



Georgia Department of Education

Curriculum & Instruction Updates

Educating Georgia's Future

February/March 2017

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION UPDATES

Pam Smith, pamsmith@doe.k12.ga.us

Social Studies High School Course Approval

A new social studies course, Personal Financial Literacy, was approved by the State Board of Education on Thursday, February 23, 2017. This course was submitted by the Georgia Council of Economic Education (GCEE) in response to a request to develop a personal financial literacy course that could be taught by social studies teachers in Georgia. It is designed as a one-semester, half-credit elective course.

The state-funded list of K-8 subjects and 9-12 courses has been updated to include this new course for the 2017-2018 school year. The course number is 45.06700 Personal Financial Literacy. See page 44 of the [List of State-Funded Courses](#).

- [Summary of Changes](#)

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES & SUPPORTS

DeeDee Bunn, dbunn@doe.k12.ga.us

2016-17 UDL Webinar Series

Remember to register for the third in a series of three webinars hosted by the GaDOE regarding Universal Design for Learning in Education (UDL). Please join us for this exciting webinar to increase your knowledge of UDL in the classroom!

- [Additional Information Series of Webinars](#)

Promoting Engagement through Student-Led Discussions K-12

While classroom discussions are essential for deep learning, to be truly effective, they need to move beyond the teacher asking the questions and the students providing the answers. In this strategy-packed webinar, participants will learn how to plan and facilitate student-led discussions that engage students in self-assessment, reflection, and goal-setting, while fostering collaboration and community—all essential checkpoints for developing purposeful, motivated learners from kindergarten through high school.

A recording of this webinar will be available at the [following link](#) by March 14, 2017.

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports

Justin Hill, juhill@doe.k12.ga.us

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is an evidence-based, data-driven framework proven to reduce disciplinary incidents, increase a school's sense of safety and support improved academic outcomes.

- [PBIS Information and Updates](#)



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MATHEMATICS

Sandi Woodall, swoodall@doe.k12.ga.us

Mathematics Professional Learning

Mathematics educators in your school district who teach College Readiness Mathematics and did not participate in the 2016 summer training are invited to participate in a June 5-7 summer professional learning institute. The institute program is made possible through a partnership with the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) and will be presented concurrently at two sites, one in south Georgia and one in north Georgia. Both site locations will be determined based on regional interest.

Please send the names and email addresses of your district participants to Sandi Woodall at swoodall@doe.k12.ga.us by March 31, 2017.

Two video series have been posted to offer teachers varied instructional strategies for addressing specific algebra and geometry standards taught in GSE Algebra I, GSE Coordinate Algebra, GSE Geometry, and GSE Analytic Geometry.

- [Algebra Content in High School Mathematics](#)
- [Geometry Content in High School Mathematics](#)

Hope GPA Boost

Beginning in fall 2017, students will be able to take certain STEM courses at eligible postsecondary institutions and get a boost to their HOPE GPA. You will find additional information and a listing of the approved STEM courses on the GAfutures.org website at [STEM Weighted Course Directory](#).

GEORGIA VIRTUAL SCHOOL

Sharon Synan, sharon.synan@gavirtualschool.org

Summer Sun and Learning Fun!

[Registration for summer classes](#) will begin on March 1. Summer courses provide a great opportunity for students to get active and knock out a needed credit for personal fitness or health, or to get ahead in a content area. Maybe you have a student who needs to catch up and to be able to focus on one subject while still getting the support of a teacher with flexible structure. Make the most of GaVS summer opportunities and register your students for summer school!

- [GaVS Summer 2017 Courses](#)

FEDERAL PROGRAMS

John Wight, jwight@doe.k12.ga.us

Georgia's Systems of Continuous Improvement

GaDOE's divisions of Federal Programs, School and District Effectiveness, Teaching and Learning, and IDEA are working with districts to coordinate the implementation of a single Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA) within Georgia's Systems of Continuous Improvement. A webinar series will provide technical assistance to all districts in Georgia to complete this important work.

