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Policy Update

Needed: Additional K-2 DRC BEACON Field Test Participants

Thank you to the 61 districts that have participated in the K-2 DRC BEACON field test thus far. At this time, we do not yet have the student participation numbers needed to complete our analyses. If your district last administered the K-2 pilot around the holidays, please consider administering the pilot again in the next few weeks. If your district has not yet participated in the pilot, please consider joining [at this time](#)! Your participation is critical to allowing us to finish the required analyses and bring this product online this August. Remember that participating teachers will have an opportunity to provide feedback this spring to enhance the assessment!



DRC BEACON Early Years is Coming August 2024

DRC BEACON, an optional formative assessment resource currently available for grades 3-8, is expanding to grades K-2! DRC BEACON Early Years will help educators screen, determine needs, monitor progress, and evaluate assessment outcomes of young learners in mathematics and English language arts. It will also satisfy the state's Universal Screener (HB 538) and Dyslexia (SB 48) requirements. Learn more about [DRC BEACON Early Years](#), which will be available statewide in August 2024. More detailed information and training opportunities will be available soon.

GAA 2.0 1% Participation Rate

Federal law requires that states assess no more than 1% of students with an alternate assessment aligned with alternate academic achievement standards (in Georgia, this is the GAA 2.0). Georgia has historically received a waiver to exceed 1% by demonstrating the state's progress in carrying out its plan to reduce the percentage of students participating in the alternate assessment, among other assurances. As previously communicated, the U.S. Department of Education declined to renew Georgia's waiver for 2022-2023. In 2022-2023, Georgia's alternate assessment participation was 1.4% in ELA, mathematics, and science and 1.6% in social studies.

To provide additional support, professional learning, and technical assistance, GaDOE's Office of Special Education will utilize a tiered approach through designations of universal, targeted, and intensive support.

- Universal – Participation rates in ELA and/or math are between 0.0-1.3%
- Targeted – Participation rates in ELA and/or math are between 1.4-2.4%
- Intensive – Participation rates in ELA and/or math are 2.5% or above

Participation in professional learning, technical assistance, and supports is strongly encouraged but not mandatory. We appreciate your assistance in helping Georgia reduce the percentage of students participating in the GAA 2.0 and come into compliance with federal law.

Contact: Allison Timberlake, Ph.D., Deputy Superintendent for Assessment & Accountability, atimberlake@doe.k12.ga.us, 470-579-6353.

Assessment Update

Preparing for a Data Validation Process for All Assessments

System Test Coordinators (STCs) must develop a data validation process designed to identify student demographic, accommodation, and test result records that contain errors and correct those errors before reporting in most instances. It is highly recommended that STCs, Technology Directors, and Student Information System (SIS) Coordinators clearly understand the data expected for test administration and the required deadlines for providing clean data.

Assessment Updates for March, April, and May will include guidance to help you plan for and implement a data validation process for Georgia Milestones, WIDA ACCESS, and the Georgia Alternate Assessment 2.0. The following are examples of data to check for errors.

Step 1 – Before and During Assessment Windows (Examples)

- Perform data checks for all student demographics.
 - Missing or incorrect GTIDs
 - Duplicate student names

- Incorrect hyphenation or spelling of student names
- Reversals of student first name and last name
- Missing or incorrect birthdates
- Students incorrectly associated with “Service” school instead of “Home” (FTE) school
- Perform data checks related to participation
 - Attendance and make-up sessions
 - EL exited status
 - Incorrect course
 - EOC course completion status
 - EOC already completed
 - Completed test status
 - Grade 8 Physical Science in lieu of Grade 8 Science EOG
 - AP/IB/DE U.S. History exempt status
- Perform data checks for correct assignment of accommodations
 - Check online platform and accommodations report
 - Check test tickets for accuracy

Step 2 – During and After Assessments

- Perform materials management checks
 - Inventory all secure paper materials
 - Investigate any missing secure paper materials
 - Return all materials per guidance found in test administration manuals and GaDOE training
- Review attendance and participation data for accuracy
- Final checks on student demographics
- Review of preliminary reports for student demographics

Review [ACCESS for ELs, GAA 2.0](#), and [Georgia Milestones](#) for more specific guidance for data validation.

Assessment Monitoring Update

The preliminary data shown below was collected during the Winter 2023 EOC administration window.

