



Long County School System would like to keep our parents up to date on the changes made by the Georgia Department of Education.

The state of Georgia has adopted a new assessment system called Georgia Milestones.

# Georgia Milestones

Guiding principles stipulate that Georgia Milestones:

- be sufficiently rigorous 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

\* EOG = End of Grade    \*\* End of Course

# Georgia Milestones

- 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. This year 30% of our students will take the test online and within 5 years 100% of our students will be taking them online.

# Georgia Milestones

The Georgia Milestones EOG will be designed to:

- provide a valid measure of student achievement of the state content standards across the full achievement continuum;
- provide a clear signal of the student's preparedness for the next educational level;
- allow for detection of the progress made by each student over the course of the academic year;
- be suitable for use in promotion and retention decisions at grades 3 (reading), 5 (reading and mathematics) and 8 (reading and mathematics)
- support and inform educator effectiveness measures; and
- inform state and federal accountability at the school, district, and state levels.

# Georgia Milestones

The Georgia Milestones EOC will be designed to:

- provide a valid measure of student achievement of the state content standards across the full achievement continuum;
- Serve as the final exam for the course, contributing 20% to the student's final course grade;
- provide a clear signal of the student's preparedness for the next course and ultimately post-secondary endeavors (college and careers);
- allow for detection of the progress made by each student over the course of the academic year;
- support and inform educator effectiveness measures; and
- inform state and federal accountability at the school, district, and state levels.

# Georgia Milestones

## English Language Arts

[ CC Georgia Performance Standards]

- will require close analytic reading to construct meaning, make inferences, draw conclusions, compare and contrast ideas, themes, etc., as well as synthesize ideas and concepts across multiple texts
- will require students to develop informative/explanatory responses or narratives, produce opinions/arguments – citing evidence from text(s) and using standard language conventions, etc.

## Mathematics

[ CC Georgia Performance Standards]

- will require demonstration of conceptual understanding of concepts, procedural skills and fluency, problem solving, modeling, and mathematical reasoning

# Georgia Milestones

## Science

### [Georgia Performance Standards]

- will require understanding of the core concepts, ideas, and practices of science to explain scientific phenomena – with content and Characteristics of Science/Nature of Science standards serving as co-requisites

## Social Studies

### [ Georgia Performance Standards]

- will require understanding of the past and its influence on the present and future – including the interconnectedness of history, culture, geography, economics, and governments/civics



# Resources Available SOON

- Sample items specific to Georgia Milestones
- Ancillary support resources, such as Content Descriptions (test blueprints)
- Student Study Guides
- Technology Specifications
- Accommodations Guidelines
- Assessment for Learning Modules [types of items to elicit evidence of student learning]
- Informational videos [parents & public / educators]

# Georgia Milestones

Additional Parent information sessions and documents will be provided throughout the 2014-2015 school year.

Please check school system and school level websites, local newspapers, and flyers for announcement of dates, times, and locations for information sessions.

