



Curriculum & Instruction Updates

Educating Georgia's Future

March/April 2019

State Board of Education Update

BOARD APPROVES K-8 COMPUTER SCIENCE STANDARDS

During the March Georgia State Board of Education (SBOE) meeting the SBOE approved the K-8 Computer Science Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE) standards for grades K-8. GSE for Computer Science can now be integrated into other content areas.

- [Learn More](#)

SAVE THE DATE: NEW CURRICULUM DIRECTOR'S ORIENTATION AUG. 6, 2019

The annual New Curriculum Director's Orientation co-sponsored by GACIS and GaDOE is scheduled for August 6, 2019 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Georgia Department of Education's West Tower, 10th floor training rooms. The agenda, directions and a registration link will be provided in ensuing issues of this newsletter.

BOARD RECEIVES FINE ARTS UPDATE

Betsy Eppes, Visual Art, Dance, Theatre and Media Arts Coordinator, Fulton County Schools, and Catherine Keyser, Fine Arts Specialist and Governor's Honor Program Coordinator, Forsyth County Schools, provided a statewide update on Georgia's Fine Arts efforts during the superintendent's report to the board at the March SBOE meeting.

Each coordinator highlighted the importance of Fine Arts and its role in helping students receive a "well-rounded education." Concluding their presentation was a reminder that the combined creative arts industry generates more than \$37 billion in revenue or 5% of all employment in Georgia.

Contact: [Justin Hill](#)

Teaching and Learning Update

LAUNCHING K-8 COMPUTER SCIENCE (CS)

Georgia is one of the first states to adopt K-8 CS standards to ensure that all children have an opportunity to learn about computing, how to work with computers, and how computers shape our world.

Developing computer science concepts and knowledge is essential for the viability of our students' and our society's future. In STEM, 58% of jobs are in computing, but only 10% of STEM graduates have computing experience. In Georgia, there are over 19,000 computing jobs open and only 2,280 qualified applicants (Code.org, 2018).

Only 49% of high schools currently offer any computer science course. And of students who complete these courses, few are female, African American, Latino/a or American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, or Pacific Islander. If we are to broaden participation and better prepare students to be knowledgeable and capable in an increasingly digital world, computer science education must take on the same importance as English and Mathematics.

The Georgia Department of Education is launching K-8 Computer Science Georgia Standards of Excellence to give teachers a framework for how computer science can be taught and what students can learn. Note that teaching activities can be "plugged" or "unplugged" (i.e., have a computer or not). There are many free curricula with activities, resources, and teaching ideas.

Please explore the standards and check out these free, open resources:

- [CS4GA](#)
- [Code.org](#)
- [ScratchJr](#)
- [Scratch](#)
- [Computer Science Education Week](#)

Contact: [Caitlin McMunn Dooley](#)



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Fine Arts

GEORGIA TEACHERS EXPANDING ARTS EDUCATION IN RURAL AREAS

A recent National Endowment for the Arts article, "How the Arts Benefit Rural America," examines the vital importance of the arts to rural communities. It points out that in January, the National Governors Association (NGA) released Rural Prosperity through the Arts and Creative Sector: A Rural Action Guide for Governors and States. One of the primary reasons cited for the importance of this action guide is the economic impact, "...because arts-based economic development has been shown to be responsible for more than 600,000 jobs and \$67.5 billion in economic activity in rural communities!"

This month we are beginning to see the direct effects of the stART grants awarded specifically for the creation of new arts programs or the expansion of existing arts programs in rural Georgia. GaDOE has begun the process of visiting the awarded schools. McDuffie County is already doing a phenomenal job in two of their elementary schools. Norris Elementary and Dearing Elementary have used the funds to expand arts learning in music classrooms. They have done so by purchasing music education materials, percussion instruments and equipment, and string instruments allowing for innovative and wide-ranging music education opportunities.

- [How the Arts Benefit Rural America](#)
- [Rural Prosperity through the Arts and Creative Sector: A Rural Action Guide for Governors and States](#)

Contact: [Paul McClain](#)



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English Language Arts and Literacy SUMMER LITERACY CONFERENCE

The English Language Arts team is excited to announce the 2019 Summer Literacy Conference, an event that will include a variety of sessions and formats featuring literacy experts from across the state and country. This year's theme is "Literacy for the Whole Child."

