



## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Georgia Milestones Assessment System**

#### **End of Grade Measures Scores and Reports**

##### **What is the Georgia Milestones Assessment System?**

The Georgia Milestones Assessment System is a comprehensive assessment system spanning grades 3 through high school. Georgia Milestones measures how well students have learned the knowledge and skills outlined in the state-adopted content standards in English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. Students in grades 3 through 8 will take the End of Grade (EOG) measures in each content area, while high school students will take End of Course (EOC) measures for each of the ten courses associated with the EOC measures.

##### **Who developed Georgia Milestones?**

Georgia Milestones was designed and developed by the State of Georgia. Importantly, Georgia Milestones is not an “off-the-shelf” commercial testing program, but rather, a customized program designed to fit the needs of our state and our students. The development process began over three years ago and directly involved Georgia educators at every step. Every test item that appears on Georgia Milestones has been reviewed by Georgia educators no fewer than two times. Now that Georgia Milestones has been launched, Georgia educators will continue to have significant input in the continued development of the program.

##### **How can I use the Individual Score Report to help my student?**

Your student’s score report provides information that describes how prepared they are to move on to the next grade level. You can schedule time to talk with your student’s teacher about his/her strengths and areas of needed improvement as identified in the report. In areas where your student did not demonstrate proficiency, you can ask your student’s teacher to suggest ways that you can support your student. You can also ask what can be done at home to build on your student’s strengths in those areas where he/she demonstrated grade level proficiency or better.

##### **What do the achievement levels mean?**

The achievement levels listed below describe how well students have learned the knowledge and skills addressed in the content standards for each grade level. They provide an indication of how ready your student is to move on to the next grade level. The achievement levels can serve as a starting point for discussions between you and your student’s teacher.

- **Beginning Learners:** These students do not yet demonstrate proficiency in the knowledge and skills necessary at this grade level, as specified in Georgia’s content standards. The students need substantial academic support to be prepared for the next grade level or course and to be on track for college and career readiness.
- **Developing Learners:** These students demonstrate partial proficiency in the knowledge and skills necessary at this grade level, as specified by Georgia’s content standards. The students need additional academic support to ensure success in the next grade level or course and to be on track for college and career readiness.
- **Proficient Learners:** These students demonstrate proficiency in the knowledge and skills necessary at this grade level of learning, as specified in Georgia’s content standards. The students are prepared for the next grade level or course and are on track for college and career readiness.
- **Distinguished Learners:** These students demonstrate advanced proficiency in the knowledge and skills necessary at this grade level, as specified in Georgia’s content standards. The students are well prepared for the next grade level or course and are prepared for college and career readiness.

**Where can I find more detailed descriptions of the Achievement Levels?**

For additional information about Achievement Levels, including brief descriptions of the knowledge and skills students at each level demonstrate, please visit [testing.gadoe.org](http://testing.gadoe.org). Click on Georgia Milestones Assessment System and then on EOG Resources.

**What does my student’s Lexile measure mean?**

The Lexile measure indicates your student’s reading ability on the Lexile scale. Many books have a Lexile measure, allowing you to use this score to identify books that are at an appropriate reading level for your student as well as to provide some challenge to improve their reading skills. Please visit our Lexile webpage at the link that follows: [Lexile Framework for Reading](#).

**What is a Domain Category and what does Domain Mastery mean?**

Domain Categories consist of test items that measure concepts and skills that are similar to one another. Teachers can use student performance in these areas to help determine the level of instructional support or enrichment your student may need and target those skills and concepts during future instruction.

**Will these scores be used to determine if my student can be promoted to the next grade level?**

Yes. State law requires that students in grade 3 earn an *At/Above Grade Level* designation in reading to be promoted to fourth grade. In grades 5 and 8, state law requires that students earn an *At/Above Grade Level* designation in reading as well as score in the *Developing Learner* achievement level or above in mathematics to be promoted to the next grade. You should check with your child’s principal to determine whether your school system has additional promotion criteria. Students who do not reach the required designations above will have the opportunity to retest. Each district sets their local retest window during the months of May, June, or July each year. (\*)

**I've heard a lot about college and career readiness. How do I know if my student is college and career ready?**

Georgia Milestones was developed to send a signal of college and career readiness for Georgia's students. Students who achieve the proficient level or higher have demonstrated, in part, that they are ready for their next endeavor upon graduation. Georgia has defined College and Career Ready as:

*Students who are on-track to possess the English language arts/literacy/mathematics knowledge and skills needed upon graduation to enter directly and succeed in*

- *entry-level credit-bearing postsecondary courses, without the need for remedial coursework; or,*
- *job training and/or postsecondary education necessary for his/her chosen career (e.g., technical/vocational program, community college, apprenticeship or significant on-the-job training).*

Importantly, in addition to Georgia educators, university and technical college faculty, along with business and industry leaders from across Georgia, have worked to ensure Georgia Milestones sends this signal.

**I see that there is a National Percentile Range on my student's report. What is a National Percentile and why has this information been included in my child's report?**

Your child's National Percentile Range provides a general understanding of how your student's performance compares to a national sample of his or her peers. It is intended to serve as a barometer or indicator of their performance only based upon a sample of national norm-referenced items. This information is provided, in conjunction with other Georgia Milestones scores that appear on the report, to provide a robust picture of your child's performance.

(\* ) The State Board of Education waived this requirement for the 2014-2015 school year.