Testing Interruption (67)

- Student absences
- Technical issue – device/connectivity
- Lockdown/fire alarm
- Adult interruptions
- Student illness

Test Administration Error – Adult (54)

- Wrong content tested
- Course not completed or EOC already taken
- Sections out of order
- TE script error, instructional materials
- Wrong administration times

Test Administration Error – Student (29)

- Student not closing test
- Discipline issues

Accommodation Error – Student Refusal (17)

- Refusal of headphones/TTS
- Refusal of extended time

The top three categories of irregularities occurred in the areas of 1) Testing Interruptions, 2) Test Administration Error – Adult, and 3) Test Administration Error – Student.

Several common irregularities appear and may be minimized by providing additional or clarified guidance in these areas:

- Communication with students, parents, and local officials regarding upcoming assessments –
 - Student absence/checked out of school
 - Lockdown/fire/weather alarms
- Enhancing or emphasizing training points and reminders around the consequences of adult-related actions –
 - Adult interruptions
 - Adult errors with test tickets, course completion
 - Not following directions, not reading scripts

- Improving student practice opportunities and/or communication with students –
 - Discipline issues
 - Student not exiting or completing test(s)
 - Refusal of accommodations
 - Student confusion with test administration
 - Cell phone and other devices in the test environment

We encourage STCs to include guidance in training sessions that provide the School Test Coordinators (SchTCs) and Test Examiners information to maintain a smooth student testing experience.

Active Student Monitoring

We receive many reports of student cheating that were easily preventable. *How?* Active monitoring of the testing environment. When adults are well-trained and diligent in monitoring the students in their care, the opportunities for cheating are severely reduced. Here are a couple of tried-and-true strategies for your Test Examiners to use.

Use proximity! As you are moving around the room and something suspicious appears to be occurring, move toward that student or area and use the proximity of your presence to deter potential cheating. Don't wait for the cheating to occur before doing something about it! You can prevent the invalidation of a test score by inhibiting cheating before it happens or as it is happening.

Be proactive! If a student enters the testing environment with unapproved items containing test content (cheat sheet, notebook, worksheet, etc.), confiscate the item(s) and allow the student to test. If a student neglects to turn their cell phone in for safe-keeping and you notice it, quietly confiscate it, and allow the student to test. Don't wait for them to use it before confiscating it.

Districts can take any local disciplinary action in accordance with local policy; however, proactive monitoring can prevent the need to invalidate student scores, which are used for essential purposes, including school improvement, promotion, course grades, and accountability.

Electronic devices must not be in the testing environment.

- Establish and monitor a plan for collecting cell phones and devices, except those used for known health purposes

Classroom content materials must not be available to students in the testing environment.

- Monitor and manage all secure test materials
- Writers Checklists, formula sheets, and periodic tables are not allowed as scratch paper
- Ensure computer monitors allow for adequate space between students

Test Examiners and Proctors must monitor the testing environment.

- Ensure students are actively engaged in the assessment

Student Test Environment

The test environment should be well-organized, carefully managed, and orderly. A chaotic, messy, confused, unorganized environment may lead to irregularities. Make sure Test Examiners have everything they need when they pick up their materials. Give them a checklist of what should be done, what should be returned, and how it should be organized. Model how they should set up their testing session. Use this as part of your Examiner Training. Show the Proctors what they can do to assist the Test Examiners in setting up the room before students enter.

Mistakes often occur because people don't know how to respond. Walk through potential scenarios and teach Test Examiners how to react appropriately by modeling and using role-play in your training. If you minimize the questions up front for your Examiners and Proctors, they will feel equipped to handle most of the issues they will face during testing. Relaxed, well-prepared adults will create a calm and orderly environment and help reduce the stress your students may feel before testing. Ensure Test Examiners know what to do and who to contact if

they are ever unsure of how to proceed. A motto of "when in doubt, ask the School Test Coordinator" must be established to avoid unnecessary irregularities and breaks in test administration procedures and protocols.

Updated 2023-2024 DRC INSIGHT System Requirements

DRC INSIGHT System Requirements for Georgia Milestones, ACCESS for ELLs, GAA 2.0, and DRC BEACON for February-June 2024 is now available by clicking [here](#).

Please share this document with your technology directors.

Significant Medical Emergencies Guidance

Sometimes, a student faces a significant medical emergency that impacts participation in state assessments. A "significant medical emergency" is a rare medical event that prevents a student who otherwise would have participated in the assessment from participating throughout the duration of the state testing window, including make-up opportunities.

Examples of a significant medical emergency may include a serious car accident, hospitalization, severe trauma, a mental health crisis that is dangerous to self or others, or placement in hospice care. A parent or guardian refusal or doctor's note, even for a medical reason, does not necessarily constitute a medical emergency (see guidance in the "Make-up Tests" and "Homebound/Hospitalized Students" sections of the [Student Assessment Handbook](#)).

