

Georgia Milestones

Assessment System



2014 Fall Assessment Conference
Assessment Program Update 2014-2015
August 25, 2014 (Part 1), 1:00-3:00 PM
September 9, 2014 (Part 2), 1:00-3:00 PM



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Georgia Milestones

Comprehensive

- single program, not series of tests (e.g., CRCT; EOCT; WA); formative assessment tools to complement summative

Coherent

- consistent expectations and sufficient challenge to position Georgia students to compete with peers nationally and internationally
- consistent signal about student preparedness for the next level, be it the next grade, course, or college/career
- consistent signal about student achievement both within system (across grades and courses) and with external measures (NAEP; PSAT; SAT; ACT)

Consolidated

- combine reading, language arts, and writing into a single measure to align to the standards



Georgia Milestones

Guiding principles stipulate that Georgia Milestones:

- ✓ be sufficiently challenging to ensure Georgia students are well positioned to compete with other students across the United States and internationally;
- ✓ be intentionally designed across grade levels to send a clear signal of student progress/growth and preparedness for the next level, be it the next grade level, course, or college or career;
- ✓ be accessible to all students, including those with disabilities or limited English proficiency, at all achievement levels;
- ✓ support and inform educator effectiveness initiatives, ensuring items and forms are appropriately sensitive to quality instructional practices; and
- ✓ accelerate the transition to online administration, allowing – over time – for the inclusion of innovative technology-enhanced items.



Georgia Milestones

- Grades 3 – 8
 - End of Grade (EOG) in language arts, mathematics, science, social studies
- High School
 - End of Course (EOC) in 9th Grade Literature & Composition, American Literature & Composition, Coordinate Algebra, Analytic Geometry, Physical Science, Biology, US History, and Economics



State Board Meeting Follow-Up

Rule Waiver: 160-4-2-.11 Promotion, Placement, and Retention sections (3)(a), (3)(b), (3)(c) and 160-4-2-.13 Statewide Passing Score sections (2)(d),(2)(e), (2)(f)

Based upon the delay of scores in this first year of Georgia Milestones due to the necessary and required technical work involved, including setting achievement expectations (i.e., cut scores), specific provisions of these two Board Rules were waived **for the 2014-2015 school year – through July 31, 2015.**

- Promotion in grades 3, 5, and 8 may occur based upon local discretion/policy.
- Local systems should develop policies related to the calculation of final course grades for courses requiring a Georgia Milestones end of course assessment during 2014-2015.
- Additional guidance regarding other purposes and uses of the end of course assessments, such as “test-outs”, retests, etc., will be forthcoming for the 2014-2015 school year.



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Scores will be issues in Fall 2015, after achievement expectations have been set.

High School Course Enrollments/Completions in Fall 2014

- Students who enroll in a course associated with an EOC during Fall 2014 must participate in the Winter 2014 Georgia Milestones EOC Main Administration.
- This includes those students enrolled in a 9-week/short-duration course in Fall 2014 (for example, a course ending in October 2014). They, too, must participate in the associated Georgia Milestones EOC in Winter 2014.
 - Given the waiver of State Board Rule 106-4-2-.13 (Statewide Passing Score), the following conditions apply.
 1. These students should NOT participate in the Fall 2014 “Legacy” End of Course Tests (EOCT) Mid-Month Administration upon course completion.
 2. Local systems may determine their policy to award final course grades.



Georgia Milestones Unique Features



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Georgia Milestones: Unique Features

Features include:

- inclusion of constructed-response items in ELA and mathematics, in addition to selected-response items
- inclusion of a writing component (in response to text) at every grade level and course within the ELA assessment;
- inclusion of norm-referenced items in every grade and content area to complement the criterion-referenced information and to provide a national comparison; and
- transition to online administration over time, with online administration considered the primary mode of administration and paper-pencil back-up until transition is completed.

Addition of technology-enhanced items beginning in 2016-2017.



Georgia Milestones: Unique Features

Blended: Criterion-Referenced and Norm-Referenced

Georgia Milestones will provide:

- criterion-referenced performance information in the form of four performance levels, depicting students' mastery of state standards
- norm-referenced performance information in the form of national percentiles, depicting how students' achievement compares to peers nationally

Note: To provide norm-referenced information, some norm-referenced items may not align to Georgia's content standards. Only aligned NRT items will contribute to proficiency designations.