We encourage K-12 educators, administrators, district leaders, and community partners to join us.

Please mark your calendars for this statewide literacy event that will take place Tuesday, July 9 to Thursday, July 11, 2019 at the Centreplex in Macon.

- [More Information](#)

Contact: [Stephanie Sanders](#)

Health and Physical Education STUDENT FITNESS AWARDS 2019

If you would like to order Fitness Awards (at no charge) to recognize your students, please contact [Mike Tenoschok](#) to obtain an order form. Students earn these awards by scoring in the HFZ (Healthy Fitness Zone) on five test items of the FitnessGram.

FITNESS TESTING REQUIREMENT

Please remind your teachers that they should be entering fitness scores in the portal for the Annual Fitness Assessment. The portal will close June 15, 2019. This requirement is in compliance with state law (O.C.G.A. 20-2-777).

Contact: [Mike Tenoschok](#)

Georgia Virtual School SUMMER COURSE OFFERINGS

Summer semester is often a beneficial opportunity for students to get ahead on courses for the upcoming school year. Many students utilize Georgia Virtual School's summer semester for:

- Personal Fitness
- Health
- a CTAE elective
- a third year of World Language
- a Science or History course not offered at the local school.

Have your students join over 4,000 students from around the state who take advantage of Georgia Virtual School's summer course offerings.

- [Summer 2019 Course Offerings](#)

Contact: [Margaret Thomas](#)

STEM/STEAM

STEM/STEAM FORUM REGISTRATION

Make plans now to participate in Georgia's leading STEM/STEAM conference! The Georgia STEM/STEAM Forum will take place October 20-22 in Athens. Open now:

- Call for Proposals
- Registration
- T-Shirt Sign-Up
- Exhibitor Registration

Don't miss this opportunity to explore how STEM and STEAM can impact teaching and learning in your school or district.

- [View Conference Tracks](#)
- [Registration](#)

Contact: [Meghan McFerrin](#)

World Languages and Global Workforce Initiatives

INTERNATIONAL DAY AT THE CAPITOL

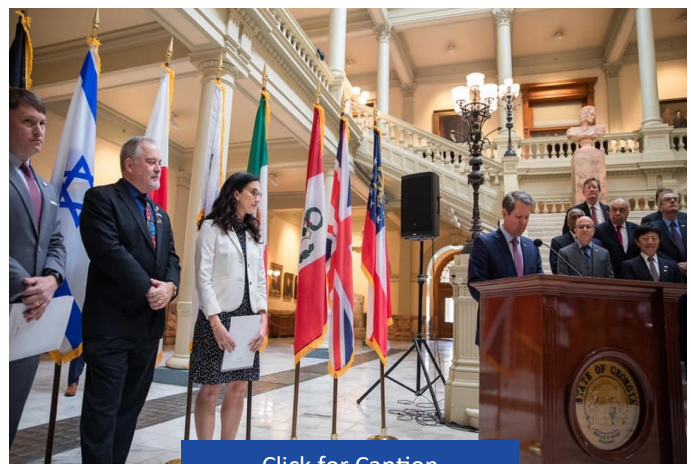
The Georgia Department of Education World Languages and Global Workforce Initiatives participated in the International Day at the Capitol event on March 25. International Day at the Capitol brings together partners across the international and education communities to demonstrate the value of Georgia's global presence, sharing the message that the state's international economic development efforts have a positive impact across the state.

- [View Governor Brian Kemp Remarks](#)
- [View Superintendent Mr. Richard Woods Remarks](#)
- [View Student Performance](#)

INTERNATIONAL SKILLS DIPLOMA SEAL AWARDS CEREMONY

The Georgia Department of Education World Languages and Global Workforce Initiatives will host the annual International Skills Diploma Seal Awards ceremony at GaDOE beginning at 10 a.m. on April 23. The International Skills Diploma Seal is awarded to graduating high school students who complete an international education curriculum and engage in extracurricular activities and experiences that foster the achievement of global competencies. It is a signal to employers and higher education institutions that a student is prepared to participate in the global economy.

Contact: [Patrick Wallace](#)



[Click for Caption](#)

Mathematics

SUMMER MATHEMATICS INSTITUTE

Calling ALL K-12 mathematics teachers! Please join us for the 2019 Summer Mathematics Institute from June 10-12, 2019. Additional details regarding this professional learning opportunity can be found on the [Summer Mathematics Institute Professional Learning Flyer](#).