Districts must follow all guidelines in the *Student Assessment Handbook* for test administration. Districts should keep documentation of the significant medical emergency on file. Additional guidance is available in the *Medical Emergencies in Participation Rate Calculations* document on the [CCRPI Resources for Educators](#) webpage.

In the event of a significant medical emergency, STCs must prepare a Testing Irregularity Form (TIF) in the MyGaDOE Portal to include all related documentation for review by the Office of Assessment & Accountability. Following that review, guidance and/or coding will be provided to the STC with next steps.

STCs may make a significant medical emergency submission during the Spring Georgia Milestones (EOG and EOC), ACCESS for ELLs/Alternate ACCESS, and GAA 2.0 administrations.

Contact: Allison Scott, Director of Assessment Administration, allison.scott@doe.k12.ga.us, 470-579-5395

Test Development

Nomination of Educators for Test Development Activities

The application window for Georgia Milestones and GAA 2.0 test development activities has now closed. For each upcoming meeting, GaDOE will select participants to ensure a representative sample across the state based on grade level and content area. Initial meeting invitations will be sent in late March, and specific meeting details will be provided at that time. Invited educators must confirm acceptance of the invitation and will be provided instructions to do so. In the event an educator declines an invitation, does not respond, or cancels prior to the meeting, an alternate will be selected from the applicant pool.

Contact: Jan Blose, Ed.D., Director of Assessment Development, jblose@doe.k12.ga.us, 404-275-5147.

DRC BEACON

Please note the DRC BEACON update within the [Policy Update](#) section.



Dates	Assessment Tasks and Reminders
8/1/2023 – 6/30/2024	2023-2024 DRC BEACON Administration Window

Contacts:

- Missy Shealy, Assessment Specialist, mshealy@doe.k12.ga.us, 470-579-5393.
- Joe Blessing, Program Manager, jblessing@doe.k12.ga.us, 470-579-6326.
- Brian Collier, Assessment Specialist, brian.collier@doe.k12.ga.us, 470-579-6355.

Formative Instructional Practices (FIP)

Join the Wednesday, March 20 FIP webinar at 10 a.m. where the topic for discussion is *Teaching Students to Rethink their Work with FIP*. Formative instructional practices include many components and processes. One is the development of student agency for their own learning.



Educators can benefit from knowing what student agency really means, how valuable it is to learning, and how to plan and teach pre-requisites that are necessary for students to support their own and others' learning. This webinar identifies key constructs and foundational skills that enable students to take ownership of learning.

Share information about this webinar with colleagues in Teaching and Learning, School Improvement and Professional Learning. Registration is available [here](#).

Contact: Kelli Harris-Wright, Assessment Specialist, kharris-wright@doe.k12.ga.us, 470-579-6329.

GKIDS 2.0 and GKIDS Readiness Check

The GKIDS ELA exemption is approved and can be used by schools, if desired. Students who take a universal reading or dyslexia screener, as specified in board rule, are exempt from the requirement of taking the ELA domain of GKIDS. There is no exemption from the other required GKIDS domains (Mathematics, Approaches to Learning, Personal and Social Development). All schools should have some student performance data entered in the platform for the main GKIDS 2.0 assessment.



For more information on the GKIDS ELA exemption, please find the guidance document [here](#).

Changes to GKIDS Roster Uploads

For the 2023 school year and prior years, the GKIDS platform has provided two roster upload options – a legacy, old roster “PRE-ID” based roster file as well as a newer roster file option that has fewer non-GKIDS related data fields. The newer roster file option also accounts for the teacher email addresses. This allows

teacher accounts to be automatically created and for students to be automatically placed on the teacher rosters.

What is changing?

