

Assessment

- Throughout the year, classroom teachers will assess each student's growth and progress toward achievement of the learning goals specified in the state curriculum (GPS or QCC if GPS have not been implemented).
- These classroom assessments will be used to guide instruction in order to provide every child with the opportunity to learn and to succeed.
- Students will be made aware of the performance expectations for 6th grade and will acquire self-monitoring and self-assessing skills to help them maximize their achievement.
- In the spring, Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests in Reading, Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies will be administered to 6th graders in order to provide a standardized measure of student learning.
- Beginning in the year the Georgia Performance Standards are implemented for a content area, the CRCT Tests will directly align with those GPS.

Dear Parents,

Thank you for all you do as parents to guide your children's learning! I am confident that the future of all our children will be bright because of your continued support of public education in Georgia.



We are beginning the most extensive improvement in Georgia education undertaken in the last 18 years—the implementation of the Georgia Performance Standards (GPS). The new state curriculum sets high standards, maintains clear expectations, and will place our schools and our students not just at the top of the Southeast, but at the top of the nation.

As a parent, I personally understand that this kind of change may generate questions and concerns: Why do we need a change? How will this impact my child? What will be different in my child's classroom?

For this reason, I have made communication and keeping you informed an absolute priority. Georgia's teachers and administrators have been preparing for this change, and they will be able to answer many of your questions at your local schools. I also encourage you to visit the Georgia Department of Education website to find out more about the new curriculum: www.georgiastandards.org.

It is a great day for education in Georgia. Like never before, our state is unified behind a mission to raise the achievement level of all students in our public schools. Toward this aim, we have rallied together and successfully tackled many challenges, ushering in a new level of accountability and quality in education. Thank you for your support as we continue to raise the bar for our state's most precious resource, our children.

Kathy Cox,
State Superintendent of Schools

Implementation Schedule for the Georgia Performance Standards in 6th Grade

2005-2006
English Language Arts

2005-2006
Mathematics

2005-2006
Science

2007-2008
Social Studies

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6th Grade

THE NEW GEORGIA PERFORMANCE STANDARDS



*We will lead the nation
in improving student achievement.*



*Kathy Cox,
State Superintendent of Schools*

www.gadoe.org

6th Grade Language Arts

Sixth grade students will receive instruction in reading, writing, and listening, speaking & viewing. By the end of 6th grade, students will be able to:

- Use oral and written language, media, and technology for expressive, informational, argumentative, critical, and literary purposes
- Determine specific areas of interest and engage in personal reading
- Analyze their own writing in order to revise what they say and how they say it
- Employ distinctive voice and style in writing
- Proof their own writing and edit to conform to basic conventions of Standard English
- Convey opinions through oral communication, role-play, or performances
- Apply specific guidelines to evaluate content and strategies in listening, speaking, and viewing assignments

6th Grade Mathematics

Sixth grade students will be actively engaged in developing mathematical understandings in real and relevant contexts. By the end of 6th grade, students will be able to:

- Understand the four arithmetic operations as they relate to positive rational numbers and apply them to real world situations
- Use the Fundamental Theorem of Arithmetic
- Determine volume and surface area of solid figures
- Understand and use the concepts of ratio, proportion, and scale factor
- Understand and use line and rotational symmetry
- Write and solve proportions and simple one-step equations resulting from problem situations
- Understand experimental and theoretical probability
- Problem solve, develop arguments, use language of mathematics, make connections, and communicate

6th Grade Science

Sixth grade students will study earth science concepts through an inquiry based approach. By the end of 6th grade, students will be able to:

- Collect, use, and analyze scientific data related to the Earth's processes
- Use different models to represent systems such as the solar system and the sun/moon/earth system
- Record observations about the Earth's materials and use these observations as the basis for inferences about the formation of the Earth
- Describe observations and report information in graphical form about the Earth's processes
- Replicate investigations related to the Earth's processes and compare and contrast different results
- Recognize the effects of human activity on Earth's processes and conservation of natural resources

6th Grade Social Studies

Sixth grade students will study the history, geography, political structures, and economics of Latin America & Canada, Europe, Australia & Oceania. By the end of 6th grade, students will be able to:

- Explain major historical developments leading to and of 20th & 21st century Latin America & Canada, Europe, Australia & Oceania
- Explain the impact of location, climate, physical characteristics, natural resources, and population size on these regions of the modern world
- Describe the cultural characteristics of Latin America & Canada, Europe, Australia & Oceania
- Describe the impact of governmental policies and individual behaviors on these regions of the modern world
- Describe different economic systems and economic policies as they relate to these regions of the modern world
- Explain concepts of personal money management

