

GaDOE Updates

EducatingGeorgiasFuture.org

October 2015

FROM SUPERINTENDENT WOODS



Our end goal here at the Department of Education -- the mission that guides our work each day -- is to graduate students who are ready to **learn**, ready to **live**, and ready to **lead**.

We've recently completed work on several projects that support that mission.

Through the collaborative efforts of many partners, including the Get Georgia Reading campaign, we were able to give every kindergarten and pre-k student in Georgia a book of their very own. I hope this will play a part in encouraging a love of reading that will enable students to learn throughout their lives, even when their formal education is completed.

This year, we were also able to provide a pocket copy of the U.S. Constitution, and other founding documents, for every fourth grade student. Thanks to the support of generous donors, this was done at no expense to Georgia taxpayers. An increased understanding of the principles that guide our nation will, I hope, motivate our students to serve as leaders in their communities throughout their lives.

We've also posted three new computer science courses for public review and comment. In line with the Governor's computer programming initiative, students taking these courses would be eligible to receive a core math, science, or foreign language credit. It's our hope that this will provide further chances for our students to engage with computer science and STEM learning, opening up rich career opportunities for the future.

As always, I welcome your feedback about this work. If you have comments or questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at rwoods@doe.k12.ga.us.

AROUND THE DISTRICTS

Eight Georgia public schools have received **National Blue Ribbon** recognition. Congratulations to KIPP STRIVE Academy (Atlanta), Alexander II Math & Science Magnet (Bibb), Hoboken Elementary (Brantley), Clairemont Elementary (Decatur City), Johns Creek Elementary (Forsyth), Davidson Fine Arts (Richmond), Esther F. Garrison School of Visual & Performing Arts (Savannah-Chatham), and Rosemont Elementary (Troup)! Learn more at bit.ly/GAblueribbon.

CONSTITUTION WEEK 2015

The Words that Built America

"When in the course of human events..."

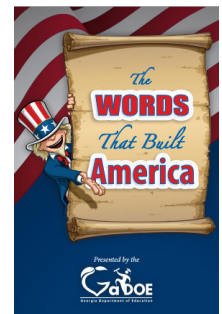
"We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union..."

These are the words that built our nation, and the words on which our government is built. Now, all of Georgia's fourth grade students can carry those words with them.



In an effort to increase civic awareness, State School Superintendent Richard Woods and the Georgia Department of Education distributed a pocket copy of the Constitution (and other founding documents, including the Declaration of Independence) to each of Georgia's 120,000-plus fourth graders. All funding for the project was donated; no taxpayer funds were used.

"As a former social studies teacher, I believe civic awareness and engagement are crucial components of the education we provide for our students. I wanted to provide these Constitution as a gift for our students and a resource for educators, as they work to educate students about the history and values of our nation."



The Constitutions were purchased and distributed using funds donated by the American Legion - Department of Georgia, ITTI Global Inc., General Building Maintenance, the Georgia Council on Economics Education, the Georgia Foundation for Public Education, and anonymous donors.

Want to learn more? Visit educatinggeorgiasfuture.org and click "Civic Awareness" on the right side of the page.



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AROUND THE DEPARTMENT

New computer science courses proposed

The State Board of Education has posted standards for three new computer science courses for public review and comment. If approved, students in any of the proposed courses -- Embedded Computing, Web Development, and Game Design, Animation and Simulation -- would be eligible to receive a core math, science, or foreign language credit. To view the proposed course standards and provide feedback, visit bit.ly/gadoeCS.

New Student Advisory Council selected

Superintendent Woods has selected 110 Georgia students to serve on his 2015-16 Student Advisory Council. These middle and high school students were selected from a pool of 1,500 students who applied to serve on the council; they represent charter, virtual, and traditional public schools in every RESA district in Georgia. They will meet with Superintendent Woods to discuss the impact of state policies in the classroom.

GEORGIA'S FUTURE WORKFORCE

GaDOE's Career, Technical and Agricultural Education (CTAE) division is hosting **Partners Educating Georgia's Future Workforce** meetings this fall, giving business and community partners a chance to learn more about CTAE in Georgia. View a schedule of remaining meetings below. For more information, visit georgiasfutureworkforce.org.

Oct. 13: Region 12, Beach High School, Savannah

Oct. 14: Region 9, Toombs Co. HS, Lyons

Nov. 2: Region 8, Pratt-Whitney Engine, Midland

Nov. 9: Region 6, Hutchings Complex, Macon

Nov. 16: Region 7, Grovetown HS, Grovetown

Nov. 18: Region 5, East Jackson HS, Commerce

SUPPORTING LITERACY

Pre-k, kindergarten students get books

At the beginning of the 2015-16 school year, every kindergarten and pre-k student in Georgia received a book to take home, an initiative organized by GaDOE and partners of the Get Georgia Reading campaign.

Each book comes with an activity for teachers to use before sending the books home, and resources for parents and families.



This project was funded through a portion of Georgia's remaining Race to the Top funding and benefited from GaDOE's partnerships with the Office of Governor Nathan Deal, the Office of First Lady Sandra Deal, the Governor's Office of Student Achievement, the Department of Early Care and Learning, the Get Georgia Reading Campaign, and the Rollins Center for Language & Literacy at the Atlanta Speech School.

Prepare for school with GAREADY4K

Parents of four- and five-year-olds can now receive tips, facts, and resources for pre-k and kindergarten. To opt in, text GAREADY4K to 313131. This is a free program to help prepare four- and five-year-olds for kindergarten, thanks to a collaboration between the Georgia Department of Education and Stanford University.

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