visit [Georgia Virtual School](#) and learn how GaVS can serve students at your school.

Contact: [Margaret Thomas](#)