



Dr. John D. Barge, State School Superintendent

July 22, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: System Test Coordinators
Special Education Coordinators

FROM: Tony Eitel
Director for Assessment Administration

SUBJECT: Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA) Fall 2013 Training

In preparation for the 2013-2014 administration of the GAA, the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) will be conducting pre-administration training online, via webinar, using *Blackboard Collaborate*. 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 eight broadcasts held on four dates. Each webinar will last approximately an hour and thirty minutes and will allow time for questions and answers. The topics selected were identified based upon an analysis of 2012-2013 GAA results, the high school retest option, and feedback from school and system personnel. Please refer to the following pages for an entire list of topics to be addressed along with the date and time information, and links for both the live sessions and recordings.

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.

cc: System Superintendents
Dr. John D. Barge, State School Superintendent
Dr. Mike Buck, Chief Academic Officer
Martha Reichrath, Ph.D., Deputy Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
Melissa Fincher, Ph.D., Associate Superintendent for Assessment and Accountability
Deborah Gay, Director of Special Education Services
GNETS Testing Directors
RESA Directors
State Schools Testing Coordinators

GAA 2013 Fall Training Schedule and Topics

Dates	Sessions and Times	Topics	Target Audiences
Tuesday, 8/13/13	Session 1 1:00-2:15 pm ET	Looking ahead to the 2013-14 Administration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Administration Information • Lessons Learned from the 2012-13 Administration • Ethics and Test Security • Portfolio Review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All teachers who will administer the GAA • Peer Reviewers and Designated Trainers • System Test Coordinators • System Special Education Coordinators
	Session 2 2:30-4:00 pm ET	High School Retest <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GPS and CCGPS Retesting • Retest Opportunities and Procedures • Materials for Retesters (Blueprint/Standards, SDIF, Entry Sheet) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All High School GAA teachers and/or those who are affiliated with the retest
Wednesday, 8/14/13	Session 3 1:00-2:15 pm ET	The Basics of the GAA – Part One <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview • Portfolio Components • Types of Evidence and Permanent Products 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All personnel new to the GAA or those seeking a refresher on the basics
	Session 4 2:30-4:00 pm ET	The Basics of the GAA – Part Two <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alignment • Documentation and Organization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All personnel new to the GAA or those seeking a refresher on the basics
Thursday 8/22/13	Session 5 1:00-2:15 pm ET	Preparing for Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instruction and Assessment • Modes of Communication and Responses • Resource Board • Resources and Training for State-mandated Content Standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All teachers who will administer the GAA • Peer Reviewers and Designated Trainers
	Session 6 2:30-4:00 pm ET	Alignment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unpacking the Standards • Selecting the Target Skill for Assessment • Prerequisite Skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All teachers who will administer the GAA • Peer Reviewers and Designated Trainers • System Test Coordinators • System Special Education Coordinators
Tuesday, 8/27/13	Session 7 1:00-2:15 pm ET	Alignment (Repeat of 8/22, Session 6) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unpacking the Standards • Selecting the Target Skill for Assessment • Prerequisite Skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This session is a repeat of Session 6 • Please refer to Session 6 above for target audience
	Session 8 2:30-4:00 pm ET	Looking ahead to the 2013-14 Administration (Repeat of 8/13, Session 1) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Administration Information • Lessons Learned from the 2012-13 Administration • Ethics and Test Security • Portfolio Review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This session is a repeat of Session 1 • Please refer to Session 1 above for target audience

Please note: Although target audiences have been recommended, all sessions are offered for all personnel to attend. For your convenience, Sessions 1 and 6 will be repeated on August 27th.

GAA 2013-2014 Pre-Administration Webinar Links

Tuesday, August 13 th	Session 1 1:00-2:15 pm	Live Session: https://sas.illuminate.com/m.jnlp?sid=2012003&password=M.9E58DA3BE1BAA720800B54FBFE581D Recording: https://sas.illuminate.com/mr.jnlp?suid=M.8D2E596256605BCDB7273784B05D66&sid=2012003
	Session 2 2:30-4:00 pm	Live Session: https://sas.illuminate.com/m.jnlp?sid=2012003&password=M.FD741F2B1963BFBA7905F6069DF80D Recording: https://sas.illuminate.com/mr.jnlp?suid=M.68C84B3E84A3006CFBC658AF02B439&sid=2012003
Wednesday, August 14 th	Session 3 1:00-2:15 pm	Live Session: https://sas.illuminate.com/m.jnlp?sid=2012003&password=M.48ABFFF23D80BE44E92029600EFF15 Recording: https://sas.illuminate.com/mr.jnlp?suid=M.0408281929F025DA2B3405914AC1BB&sid=2012003
	Session 4 2:30-4:00 pm	Live Session: https://sas.illuminate.com/m.jnlp?sid=2012003&password=M.7DF3CCCF14FCB57827FFFA2277A95A Recording: https://sas.illuminate.com/mr.jnlp?suid=M.90DCECCBCD96A9A36E2A267F1AF165&sid=2012003
Thursday, August 22 nd	Session 5 1:00-2:15 pm	Live Session: https://sas.illuminate.com/m.jnlp?sid=2012003&password=M.915B385CFB60CB1192E24DD30298BE Recording: https://sas.illuminate.com/mr.jnlp?suid=M.0995B7D6C36D09F5A24B9BE214AAD0&sid=2012003
	Session 6 2:30-4:00 pm	Live Session: https://sas.illuminate.com/m.jnlp?sid=2012003&password=M.BEFE1A64195850028CC669616BD4FE Recording: https://sas.illuminate.com/mr.jnlp?suid=M.8D3B5DA54C06DD40EE5BFA7E3E46DC&sid=2012003
Tuesday, August 27 th	Session 7 1:00-2:15 pm	Live Session: https://sas.illuminate.com/m.jnlp?sid=2012003&password=M.3AC2490D18743E9380C1051130A135 Recording: https://sas.illuminate.com/mr.jnlp?suid=M.B005CF15F467B44684BB131F278E0D&sid=2012003
	Session 8 2:30-4:00 pm	Live Session: https://sas.illuminate.com/m.jnlp?sid=2012003&password=M.CBD17DD65C44B55EA718E7E33FAB50 Recording: https://sas.illuminate.com/mr.jnlp?suid=M.55294A4CD55F975F046488C006FB28&sid=2012003