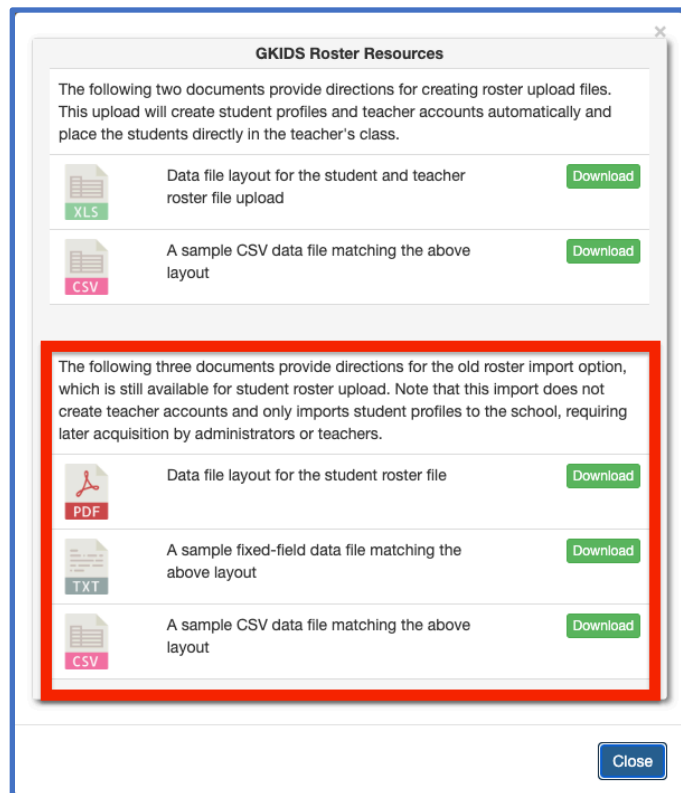
The [GKIDS 2.0 platform](#) will no longer offer the old roster import option (the Pre-ID layout) that has been available for system administrators to complete the roster uploads each school year.

When will this change go into effect?

The old roster import option will no longer be available when the GKIDS platform opens for the 2024-2025 school year.

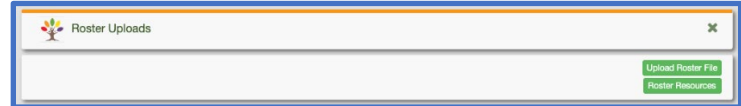
Who does this change impact?

The removal of this option will impact any district that is still utilizing the old Pre-ID based data file layout option (see image below in the red box). The rostering information in the red box in the image will be removed and no longer available for use. The newer .CSV rostering option (at the top of the image) that has been available for a couple of years now, will remain. The roster upload section is only visible by system administrators within the platform. School administrators, teachers, and students will not be impacted by this change.



Where will I see the difference?

The content found by clicking the green “Roster Resources” tab under the Roster Uploads section will be revised to only reflect the current roster upload option (CSV).



Why is this file option being removed?

The majority of the support tickets for rostering are related to the use of this old file type and the limitations it has. In order to reduce the number of tickets and streamline the process of rostering at the beginning of the school year, the newer .CSV roster format for loading will be the only option.

What if my SIS generates my roster file under the old format?

We encourage you to reach out to your SIS contact to determine who has programmed the SIS to export this information. Then, provide them with the new information in advance of the GKIDS window opening so adjustments can be made and tested.

What are the benefits of only having one rostering option?

The newer .CSV load offers several time-saving benefits including:

- the automatic creation of the teacher accounts so administrators do not have to manually enter the teacher names and email addresses.
- the automatic matching of teachers with students. This ensures the students are loaded directly to the specific teacher accounts instead of the teacher having to search for each student manually using a GTID number.
 - In contrast, there is no unique identifier (e.g., email) on the old pre-ID roster for the teacher so there is no way for the platform to match the student with the teacher account.
- a simpler file and layout with less room for error.
- easier integration with Microsoft Excel.

If you have questions about the rostering process, you can reach out to the GKIDS Support team in Intercom. Intercom is located



within the GKIDS platform in the bottom right-hand corner.

Dates	Assessment Tasks and Reminders
7/5/2023 – 5/13/2024	GKIDS 2.0 Administration Window

Contact: Bobbie Bable, Assessment Specialist,
bbable@doe.k12.ga.us, 470-579-6324.

Keenville

The Keens suggest assigning the following games as you begin planning for the fourth quarter.



For **English language arts**, the Keens recommend:

- **Cave Explorer** to assess students' ability to comprehend informational texts. Throughout game play, students are tasked to read informational texts and answer questions that require comparing and contrasting the texts to unlock the blocked paths inside the cave that lead to the Keens' secret treasure. This game aligns to standards RI3, RI6, and RI9.
- **Peachy Acres Farm** to assess students' ability to comprehend literary texts. Students read sections of literary text and use what is learned in the text to help solve the Keens' problems and make sure the farm produces enough food to feed the Keens and the Peachlings! This game focuses on reading comprehension with literary texts and aligns to standards RL1, RL3, and RL4.
- For students not quite ready for reading comprehension games, assign one of our phonics or vocabulary games: **Museum of Mysteries**, **Harbor Phonics**, **Peachling Playground**, **Downhill Skiing**, or **Junkbot** to build foundational reading skills.