Georgia Milestones: Embedded NRT

- Each content area/course test will contain 20 norm-referenced items.
- The 20 NRT items will provide a national percentile score to provide a barometer of national comparison.
- Approximately 10 of these items have been reviewed by Georgia educators for alignment to the grade level/course content standards.
 - Only those NRT items judged to be aligned by Georgia educators will contribute to the criterion-referenced proficiency designations of students.
- The remaining 10 or so items, while not necessarily aligned to the grade level/course content standards, will not contribute to the proficiency designation.



Supported uses of NRT Scores

- Supported uses:
 - General comparison of Georgia to the TerraNova 2011 nationally representative sample
 - Should only be used for lower stakes information
 - For example,
 - to garner information about how Georgia students are achieving relative to their peers nationally;
 - to evaluate general trends over years at an aggregate level (i.e., school, district, state)



Non-supported uses of NRT Scores

- Given the NRT scores serve to provide barometer of national comparison only, they should not be used to:
 - count towards course credits;
 - to decide whether or not a student is gifted;
 - rank students, teachers, schools, or districts; or
 - to evaluate educators.



Georgia Milestones

- It is important to remember that Georgia Milestones is primarily a criterion-referenced test, reflecting the content standards for each grade and course
 - teachers should teach the Georgia state-adopted content standards and not to the NRT standards

Remember: All important uses of the test results – for both students and educators – will be based on the criterion-referenced scores and proficiency determinations.



Georgia Milestones: Unique Features

Item Types

- **Selected-Response** [aka, multiple-choice]
 - all content areas
 - evidence-based selected response in ELA
- **Constructed-Response**
 - ELA and mathematics
- **Extended-Response**
 - ELA and mathematics
- **Technology Enhanced**
 - to begin in 2016-2017

Constructed response is a general term for assessment items that require the student to generate a response as opposed to selecting a response. Extended-response items require more elaborate answers and explanations of reasoning. They allow for multiple correct answers and/or varying methods of arriving at the correct answer. Writing prompts and performance tasks are examples of extended-response items.



Georgia Milestones: General Test Parameters



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Georgia Milestones

General Test Parameters

- ELA will consist of 3 sections, 1 of which will focus mainly on writing
- Mathematics will consist of 2 sections
- Science will consist of 2 sections
- Social Studies will consist of 2 sections

Each section will be approximately 70 minutes.



Georgia Milestones

General Test Parameters: Science

Criterion-Referenced

Total Number of Items: 55 / Total Number of Points: 55

Breakdown by Item Type:

–55 Selected Response (worth 1 point each; approximately 10 of which are aligned NRT)

Norm-Referenced

–Total Number of Items: 20 (approximately 10 of which contribute to CR score)

Embedded Field Test

–Total field test items: 10

Total number of items taken by
each student: 75



Georgia Milestones: Rubrics

- Rubrics are item specific and therefore cannot be released.
 - Generally speaking, rubrics outline the expectations for the answer(s) along with sufficient justification/explanation
 - Student cites evidence from the text to support answer in ELA
 - Student explains reasoning or approach to problem solving in mathematics
 - Student answers all portions of the item
 - Remember the OAS includes rubrics and student exemplars for all formative open-ended items.
- The extended-response analytic writing rubric will be released. Students will be scored on two features:
 - Idea Development, Organization, & Coherence
 - Language Usage & Conventions



Resources



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Transition to Georgia Milestones: Resources Available **NOW**

- Content standards
 - frameworks, formative lessons, PARCC evidence statements
- Sample items
 - formative items/benchmarks via Georgia OAS→GOFAR;
 - released items via PARCC, SBAC, other states (KY, NY), NAEP
 - parent’s guide to Georgia’s new assessment developed by the National PTA [<http://www.pta.org/advocacy/content.cfm?ItemNumber=3816>]
- CRCT Readiness Indicators
- Lexiles (as one indicator of text complexity)
- Technology Specifications
- Eliciting Evidence of Student Learning Modules



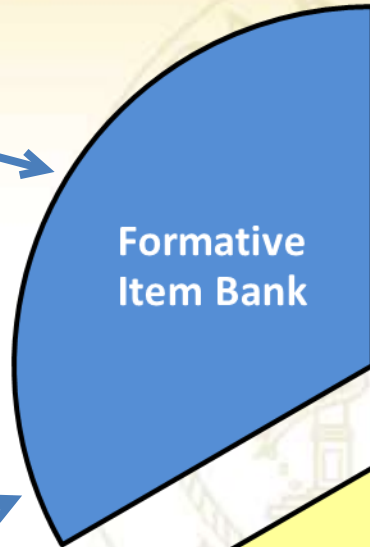
Lexiles with CRCT Readiness Indicators

Lexiles	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
Common Core Stretch Text – Lower Limit	520	740	830	925	970	1010
Common Core Stretch Text – Upper Limit	820	940	1010	1070	1120	1185
On Track	625	775	845	930	970	1070
Commendable	890	990	1085	1155	1210	1265
Meets	410	570	650	685	800	805
Exceeds	790	915	1040	1120	1210	1265
US Typical Reader – Lower Limit	330	445	565	665	735	805
US Typical Reader – Upper Limit	700	810	910	1000	1065	1100
Georgia 2013 Median	790	860	940	1070	1095	1210

