



Richard Woods, Georgia's School Superintendent
"Educating Georgia's Future"

August 14, 2017

MEMORANDUM

TO: System Test Coordinators
Special Education Coordinators

FROM: Sandy Greene
Director for Assessment Administration

SUBJECT: Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA) Fall 2017 Training

In preparation for the 2017-2018 administration of the GAA, the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) will be conducting pre-assessment training online in August 2017. The purpose of these webinars is to provide information to guide the appropriate system-level and school-level staff in the development of portfolios that showcase the achievement and progress of students with significant cognitive disabilities. Representatives from the GaDOE and Questar Assessment, Inc. will be presenting the sessions. The specific dates/times and links to access both the live broadcasts and recorded sessions are listed on the following pages.

A variety of topics will be addressed during four broadcasts held on two dates. The duration of the sessions varies; each will allow time for questions and answers. The topics selected were identified based upon an analysis of 2016-2017 GAA results and feedback from school and system personnel. We will also address important administrative and curriculum access topics. Refer to the following pages for a list of topics to be addressed along with date/time information and the links to use in pre-registering for the sessions.

A target audience is defined for each session based upon the topics. However, System Test Coordinators are expected to collaborate with their Special Education Coordinator to determine the appropriate attendees for your district. The fact that each session will be available through both a live delivery and a recording (that can be viewed at any time) will allow systems to schedule the viewing of each session as local schedules may require.

Thank you in advance for arranging to attend these important webinars. Should you have any questions regarding this training, please do not hesitate to contact Deborah Houston via email dhouston@doe.k12.ga.us or phone (404) 657-0251 or toll-free at (800) 634-4106.

cc: System Superintendents
Richard Woods, State School Superintendent
Matt Jones, Chief of Staff
Melissa Fincher, Ph.D., Deputy Superintendent for Assessment and Accountability
Zelphine Smith-Dixon, Director for Special Education Supports and Services
Deborah Houston, Assessment Specialist

GAA 2017- 2018 Training Plan and Schedule

Pre-Assessment Training Topics			
Dates	Sessions and Times	Topics	Target Audiences
Tuesday, 8/22/17	Session 1 1:00-2:15 pm ET	The Basics of the GAA Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Portfolio Components Types of Evidence and Permanent Products Alignment Documentation and Organization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All personnel new to the GAA or those seeking a refresher on the basics
	Session 2 2:30-4:00 pm ET	Standards for Science and Social Studies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on language from the Georgia curriculum, the website, and other available resources Logistics (e.g., Entry Sheet will no longer include a CoS) Alignment Sample Tasks Resource Guide and Extended Standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All teachers who will administer the GAA Peer Reviewers and Designated Trainers System Test Coordinators Special Education Coordinators
Thursday, 8/24/17	Session 3 1:00-2:30 pm ET	Standards for Science and Social Studies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on language from the GA curriculum, the website, and other available resources Logistics (e.g., Entry Sheet will no longer include a CoS) Alignment Sample Tasks Resource Guide and Extended Standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All teachers who will administer the GAA Peer Reviewers and Designated Trainers System Test Coordinators Special Education Coordinators
	Session 4 2:45-4:00 pm ET	Looking Ahead to the 2017-2018 Administration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Administration Information Lessons Learned from the 2016-17 Administration Ethics and Test Security Portfolio/Peer Review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> System Test Coordinators Special Education Coordinators

Please note: Although target audiences have been recommended, all sessions are offered for all personnel to attend.

Pre-Administration Training Registration Links

The Basics of the GAA Overview

Session 1 Registration Link

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7282549680489175555>

Standards for Science and Social Studies

Session 2 Registration Link

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2470269860202363137>

Standards for Science and Social Studies

Session 3 Registration Link

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7486425524558392065>

Looking Ahead to the 2017- 2018 Administration

Session 4 Registration Link

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7329714331274764033>