

Georgia Department of Education

Teaching & Learning Updates

Educating Georgia's Future

November 2019

Deputy Superintendent Updates

PROPELLING OPPORTUNITY

The Georgia Department of Education is working to create opportunity for all students as they move through K-12 and on to a prosperous future. These days, a high school diploma alone may not be enough for someone to meet their goals of starting a career, getting into the military, or starting a college or university program.

What might propel excellence?

1. Consider using the Georgia Student Finance Commission's toolkit to help students and their parents complete this form if they are even considering post-secondary education.
GAFUTURES FAFSA Completion
2. Ensure that your school's pathways meet local needs and student interests.
Completion of a CTAE, Fine Arts, or Academic Pathway
3. Ensure that students have access to (and are expected to) complete courses that have high expectations for their achievement. Honors, dual-enrollment, AP/IB, and articulated credit courses expose students to curriculum that can lead them to new challenges, effortful learning, and a healthy appreciation for their own abilities when given the opportunity (and support) to shine.

Holding expectations high, and putting necessary scaffolds in place, we can ensure that all of our graduates are propelled to success.

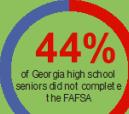
Contact: [Caitlin McMunn Dooley](#)



PRIORITIZING FAFSA COMPLETION in GEORGIA

90% of FAFSA Completers Immediately Enroll in College

According to research, FAFSA completion is strongly associated with postsecondary enrollment. Approximately 90 percent of high school seniors who complete the FAFSA attend college directly from high school, compared to just 55 percent of FAFSA non-completers.



51,000 Georgia High School Seniors Did not Complete the FAFSA

In 2019, 56% of Georgia high school seniors completed the FAFSA, which means over 51 thousand high school seniors did not submit a FAFSA last year.

Students Need More Information & Supports

- 23 percent of FAFSA non-completers stated that they did not have enough information about how to complete a FAFSA.
- 32 percent of FAFSA non-completers thought that they may be ineligible or that their family may not qualify for financial aid.



\$111 million

\$111 Million in Unused Federal Financial Aid

In Georgia, approximately 54% of students are eligible for Pell Grants each year. This means 27,500 high school seniors who may have been awarded a Pell Grant did not receive one. According to the 2018 Trends in Student Aid Report, the average Pell Grant awarded to a student in the U.S. was \$4010.

Completion Rates Vary by State



The Level Up coalition, organized by [Education Strategy Group](#), works to highlight promising strategies for improving postsecondary transitions and attainment. For more information, visit [levelupcoalition.org](#).

State Board of Education Updates

CS4GA COMPUTER SCIENCE GRANT

The State Board of Education (SBOE) approved the recipients for the CS4GA Computer Science Capacity grant. The grant helps to support underserved students in areas of computer science (CS). Through the CS4GA grant, 33 schools will receive up to \$25,000 with 85% to be spent on teacher professional development. Senate Bill 108 requires all middle schools and high schools in Georgia to offer CS courses by 2025.

- To learn more visit [CS4GA](#).

NEW! ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL COMPUTER SCIENCE COURSES

The SBOE approved six new courses for elementary schools. Now, educators have the flexibility to integrate the NEW computer science standards into existing lessons from other content areas. The board also approved two additional courses for middle schools, bringing the middle school total to five courses.

- [Visit Computer Science Education in Georgia](#)

2020 stART GRANT

GaDOE allocated Title IV, Part A funds to start or supplement existing arts programs in rural parts of the state. A total of 18 counties, 89 teachers, and 18,627 students directly benefited from the funds of last year's grant. Districts used the grants to provide professional development, hire new teachers, and purchase classroom equipment for music and visual art courses.

Director Updates

RECOMMENDATION APPROVED TO ADDRESS DOUBLE-TESTING OF AP, IB STUDENTS

The Georgia Department of Education is making changes to ensure students who take Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) courses are not double-tested.

The State Board of Education, with support from Governor Brian Kemp, approved State School Superintendent Richard Woods' recommendation to eliminate Georgia Milestones End of Course (EOC) tests for students in many AP and IB courses, provided those students receive a passing grade in the course.