For **mathematics**, the Keens recommend:

- **For Grade 1**
 - **Unit 4: Exploring Meaningful Measurements** – Continue playing Bargain Hunters, Carnival Time, Farmers Market, and Treat Factory.
 - **Unit 5: Problem Solving to Answer Real-Life Questions** – River Tubing, Captain Peachbeard, and High-Rise Builders.
 - Visit the [Grade 1 Unit 4](#) and [Grade 1 Unit 5](#) infographics for additional details and games.

• For Grade 2

- **Unit 6: Exploring Geometry and Patterns** – Continue playing Guitar Maker and Lunch Munch.
- **Unit 7: Measuring Time and Money** – Carnival Time and Farmers Market.
- Visit the [Grade 2 Unit 6](#) and [Grade 2 Unit 7](#) infographics for additional details and games.

Dates	Assessment Tasks and Reminders
7/31/2023 – 6/28/2024	2023-2024 Keenville Administration Window

For **functionality and technical support**, please contact keenvillesupport@doe.k12.ga.us.

For **content or assessment questions**, please contact Tiffani Taylor, Assessment Specialist,
tiffani.taylor@doe.k12.ga.us, 470-763-1081.

WIDA ACCESS

Important Reminders



The testing window for WIDA ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS closes on Friday, March 1. The deadline for UPS pickup of all secure test materials for return to DRC is Wednesday, March 6. Late materials will not be scored.

Data Validation — Ensuring Students Receive Composite Scores

Composite scores cannot be generated when a student is missing one or more domain scores. Therefore, STCs/SchTCs, and Test Examiners are responsible for ensuring that correct and complete information is entered in WIDA AMS or labeled and bubbled on each student booklet.

Failure to address incorrect, missing, or incomplete student information and missing or misapplied labels will result in no student score.

Follow the Test Security and Materials Management and assessment-specific guidelines outlined in the WIDA *District and School Test Coordinator Manual*.

Implementing the following steps will help staff avoid the most common reasons students do not receive composite scores.

Check the Completion Status of Testers

- Ensure all English learners have a completed Reading, Listening, Speaking, and Writing test session.
- Ensure all elements of the student's demographic information (e.g., first name, last name, birthdate, grade, etc.) are correct and match the information in the local SIS.
- Be sure students in Grades 1-3 used the correct ACCESS for ELLs Online Writing Booklets

Returning paper scorable and scannable test materials

- Review all test materials before they are returned.
- Verify all Braille and Large Print responses have been transcribed into a standard booklet.
- Ensure every answer booklet that contains student responses has a Pre-ID or District/School label in the upper right corner of the front cover.
- Ensure all scorable student responses on answer documents are legible.
- Confirm the student's name, grade, and testing date are filled in completely with a **number 2 pencil**.
- Verify all teacher ratings for WIDA Alternate ACCESS and Kindergarten ACCESS have also been recorded with a **number 2 pencil**.
- Apply a Do Not Process label to any used test booklet that should not be scored.
- Remove any paper clips or sticky notes from test booklets.
- If a student used multiple booklets, confirm responses have been transcribed to one booklet. The new booklet must have the correct Pre-ID or District/School label.

The Data Validation Process

The data validation process is designed to identify student demographic, accommodation, and test result records that could potentially contain errors, as well as provide the opportunity for corrective action before reporting.

- Pre-Reporting Data Validation Window opens on Thursday, March 28, and closes on Wednesday, April 10.
- Post-Reporting Data Validation Window opens on Monday, May 6, and closes on Friday, May 17.

To ensure all students have a score and all demographic data has been corrected, districts must have a plan to review all student reports in WIDA AMS. Reports will be made available in WIDA AMS on Friday, April 26.

After the close of the Post-Reporting Data Validation window, districts and schools will not have another opportunity to edit student data before final reports are printed or posted to WIDA AMS.

Test Coordinators must reference the *WIDA AMS User Guide Supplement for Data Validation* located in the Resources section of the WIDA Secure Portal. In addition, STCs must view the *Post Testing Data Validation* webinar on Tuesday, March 5, from 2-3 p.m. EST. The event link is in the Webinars section of the WIDA Secure Portal.

Dates	Assessment Tasks and Reminders
1/10/2024 – 3/1/2024	Test Administration Window
3/6/2024	Deadline for Shipping Completed Test Materials to DRC
3/28/2024 – 4/10/2024	Pre-Reporting Data Validation Window
4/26/2024	Reports and Data Files Available Online in WIDA AMS
5/6/2024 – 5/17/2024	Post-Reporting Data Validation Window
5/10/2024	Printed Reports Available in Districts
5/23/2024	Updated Data Posted in WIDA AMS for Late Return 1

Contact: Mary Nesbit-McBride, Ph.D., Assessment Specialist, mnesbit@doe.k12.ga.us, 470-579-6345.