Formative Assessment Initiatives

Bringing a Balanced Assessment Focus to the Classroom

1600 new items loaded
1140 science and social studies items will be loaded in fall 2014



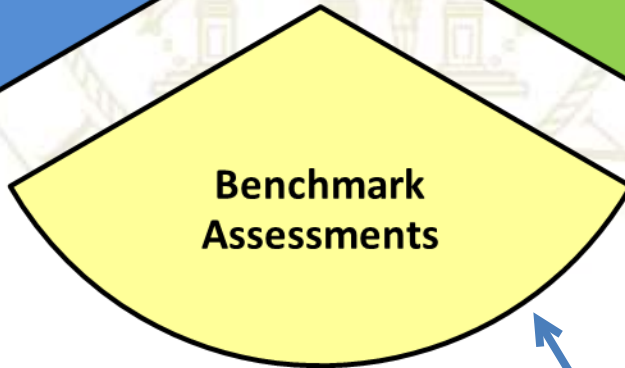
Formative Instructional Practices (FIP) [7 foundational modules launched in summer 2013]



Additional 12 modules that expand upon the foundation



Coming soon: items for grades 1 & 2 and additional writing prompts



24 Benchmarks developed



Key Findings From Pilots of Formative Open-Ended Items

- Overall performance shortfalls
 - Students were not familiar with these types of items
 - Many responded ‘dnk’ – as in ‘do not know’
 - Students did not show their work, detail their thoughts, rationales, cite evidence to support their answer or claim
 - Tendency was to cite answer only – as if a multiple-choice item
 - Students did not read carefully and answer all parts of the question/item

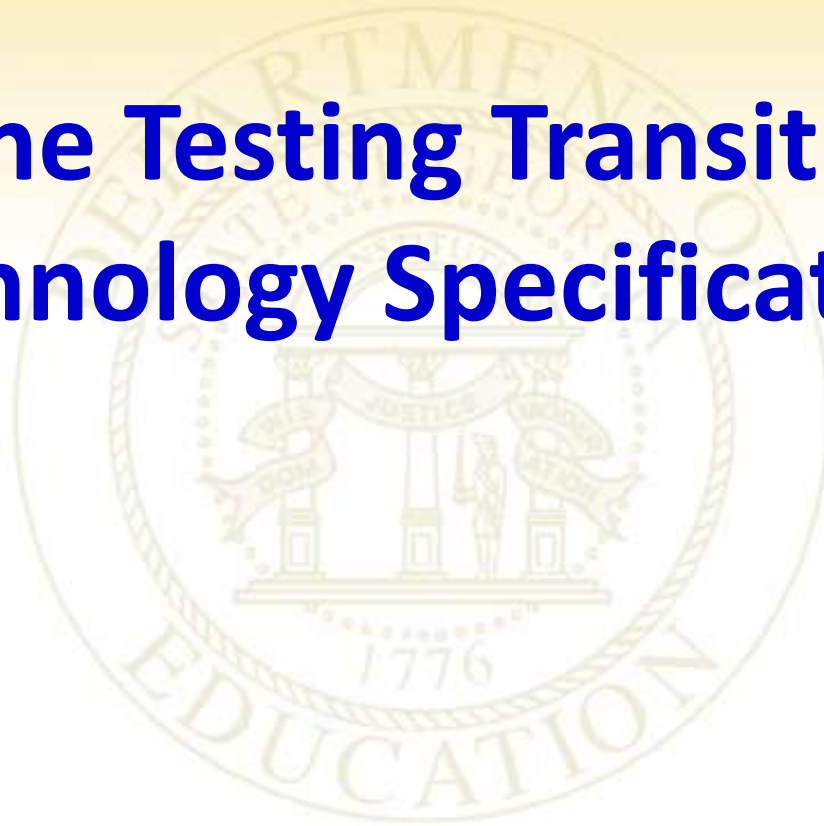


Transition to Georgia Milestones: Resources Available **Soon**

- Sample items specific to Georgia Milestones
- Ancillary support resources, such as
 - Assessment Guides
 - Student Study Guides
 - Accommodations Guidelines
 - Informational videos [parents & public /educators]
 - Online Practice Center (to aid students in gaining familiarity for CTB's online test administration system)