This policy change is part of Georgia's overall effort to establish a responsible and aligned accountability system that reduces the over-emphasis on high-stakes testing and provides our teachers and students with the information that they need for improvement and support. GaDOE estimates the change could eliminate approximately 58,000 high-stakes assessments taken by students this year, based on the total enrollment of corresponding AP and IB courses taken during the 2018-19 school year.

Contact: [Justin Hill](#)

Innovative Programs and Research

RECIPIENTS OF THE PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE TEACHING ANNOUNCED

President Donald Trump recognized four outstanding Georgia educators for their deep content knowledge in areas of teaching and learning, and for their ability to motivate students to be successful in those subjects.

Please join us in congratulating Georgia's 2018 awardees:

Ashley Greenway, Elm Street Elementary, (science) and Tanasha Mahone, Burgess-Peterson Academy, (mathematics) and 2017 awardees Martha Milan, East Coweta High School (science) and Billy Singletary, Coahulla Creek High School, (mathematics).

As part of their recognition, our Georgia teachers attended a series of events and professional development opportunities in our nation's capital.

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, established by the U.S. Congress in 1983, 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](#)



@georgiadeptofed

STEM | STEAM

GADOE AND ALBANY MUSEUM OF ART PARTNER FOR STEAM TRAINING

Date: December 5 Time: 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Venue: Albany Museum of Art, Albany

Cost: \$15 to cover lunch

GaDOE and the Albany Museum of Art will partner for a training on STEAM education and the importance of the arts in interdisciplinary teaching and learning. This session is one of a series of statewide trainings to support schools interested in GaDOE STEAM Certification.

- Learn more about the conference and [register](#).

2ND ANNUAL STEM | STEAM LEADERSHIP COHORT APPLICATIONS DUE NOW

Join the GaDOE STEM/STEAM team for a series of trainings at recently certified STEM and STEAM schools. This experience will highlight the implementation of essential STEM/STEAM criteria:

- project-based learning
- daily interdisciplinary instruction
- investigative research
- business and community partnerships
- collaborative planning

During cohort school visits, participants will hear from GaDOE staff, school leaders, teachers, students, and business partners. We will meet from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. each day.

- [Apply here](#) by November 22.

Contact: [Felicia Cullars](#)

[gadoe.org](#)

FREE COMPUTER SCIENCE FOR GIRLS



STEM/STEAM Georgia has partnered with Girls Who Code Club (GWC) to bring free computer science learning opportunities to communities across the state. Help bring FREE computer science to girls in Georgia by launching GWC in your school. There's no computer science experience needed to get started.

Join the next live 30-minute webinar!

- [Sign up! Start your Girls Who Code Experience](#)

Contact: [Meghan McFerrin](#)

Computer Science

NEW! GO-AT-YOUR-OWN-PACE COMPUTER SCIENCE COURSES FOR TEACHERS

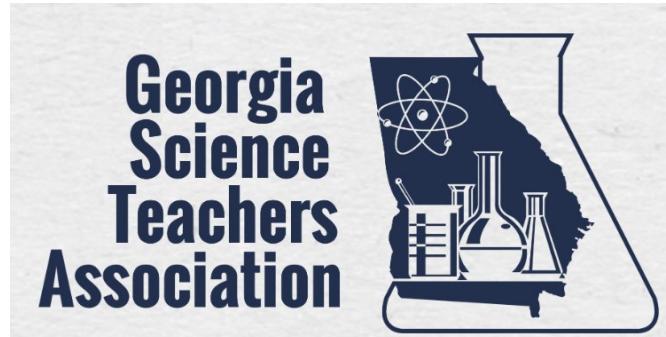
GaDOE has released the first online, go-at-your-own-pace courses to prepare computer science teachers for success. Currently, there are two courses available:

- 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



© 2019 GSTA

GSTA AWARDS & GRANT APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN!

The annual Georgia Science Teachers Association (GSTA) Awards and Grants recognize excellence and innovation in Georgia science education and serves to raise awareness and exposure of the outstanding work being done in our state. Please nominate someone or apply for a grant or award today!

- [Apply GSTA Awards](#)

Contact: [Amanda Buice](#)

English Language Arts and Literacy ELA STANDARDS REVIEW

The English Language Arts Georgia Standards of Excellence (ELA GSE) will undergo review in 2020-2021.