Georgia Alternate Assessment 2.0 (GAA 2.0)

Important Changes for GAA 2.0 Test Administration



As we gear up for the GAA 2.0 test administration, there are several critical updates and functionalities that you need to be aware of. These

changes aim to enhance the testing experience for both administrators and students.

- **Stopping Rule**
 - The Stopping Rule feature becomes available only after the first two tasks are complete.
 - When all student responses are recorded as “No Responses,” it is crucial to apply the Stopping Rule immediately after administering these initial two tasks for students who do not have an established communication system.
- **Introducing the “Exit and Save” Button**
 - This new feature is designed for situations when you are entering student responses and editing the Learner Characteristics Inventory (LCI).
 - For those viewing the LCI, simply use the ‘Exit’ button to leave the form.
- **Streamlined Scaffolding Directions**
 - If a student does not respond or gives the wrong answer the first time an item is administered, the directions will state, “Based on the student’s response, present the scaffolding below.”
 - This simplification aims to make instructions clearer and more direct for the Test Examiner.
- **LCI Access Levels during the Test Setup Window**
 - STCs and SchTCs now have edit access to the LCI.
 - Test Examiners can view any LCI they have been assigned, ensuring efficiency and preparedness.
 - Teachers of GAA 2.0 participants are responsible for supplying SchTCs with the necessary ratings to complete the online LCI form.
- **Handling Ineligible Students in INSIGHT**
 - If you have students in the INSIGHT Portal who are no longer eligible, cancel their registrations in the Registration application.

GAA 2.0 Course Completion for Test Examiners and Proctors

STCs play a crucial role in ensuring that Test Examiners and Proctors have completed the GAA 2.0 Course. Educators can access this course by logging into SLDS, navigating to the Professional Learning (PL) tab, and locating the section with test administration procedure questions. Additionally, participation reports can be generated in SLDS from the Teacher and Leader Effectiveness (TLE) Platform, which can be accessed by school leaders and district HR personnel.

Test Security Responsibilities for Test Examiners

Test Examiners must diligently safeguard all test materials while in their custody. This includes login credentials, Online Scripts, Student Test Booklets, Braille Kits, and used Scratch Paper. Secure test content cannot be copied or reproduced. Materials must be stored securely in locked storage when not in use and should never be left unattended. Login credentials are strictly for the assigned Test Examiner’s use and should not be shared. Test Examiners must not view secure material off school premises. Before beginning any assessment, Test Examiners must confirm the following information is correct: registration window, name of assessment form, assessment status, student name, GTID, and grade.

Test Administrator Tips: Understanding and Applying the Stopping Rule

As you prepare for the GAA 2.0 test administration, it’s crucial to grasp the concept of the Stopping Rule. This rule should not be used to prematurely end an assessment due to behavioral issues, fire alarms, or fatigue. Instead, consider pausing the assessment to address such occurrences.

The Stopping Rule is specifically designed for an extremely small number of students who do not have an identified communication system — that is, educators have not yet determined how these students convey thoughts and feelings. These students’ Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) should include strategies to develop a recognized communication system. Educators play a vital role in understanding and accurately applying the Stopping Rule, ensuring fair and effective assessments for all students.

Here are some essential guidelines:

- **Recite the Online Script and Record Student Responses**
 - When administering the tests, recite the Online Script verbatim.
 - Record student responses exactly as provided by the students.
- **Note Number of Non-Responses**
 - If a student who does not have an identified communication system and does not respond to

any task part for Task 1 and Task 2, proceed to the next step.

- **Apply Stopping Rule**

- Click on 'Apply Stopping Rule' located at the top of the page.
- A confirmation dialog will appear.
- Click on 'Apply Stopping Rule' in the confirmation message.
- This action will close the assessment.

- **Notify SchTC**

- The Test Examiner should then notify the SchTC for review.

- **SchTC Review**

- The SchTC must review the student's assessment and LCI on the In Progress tab to determine whether the Stopping Rule should be applied.
- Upon review, an Indicator at the top of the screen confirms the Stopping Rule was applied.
- Review the student responses/progress.
- Click Resume Assessment.
- If the application is appropriate, enter the approver's First and Last Name in the Approver field.
- Click 'Complete Assessment.' This will close the assessment form and submit it for scoring with the Stopping Rule applied.