- [Registration](#)

COLLEGE READINESS MATHEMATICS SUMMER PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Calling ALL high school mathematics teachers! Please join us for the 2019 College Readiness Mathematics Summer Professional Learning from June 18-20, 2019. Additional details regarding this professional learning opportunity can be found on the [College Readiness Mathematics Summer Professional Learning Flyer](#).

- [Registration](#)

MATHEMATICS GRADUATION GUIDANCE

The 2019-2020 Mathematics Graduation Guidance document has been updated and [posted on the Mathematics Curriculum webpage](#). This is a resource provided for school administrators, counselors, and teachers.

Contact: [Lya Snell](#)

Policy

SAFETY IN OUR SCHOOLS CONFERENCE

Please mark your calendars to attend our 10th Annual Safety in Our Schools conference from June 25-27, 2019 at the UGA Tifton Campus Conference Center in Tifton.

The conference is presented by the Georgia Department of Education, the Georgia Emergency Management Agency - Homeland Security, and the U.S. Attorneys Office for the Middle District of Georgia.

- [View Conference Topics](#)

The conference registration fee is \$100 and lunch will be provided for the first two days. Parking is free. Lodging/travel expenses are the responsibility of the attendee. The deadline to register for the conference is June 17, 2019.

- [Conference Registration](#)

For additional information, contact [Pam Lightsey](#).

Contact: [Jeff Hodges](#)

Jimmy Carter National Historic Site

ACADEMIC HISTORY BOWL HOST



[Click for Caption](#)

The Jimmy Carter National Historic Site hosted its 23rd annual Academic History Bowl in February. A total of 274 history scholars from middle and high school teams traveled to Plains to showcase their knowledge of Georgia, U.S. and World History during the two-day event. Houston County Schools swept the competition with both Mossy Creek Middle School and Houston County High School taking home first place trophies. Congratulations to all of the participating students and coaches.

Contact: [Marle C. Usry](#)

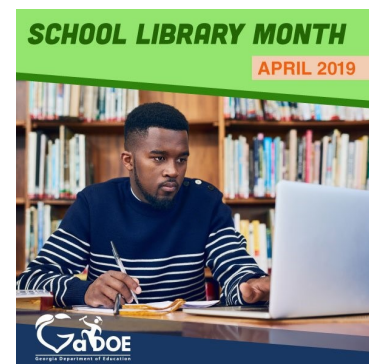
Library/Media Services

DOWNLOADABLE POSTER CELEBRATING SCHOOL LIBRARY MONTH 2019

April 1 marked the start of School Library Month 2019! The Digital Library of Georgia and Georgia Public Library Service are pleased to provide a new, [downloadable poster celebrating School Library Month 2019](#).

- [Read More](#)

Contact: [Tony Vlachakis](#)



Teacher and Leader Support and Development (TLSD)

EMPOWERING GEORGIA EDUCATORS FOR EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Empowering Georgia Educators for Equity and Inclusion: Meeting the Needs of Georgia's Students Through High Leverage Practices conference will take place on May 2. This event will showcase Georgia practitioners through three lenses: Inclusive Leadership, Equity and High-Leverage Practices for diverse learners.

There is no cost for this event. However, travel will be at the expense of the attendee. If you are interested in attending, please [email Dr. Karen Wylar](#).

- [More Information](#)
- [Registration](#)

GEORGIA INDUCTION SUMMIT

Georgia Induction Summit 2019 Attaining New Heights: attracting, preparing, recruiting and retaining will take place on May 3 at the campus of the Middle Georgia State University in Macon. Registration fee is \$50. P-12 and IHEs are encouraged to attend with your partners. Please direct any questions or request for additional information to [Ms. Nikki Stroud](#).

- [Registration](#)

INDUCTION AND MENTORING RESOURCES

ESSA addresses disparities with ineffective, out-of-field or inexperienced teachers and addresses disparities through evidence-based activities, strategies and interventions.

Improving access to effective educators is an essential component of and perhaps a condition for both school improvement and the narrowing of persistent achievement gaps. Mentoring and Induction can play a critical role in building the pool of effective educators to improve access and meet this need. The [Center on Great Teachers and Leaders at AIR Mentoring and Induction](#) is an evidence-based strategy that can support all schools. A snapshot that examines and summarizes 14 high-quality studies on mentoring and induction and provides a rationale for [funding mentoring and induction programs as an evidence-based strategy](#).