- To learn more, visit [ELA Standards Process](#).

Contact: [Stephanie Sanders](#)

Mathematics

NEW WEBPAGE!



The Georgia Department of Education Mathematics Team is proud to announce our [NEW WEBPAGE](#)! The design is colorful, user-friendly, and highly interactive. Now, users are able to quickly browse resources. This creative site design was developed as a response to feedback from our stakeholders. Many thanks to our partners for working on this project!

Contact: [Lya Snell](#)

Social Studies

NEW RESOURCES

The Social Studies team is happy to introduce NEW resources for kindergarten, first, and second grades. Ideas for differentiation have been added to the sample lessons on [georgiastandards.org](#). The lessons include ideas and scaffolding to support struggling learners. We look forward to adding additional lessons soon.

FREE GEO-INQUIRY AND ART OF STORYTELLING WORKSHOP

Date: February 26, 2020 Time: 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Location: Ragan Center, Perry, GA

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 fabulous opportunity to discover the integral role of images in storytelling.

- [Registration info available here.](#)

Contact: [Joy Hatcher](#)

Fine Arts

PICTURING HISTORY

What's the GCSS/GaDOE annual retreat all about?

The literacy-infused read alouds retreat connects educators with professional authors and illustrators.

- [Register](#)



ON-GOING FINE ARTS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Do you want to book a staff development workshop?

Now's your chance. Professional development for Fine Arts teachers is now underway across the state.

Simply let us know your desired days and courses. Book Today!

Contact: [Jessica Booth](#)

World Languages and Global Workforce Initiatives

APPLY TODAY! THE INTERNATIONAL SKILLS DIPLOMA SEAL PROGRAM

The International Skills Diploma Seal is awarded to graduating high school students who complete an international education curriculum and engage in extracurricular activities that foster the achievement of global competencies. It is a signal to employers that a student is prepared to participate in the global economy. The deadline to join is December 5.

- [International Skills Diploma Seal Program](#)

DLI COMPETITIVE MINI-GRANT AVAILABLE

GaDOE World Languages and Global Workforce Initiatives, in partnership with the Georgia Foundation for Public Education, is again pleased to offer competitive grants to support Georgia's Dual Language Immersion programs.

The application period ends March 2, 2020. Email your submission directly to [Patrick Wallace](#).

- [DLI Mini-Grant](#)

FREE! DLI IN A DAY TRAINING

Date: January 25, 2020

Location: GLOBE Academy

Time: 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

GaDOE World Languages is proud to partner with the GLOBE ACADEMY in DeKalb County this year to offer the next DLI in A Day workshop opportunity. All current DLI teachers and administrators from the region are invited as well as those interested in learning more about DLI.

- [Register for DLI in a DAY](#)

Contact: [Patrick Wallace](#)

Physical Education

ATLANTA FALCONS NFL FLAG IN-SCHOOL TRAINING

Date: December 4 Location: Southwest GA RESA, Pelham, GA

The Atlanta Falcons NFL FLAG In-Schools Training is a program designed to educate teachers on how to incorporate NFL FLAG into their school's curriculum and after school programs. This free training is designed by educators and fits into the standards outlined by the state of Georgia. Every school in attendance will receive a free NFL FLAG kit at the end of the training.

- [Register through the Southwest GA RESA](#)

ANNUAL FITNESS ASSESSMENT PORTAL IS NOW OPEN! WILL CLOSE ON JUN 15, 2020

The FitnessGram portal requirements:

- 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](#)

Teacher and Leader Support and Development

Contact: [Melinda Moe](#)

TLSD Updates

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 GaLearn.



- 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](#)

The page provides the following:

- Banner alerts of upcoming TLSD events
- TLSD and GSPS Professional Learning Partnership Projects Details
- Teacher Leadership Tool Kits Link
- P20 Regional Collaboratives Resources
- Professional Learning Platform in SLDS information
- TKES/LKES Resources
- General Quick Guide
- Performance Standards Supports
- Fact Sheets
- Supportive Weblinks
- Familiarization Videos
- 60 Seconds Videos

Contact: [Melinda Moe](#)

GEORGIA INDUCTION CEREMONY

Date: May 1, 2020

The Georgia Induction Summit 2020 registration and call for proposals are now open! This year's keynote speaker will be Dr. Paquita Morgan.