Understanding the Georgia Alternate Assessment 2.0 Webinar

A webinar was developed to address frequently asked questions about the GAA 2.0. In the [Understanding the Georgia Alternate Assessment 2.0](#) webinar, GaDOE's Assessment Development Team answered frequently asked questions related to GAA 2.0's test design, tasks/scenarios, item scoring, and test results. The recorded webinar is now available in the [GaDOE Professional Learning Events](#) catalog.

Dates	Assessment Tasks and Reminders
9/5/2023 – 5/3/2024	Test Administration Practice Site Window
2/26/2024 – 5/10/2024	Test Setup Window
3/11/2024	GAA 2.0 Test Materials Arrive in Districts
3/11/2024 – 3/22/2024	Preview Window in Online Response Entry

Dates	Assessment Tasks and Reminders
3/25/2024 – 5/3/2024	Test Administration Window
5/10/2024	Final Deadline to Enter Accommodations and Testing Irregularities into Student Management
5/10/2024	Final Deadline to Return Materials to DRC

Contact: Mary Nesbit-McBride, Ph.D., Assessment Specialist, mnesbit@doe.k12.ga.us, 470-579-6345.

Georgia Milestones

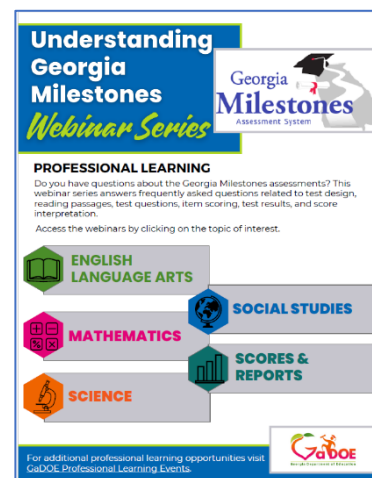
Understanding the Georgia Milestones Webinar Series



Do you have questions about the Georgia Milestones assessments? A webinar series was developed to answer frequently asked questions related to test design, reading passages, test questions, item scoring, test results, and score interpretation.

A new [flyer](#) to communicate the

Understanding Georgia Milestones webinar series is now available. All recorded webinars are available in the [GaDOE Professional Learning Events](#) catalog.



Georgia Milestones Test Design

As a reminder, the test designs for all Georgia Milestones spring assessments will remain unchanged, with the exception of mathematics assessments in grades 6-8 and Algebra: Concepts and Connections no longer including a non-calculator section.

The 2023-2024 Georgia Milestones test design includes the following:

Mathematics

- Grades 6-8 and Algebra: Concepts and Connections no longer include a non-calculator section.

- Includes selected-response and technology-enhanced items only.

English Language Arts

- Section 1: Reading and Evidence-Based Writing**
 - No changes. Students will continue to read two passages and respond to three selected-response items, one short constructed-response item (aligned to Reading standards), and one extended writing prompt.
- Section 2 and Section 3**
 - Narrative writing will be assessed in Section 2 only.
 - Field-test narrative writing prompts will not be included.

Science and Social Studies

- No changes
- Includes selected-response and technology-enhanced items only.

Details regarding the test design for each content area are available in the [Test Blueprints](#) found on the [Georgia Milestones Resources](#) webpage.

Georgia Learns Test Examiner Course

This is a reminder that districts should use the Test Examiner Course in Georgia Learns to provide examiners with basic state requirements for administering Georgia Milestones. STCs can easily pull a transcript of those who completed the course. Once your examiners have completed this course, your SchTCs can focus training on the district- and school-level requirements.



OBTAINING A TRANSCRIPT FOR GEORGIA LEARNS COURSES

Go to SLDS and choose the **GAlearns-PD Transcript Report** from the Georgia Learns - PD Hub Reports dropdown.

Here you will see an in-depth Transcript Report that can be exported to Excel or printed.

Georgia Learns - PD Hub Reports ▼

GAlearns-PD Rosters Report by Course

GAlearns-PD Transcript Report

Georgia Learns Assign and Course Status Reports

Georgia Learns has a new Assigning and Reporting feature that allows users to assign a Georgia Learns course to specific users and view reports on course completion. To access either function, your District Georgia Learns D5U superuser (district SIS coordinator) must give users **Assigner** access. District or school users can be assigned this permission, and they will have access to their correct level of users.

ASSIGNING COURSES

To assign a course, go to the Georgia Learns drop-down on the top right-hand side of your screen and choose Assign Courses.

Next, choose a school or schools, then select users as either a recommended or required course. The benefit of assigning a course is that when you review reports, you will see assigned users who have not completed the course.