Online Testing Transition & Technology Specifications



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Transition to Online Testing

Transition to Online

- Online administration will be the primary mode of administration for Georgia Milestones, with paper/pencil serving as back-up
 - transition will occur over time
- Administration procedures will change
- Online practice center will be available for students

A demo of CTB's online platform can be accessed at this link – <http://learnoas.ctb.com/GA/>

- Click on any one of the tests to open the Sample Test Page
- Click on “Start the test” at the top of the web page
- Click on “Login”, no credentials are required

Note – this demo was designed for the CRCT Retest in mind so the tests that you will see are for Grades 3, 5 & 8, Reading & Math.



Transition to Online Testing

- Technology Specifications posted at:
<http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Assessment/Pages/Information-For-Educators.aspx>
- Tablets supported beginning with Spring 2015 main administrations.
 - iPads supported beginning Winter 2014 EOC
- Transition to Online
 - Year 1: minimum of 30% online across the district, grades 3-12
 - Year 3: minimum of 80% online across the district, grades 3-12
 - Year 5: minimum of 100% online across the district, grades 3-12

All schools in all district are expected to conduct some degree of testing online in 2014-2015 . . . and of course, subsequent years.



Online Testing Considerations

Online testing requires different thinking relative to logistics . . .

- For many systems (if not all), many lessons have been learned over time through use of the EOCT online in Main, Mid-Month, and Retest administrations and through the CRCT Retest online.
- Technology hardware, peripherals, requirements, support needs, capacity
- More than one session per day (AM and PM for instance) and testing on Mondays and Fridays (which are days of the week many systems have tried to avoid in the past)
- “Cycling” students through test settings where technology is housed
- The number of students a school can test online given the bullets noted above
- Seating/space considerations
- Securing log-ins, passwords, etc.
- Experience of staff and students with technology
- Contingency planning for both expected and unexpected events such as power outages (incl. weather related), Internet service interruptions, construction in or near a school, local downtime/upgrades to technology, etc.



Scheduling and Administration Guidelines 2014-2015



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End of Course (EOC) Assessments Specified high school courses

End of Grade (EOG) Assessments Grades 3-8

State Testing Windows	Main Administrations Winter 2014: 12/01 - 01/09 Spring 2015: 04/27 - 06/05 Summer 2015: 06/15 - 07/17	Mid-Month Administrations 01/20 – 01/30 02/09 – 02/20 03/02 – 03/13
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Main Administration March 30 – May 1, 2015
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Local Testing Window	Can span the entire EOC State Testing Window
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Nine day window within the EOG State Testing Window

Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paper/Pencil and online administration modes available for all content For paper/pencil administrations an individual test booklet will be provided for each of the 8 EOCs *Section 3 will assess writing through an extended constructed-response 		
	Content	Sections	Minutes Per Section
	Ninth and American Literature and Composition	3*	70
	Coordinate Algebra and Analytical Geometry	2	70
	Biology and Physical Science	2	70
	United States History and Economics	2	70

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paper/Pencil and online administration modes available for all content For paper/pencil administration there will be one test booklet by grade containing all 4 EOG content areas *Section 3 will assess writing through an extended constructed-response 		
Content	Sections	Minutes per Section
English Language Arts	3*	70
Mathematics	2	70
Science	2	70
Social Studies	2	70

Order	Determined by School District
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English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies

Final Points of Emphasis

- For EOG and EOC, ELA Section 3 (writing) should be the only content area a student should be scheduled to take on a single day.
(Note some possible exceptions as discussed in previous slides . . . Make-ups)
- For EOG, **online only**, grade-level content test sessions can be scheduled for AM and PM and over consecutive school days (if necessary).



Final Points of Emphasis

- For EOC, Sections 1 and 2 can be scheduled over 2 consecutive days. (As has been the case in the past for the EOCT through the 2-day administration model)
- For EOG, Sections 1 and 2 must be scheduled on the same day.





Key Dates



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Georgia Milestones: Key Dates 2014-2015

- Spring EOG Main Administration: March 30-May 1
- Spring EOC Paper Materials Delivery Begins: April 13 (Tentative)
- Update available for CTB EOC Test Delivery Client: No later than April 13 (Tentative)
- Spring EOC Main Administration: April 27-June 5
- Summer EOC Paper Materials Delivery Begins: May 26
- Summer EOC Main Administration: June 15-July 17
- Standard Setting: Summer 2015
- Reports Available: Fall 2015



Information Forthcoming

- Calculator Guidelines
- Accommodation Guidelines