The goal of this summit is to provide tools and resources to ensure quality induction programs that support induction phase teachers, mentors and leaders' learning, retention, and student growth and learning. The summit fosters a valuable networking opportunity for school and district level leaders, higher education faculty and state agencies who closely support teacher and leader induction efforts.

Georgia's annual Induction Summit is a collaborative event hosted by:

- Atlanta Public Schools
- The Georgia Association of Educators (GAE)
- The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE)
- Middle Georgia RESA
- Professional Association of Georgia Educators (PAGE)
- The University System of Georgia.

Please feel free to distribute this information to any colleagues who have an interest in this work and consider sharing your induction practices in a breakout session.

2020 Georgia Induction:

- [Register for Georgia Induction Ceremony 2020](#)
- [Submit Call for Proposals and Application Form](#)

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

Georgia Tiered Systems of Support



New 2020 MTSS/SST Online Platform

The MTSS/SST Online Application is scheduled to release statewide in January 2020, for implementation in the 2020-2021 school year.

The training for MTSS/SST application is now available at [MTSS/SST Online Application](#). All local education agencies are encouraged to use the link to work with the application and provide feedback. Your input is needed to ensure that this tool meets the needs of all users.

The web-based application is intended to help districts and schools facilitate data-based decision making within a tiered system of supports for students. This application is a tool that districts, and schools may use to create and maintain a record of a student's response to intervention.

General Features:

- Accessible to all Georgia districts
- Provides real-time data
- Allows transfer of student data if a student moves anywhere in Georgia

Fully integrated with the Student Longitudinal Data System, or SLDS.

For more information or to provide your feedback, contact [Rondalyn Pinckney](#).

Contact: [Carole Carr](#)

Georgia Virtual School



OpenSalt UPDATE

Georgia Virtual is leading the way in educational innovation by adding 12 Science GSE courses 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.

What is CASE?

CASE is a machine-readable format to manage and publish competency frameworks allowing the exchange of new global technical standards.

With CASE, open-educational resources can be more easily tagged and discovered. Educators can build crosswalks to their local learning targets, organize assessment results, and discover content through these crosswalks.

The high school science GSE are available on the [GaDOE's OpenSALT site](#):

- [Astronomy](#)
- [Human Anatomy & Physiology](#)
- [Ecology](#)
- [Meteorology](#)
- [Entomology](#)
- [Microbiology](#)
- [Epidemiology](#)
- [Oceanography](#)
- [Forensic Science](#)
- [Zoology](#)
- [Geology](#)

Contact: [Keith Osburn](#)

GEORGIA VIRTUAL ENROLLS TRANSFER STUDENTS

Did your school enroll transfer students this semester?

Georgia Virtual School partners with schools across the state to assist with serving transfer students. During the fall semester, transfer students were enrolled in over 200 GaVS courses.

Here are a few reasons why transfer students choose GaVS:

- Students need courses that are not offered at the local school.
- Students come from a traditional schedule, but the new school is on block schedule.
- Students come from a block schedule, and the new school is on a traditional schedule.

Students started school much earlier/later than the new school and needs the option to continue content where he/she left off at the previous school.

Learn how GaVS can serve transfer students at your school.

- Visit [Georgia Virtual School](#)

Contact: [Margaret Thomas](#)

Nutrition**FUELING GEORGIA'S FUTURE**

The month of November can bring a focus on food. Perhaps these resources will 'leaf' you wanting more. Fall Food Based Learning 'Fall' in love with fall harvest themed classroom and food-based learning activities.

- [Fueling Georgia's Future](#)

November Harvest of the Month Feature: Sweet Potatoes Sweet potato marketing, promotion and food-based learning activities are available.

- [Georgia Farm to School](#)



© 2017 FoodFinder

FoodFinder is a safe, secure and award-winning mobile and web app that gives food insecure children and their families a way to find free food assistance programs quickly.

- Visit [FoodFinder](#)

Contact: [Kelley Toon](#)