- [Friday Webinar Series Information](#)

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SOCIAL STUDIES

Joy Hatcher, jhatcher@doe.k12.ga.us

These are a few of #GAsocialstudies'

Favorite Things

GaDOE Social Studies is cooking up an inquiry! Due to the demand for training, the GaDOE Social Studies team has created a one-day workshop on historical inquiry and the GSE in Social Studies. This workshop is hosted by six RESAs around the state and will include:

- A brief crosswalk from GPS to GSE to show content changes
- An overview of the shift to inquiry and what that looks like in social studies
- Modeling of an inquiry lesson
- A chance to address questions and concerns

The workshop, facilitated by Sarah Brown (previously with the GaDOE), is appropriate for teachers, school, district and RESA leaders or any combination of those. Although we will model an inquiry lesson from grades 4-5, this model is applicable K-12. Follow GaDOE Social Studies on Social Media or join the Social Studies Leadership PLC for information on specific training dates and locations.

The Social Studies Leadership Webinar Series Episode 4 entitled, "Come on Ride that Train-ing: Summer, Virtual, and Requested Training" will be held Wednesday, March 8. In this webinar we will preview our summer teacher training, and additional training opportunities.

- [Registration](#)

Summer Trainings for Teachers

See the memo sent on December 13, 2016, for details about Social Studies GSE Teacher Training being held in June of 2017. These two-day trainings are designed for those who prefer face-to-face training focused on changes to the Social Studies GSE and the inquiry model. These trainings will be held at five locations across Georgia and school system leaders may register their attendees via a link for the various sites. Note that there are limited spaces available for each system, so you will want to RSVP-ASAP.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS/LITERACY

Stephanie Sanders, ssanders@doe.k12.ga.us

Professional Learning Opportunities

The Georgia Writing Project Sites are offering a range of professional learning opportunities for teachers to build their capacity for writing instruction. Be sure to explore the opportunities.

Red Clay Writing Project - Saturday Morning Workshops held at the UGA Gwinnett County Campus:

- [Powerful Argument Writing](#) (March 25)
- [Reading and Writing History](#) (April 22)

Kennesaw Mountain Writing Project - Second Saturday Workshops at Kennesaw State University:

- [Non-Fiction Writing](#) (March 11)
- [Apply for the Summer Institute at Kennesaw Mountain Writing Project](#)

Georgia Southern Writing Project - Student Success in Writing Conference

- [Conference Website](#)

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ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Ashley Hope, ahope@doe.k12.ga.us

Georgia's Early Learning Measures

Did you know that Georgia is developing a new suite of formative Early Learning Measures for K-2 students? This article will highlight work currently underway, including the GKIDS Readiness Check, GKIDS 2.0 (the much-needed revision of GKIDS), and Keenville – a Georgia game-based assessment initiative. Each endeavor focuses on the critical skills necessary to enter kindergarten, first, second, and third grades, respectively. These formative measures:

- are solely for instructional purposes;
- inform the teaching and learning process;
- provide teachers a basis for differentiating instruction;
- aim to set a firm foundation for students as they enter third grade, ready for success in literacy, mathematics, and critical thinking.

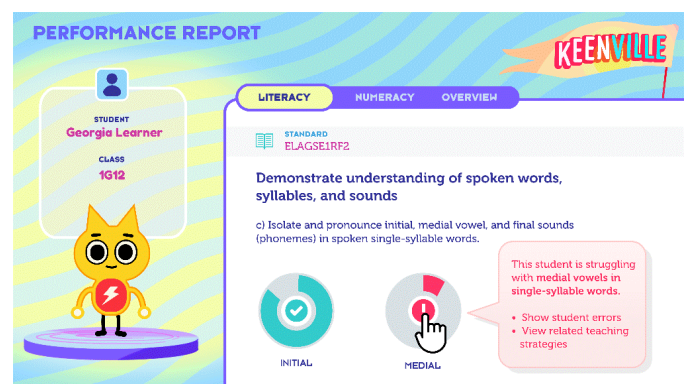
The GKIDS Readiness Check focuses on knowledge and skills critical for early student success in learning and will enhance Georgia's current kindergarten assessment, the Georgia Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (GKIDS). The GKIDS Readiness Check is designed to be developmentally appropriate and reflect research based best practices for young learners. The GKIDS Readiness Check:

- is a formative tool focused on learning;
- is to be used to guide instruction;
- is administered during the first six weeks of kindergarten;
- provides information for teachers to individualize student instruction;
- provides baseline information on the skills of children entering kindergarten, as well as summary data for the early care and education community.
- [Learn More](#)

Keenville

Welcome to Keenville on Planet Peachy Keen! The Keens live in Keenville and want to help Georgia's youngest learners – those in first and second grade – grow and learn important reading and math skills. Keenville is an innovative, developmentally appropriate game-based approach to formative assessment. Keenville will:

- allow students to explore and customize a highly engaging world that presents real-life yet playful, age- and grade-appropriate problem sets and critical thinking tasks;
- uniquely integrate foundational literacy and math concepts in a fun, engaging, story-based educational experience;
- shorten the time between gathering information about what the student has learned and is still learning, and instruction; and
- enable teachers to provide additional teaching and learning opportunities based on timely and actionable data.
- [Learn More](#)



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COMPUTER SCIENCE

Bryan Cox, bcox@doe.k12.ga.us

K-12 Computer Science Professional Development Available this Summer

Code.org Workshops:

Georgia's Regional Partner is Georgia Tech's Center for Education for Integrating Science, Mathematics and Computing. Teachers who apply and are accepted to the program commit to (See code.org):

- Attending the five-day, in-person summer workshop (dates and locations assigned by district)
- Attending four local one-day, in-person workshops (normally on Saturdays)
- Engaging in 20 hours of online PD
- Teaching the course during the 2017-18 school year
- Supporting the recruitment and enrollment of a diverse group of students in the course, representative of the school's overall student population

Applications close on March 17, and will be reviewed on a rolling basis. For more information and to apply, visit:

- [CS Discoveries](#) (grades 7-9)
- [CS Principles](#)

Additional K-12 CS Education Professional Learning Opportunities

- [Free Edx course](#)
- [Columbus State endorsement program and summer prep course](#)
- [Oconee RESA endorsement program](#)
- [CS50 AP workshops](#)

Coming Soon!

GaDOE AP, including AP CS and AP CS Principles, workshops will occur in October and November. Dates will be announced in April.

GEORGIASTANDARDS.ORG

Tony Vlachakis, tvlachak@doe.k12.ga.us

Website Usage

- Pageviews: 88,935,046
- Sessions: 19,070,262
- Users: 7,246,599
- Avg. Pages / Session: 4.66
- Avg. Session Duration: 3 Mins 55 Secs

(Google Analytics 9/1/2008 to 2/28/2017)

- [Visit GeorgiaStandards.Org](http://GeorgiaStandards.Org)

GeorgiaStandards.Org YouTube Channel

- Watch Time: 211,770 Mins
- Views: 45,602
- Average View Duration: 4 Mins 38 Secs
- Likes: 70
- Shares: 346
- Videos in Playlists: 459
- Subscribers: 117

(YouTube Analytics 4/26/2013 to 2/27/2017)

- [Visit and Subscribe to the GSO YouTube Channel](#)

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STEM/STEAM

Felicia Cullars, fcullars@doe.k12.ga.us

CEISMC @ Georgia Tech STEAM Leadership Conference 2017

March 16, 2017 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
GTRI Conference Center

This conference is designed for leaders and administrators at K-12 schools. This event will feature interactive, educational sessions, engaging STEAM-focused work groups, and panel sessions with experts in the field. Admission includes continental breakfast and lunch.

- [Register](#)

7th Annual ASCE Civil Engineering Competition

The Georgia Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) is holding a competition to challenge middle school students (6th, 7th, and 8th graders) to tell us "What DO Civil Engineers Do?" This can be in the form of an essay, project, video, or even piece of related art – it's up to the student or team. Deadline for submission is March 23rd, 2017.