For additional information please contact [Dr. Kathy Reese](#) for Leader Induction and [Dr. Karen Wylar](#) for Teacher induction.

College Readiness and Talent Development

GADOE CREATES PARTNERSHIPS TO IMPROVE ADVANCED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

The College Readiness and Talent Development Team, in partnership with the College Board, conducted Pre-AP Workshops at Coastal Plains RESA in February and March. Over 100 educators participated from 13 districts in South Georgia. The goals of this project were to significantly increase the number of students who can access and complete college-level work before leaving high school; improve the college readiness of all students; and provide proven professional development and training for teachers. Middle and high school teachers from English, Math, Social Studies, and Science content areas attended the session.

Feedback from these workshops were overwhelmingly positive with teachers responding that these sessions “Absolutely pertain[ed] to what I am doing and hope to do with my students in the future” and “I am confident that I can utilize these strategies and principles of Pre-AP in my own classroom and dispens[e] the knowledge to my colleagues.” Ten teachers from these workshops were also awarded scholarships to attend Advanced Placement Summer Institute training.

The team also partnered with Title IVA to provide grants for teachers to participate in Gifted Endorsement classes. The main purpose of the grant is to provide professional development opportunities for our rural teachers. The online format provides endorsements for 32 Georgia teachers and more options for advanced learners in those districts.

Contact: [Gail Humble](#)

**Georgia's public-school class of 2018
has the sixteenth-highest Advanced
Placement (AP) pass rate in the nation.**

ESOL

NEWCOMERS TRAINING

The Center for Latino Achievement and Success in Education (CLASE) at the University of Georgia is offering two Newcomers Training Sessions:

- May 29 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Habersham Central High (Mt. Airy)
- May 30 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at UGA Gwinnett Campus (Lawrenceville)

This interactive all-day training offers educators the opportunity to explore and practice research-based principles and techniques developed through the Arch system for collaborative, conversation-based instruction. These techniques are designed to meet the needs of Newcomers, students who recently arrived in the U.S., and integrate them productively into content classrooms by actively developing their academic language skills.

- [Registration](#)

If you have any additional questions, please [email Shannon Rodriguez](mailto:Shannon.Rodriguez).

Contact: [Jacqueline C. Ellis](#)

Atlanta Autism Speaks Walk

Every April, Autism Speaks kicks off World Autism Month beginning with UN-sanctioned World Autism Awareness Day on April 2.

Joined by the international community, hundreds of thousands of landmarks, buildings, homes and communities around the world light blue in recognition of people living with autism. Autism-friendly events and educational activities take place all month to increase understanding and acceptance and foster worldwide support.

You can help by registering a team and fundraising for the 15th anniversary of the Atlanta Autism Speaks Walk in partnership with Marcus Autism Center on Sunday, April 28 at Atlantic Station. For more information and to register please visit AutismSpeaksWalk.org or contact School Walk Team Chair [Michelle Parris](#) with any questions.

Be sure to visit AutismSpeaks.org for ideas on how you can light it up blue or to download the Puzzle Piece Project which is a fun and interactive educational tool for K-12 teachers to teach students about the importance of understanding and acceptance.

Social Studies

PICTURING HISTORY: USING GREAT CHILDREN'S LITERATURE TO SPARK INQUIRY IN SOCIAL STUDIES

June 20 to 21 | Brasstown Valley Resort and Spa | Young Harris, Georgia

Why YOU want to be there!

- to hear from great children's book authors and illustrators about their own journey of inquiry and their recent and beloved titles
- to inspire, instruct, and implement quality children's literature in social studies inquiry, K-12
- to introduce and extend your repertoire of titles and techniques for using these books
- to inspire, instruct, and innovate the use of read alouds/children's literature in social studies inquiry
- to introduce or extend our repertoire of titles and techniques
- to spark student insight and understanding of how writers and illustrators think like historians in their work

WHO should attend?

Teachers, district and RESA curriculum leaders, literacy specialists, academic and literacy coaches, department chairs, media specialists and public librarians

Learn why content literacy is SO important and how this retreat can build inquiry skills and historical thinking, along with pumping up content vocabulary, comprehension, and ability to think critically.

- [Registration Information](#)

Contact: [Joy Hatcher](#)