- [More Information](#)

COLLEGE READINESS AND TALENT DEVELOPMENT

Gail Humble, ghumble@doe.k12.ga.us

Georgia Association for Gifted Children Annual Convention

The 2017 [Georgia Association for Gifted Children \(GAGC\)](#) Annual Convention will be held March 13-14 in Athens at the Georgia Center's UGA Hotel and Conference Center. This year's conference is titled "Free Thinking."

- [Registration](#)

SCIENCE

Juan-Carlos Aguilar, jaguilar@doe.k12.ga.us

Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching

The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) are the nation's highest honors for teachers of mathematics and science (including computer science). Awardees serve as models for their colleagues, inspiration to their communities, and leaders in the improvement of mathematics and science education. The window for nominations is now open for the 2017 cycle to nominate outstanding 7-12 mathematics and science (including computer science) teachers.

The deadline for nominations is April 1, 2017. The nomination form should be completed early enough to ensure that the nominated teacher is given enough time to thoroughly prepare an application that reflects exemplary teaching prior to the application deadline.

- [More Information](#)

American Geosciences Institute Summer Academy

The American Geosciences Institute (AGI)/ExxonMobil Exploration Teacher Leadership Academies is seeking nominations for K-5 and middle school teachers to meet in Houston for week-long academies. Those selected will learn Earth Science content, explore hands-on STEM activities, and gain real-world science experiences.

Funding from ExxonMobil and AGI covers academy-related costs for the teachers, including travel to Houston, meals, lodging, and educational materials.

The nomination deadline is March 10, 2017. Please send names and email contact information for nominees to Juliet Crowell, Education Pro, American Geosciences Institute, at jmcrowell@agiweb.org. Please use the subject line "K-5 Teacher Leader Academy Nominee" or "Middle School Teacher Leader Academy Nominee".

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CAREER READINESS AND TALENT DEVELOPMENT

Gail Humble, Ghumble@doe.k12.ga.us

Advanced Placement Honors and Celebrations

Advanced Placement (AP) Day in Georgia was celebrated on February 24. However, after looking at the listing of AP events and honors below, you might come to the conclusion that AP has been celebrated throughout the month of February.

Celebrations started with AP Day under the Gold Dome on January 25. AP students representing several of our school districts met at the State Capitol with legislative leaders. They listened to the senators and representatives, asked questions and the legislative leaders listened to the students talk about their AP experiences.

The Georgia Department of Education in conjunction with the College Board announced the five statewide winners of Georgia's first official AP Champion Award! This award reflects the schools' efforts toward eliminating barriers that restrict access to AP for students from traditionally underserved groups, building and sustaining a positive culture around AP and promoting AP in a way that encourages, engages and excites students. The winners are:

- Cedar Grove High School (DeKalb)
- Central High School (Carroll)
- Chestatee High School (Hall)
- Peachtree Ridge HS (Gwinnett)
- Luella High School (Henry)
- Honorable Mention: Burke County High School

During the Southeast AP Forum in Atlanta, Bibb County Schools and Muscogee County Schools were congratulated by The College Board as the Khan Academy/SAT Practice Champions.

On February 27, the Georgia Department of Education announced the 2017 Advanced Placement Honor Schools. Among the schools chosen are:

- 59 AP Challenge Schools
- 65 AP Access and Support Schools
- 69 AP Merit Schools
- 204 AP STEM Schools
- 128 AP STEM Achievement Schools
- 149 AP Humanities Schools
- [More Information](#)

Finally, Georgia AP teachers are well represented in the College Board's national group of AP Exam Readers as they represented 5.3% of all teacher participating in 2016. Georgia also has dedicated teachers who serve on the AP Course Development Committee and AP Syllabi Reviewers.

Gwinnett County was named 'National AP District of the Year' for large school districts by the College Board. A celebration was held on February 21, 2017, to honor Gwinnett for its efforts in getting students to take more rigorous courses and for the success students had in those courses.

The AP Teacher Training Grant Award Schools were named at the Georgia Department of Education's Board meeting on February 24, 2017. Schools that applied will be notified before the end of the month as to their grant status. Forty-three systems with a total of 146 schools will receive funds to support AP teacher training.