COURSE REPORTS

To access Georgia Learns reports, choose "Course Status Report" from the Georgia Learns drop-down. Choose the course, then status (All, In Progress, or Not Enrolled) then click View Report.

- [Profile Manager – Assigner Rollout User Guide](#)
- [Assign Courses and Course Status Report User Guide](#)
- [Assign Courses Demo Video](#)

Check Your COS

Technology Coordinators should check their COSs before spring testing. The winter administration showed irregularities due to content not downloaded before testing. If the COS is on during updates, content, and TTS/HVA will automatically be checked, and all content will be available for testing. Technology Coordinators should ensure that all appropriate administrations are checked along with TTS/HVA and that VSL is made available. Space can be saved on a COS server by deselecting content that is not required.

Configuration Information			
Configuration Information	Testing Devices	Service Devices	Locations
Content Management	Content Hosting	Deployment	
Enable Content Management <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Update Configuration			
Admin	TTS/HVA	VSL	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EGA326 End-of-Grade Retest 2023	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EGA325 End-of-Grade Spring 2024	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EGA334 End-of-Course Spring Mid-Month 2024	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EGA335 End-of-Course Spring 2024	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EGA399 Secure Practice Test with Response Transmission	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EWD303 WIDA ACCESS for ELLs 2023-2024	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EWD303 WIDA Screener Assessment 2023-2024	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EWD372 WIDA Sample Items	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Calculator Policy

The mathematics No-Calculator section was removed starting Winter 2023-2024.

Grade 6 students may use a scientific or basic calculator. Grade 8 and Algebra: Concepts and Connections students may use the graphing tool or scientific calculator. All grades 6-12 test takers should be trained in the use of the online Desmos Calculator embedded within the practice tests or at <https://www.desmos.com/testing/Georgia>.

Enhanced Student Experience

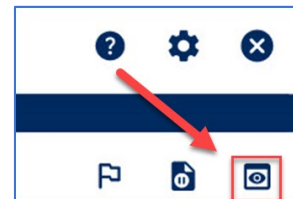
Test Takers will notice changes in the DRC INSIGHT test engine. The Enhanced Student Experience includes multiple changes for better user navigation. Teachers should familiarize students with the new interface using Experience Online Testing Georgia or one of the Georgia Milestones practice tests. Changes include:

- Accessibility enhancements
- Sticky Notes has been replaced with Notepad
- Updated Line Guide
- Additional zoom capabilities
- Students now scroll for passages

Updated view highlighting all icons are now at the top of the screen: Georgia Milestones Resources



Students use the Review/End Test button to review test items and submit the test for scoring.



Test Administration Manuals

Test Administration Manuals for the Spring 2024 Georgia Milestones EOG and EOC administration have been posted and can be found on the DRC INSIGHT Portal and the [Georgia Milestones Resources](#) page.

End-of-Grade Test Administration Manual

The EOG Test Administration Manual has been updated to remedy an omission on page 63. If you have shared the link to the [Georgia Milestones Resources](#) page, the file has been updated as of Friday, March 1. If you downloaded and shared the pdf before that date, you will need to send out the updated document. If you have already printed the EOG Test Administration Manual, you will need to replace pages 63 and 64. The update was only on page 63, but it pushed changes to page 64.

Please contact your [assessment specialist](#) if you have any questions.

Redesigned Georgia Milestones ISR

The Individual Student Report (ISR) for Georgia Milestones has a new look. In addition to featuring updated graphics and embedded statements to support score interpretation, the ISRs will also include a new parent-friendly reporting framework for domain-level achievement. Domain achievement helps parents and educators learn about students' relative strengths and areas of need and will be reported in three categories: Below Target, Approaching Target, and Met Target. Additional information and interpretation guidance will be provided in the Score Interpretation Guide. Examples of the new EOG and EOC ISRs are now posted on the [Georgia Milestones Resources Page](#) along with a Parent Guide to Interpreting the Georgia Milestones Student Report.

Parent Guide to Interpreting the Georgia Milestones Student Report

HOW DID MY STUDENT PERFORM ON THE GEORGIA MILESTONES ASSESSMENT?

The student report displays your student's achievement on each content area assessment.

Achievement Level - The level of achievement your student demonstrated. There are four achievement levels: Distinguished Learner, Proficient Learner, Developing Learner, and Beginning Learner.

Scale Score - The score your student received.

Scale Score Range - The amount your student's score may vary if they took the test multiple times. It is an estimate of the precision of the scale score.

Grade Conversion Score (EOC only) - The scale score converted to a score ranging from 0 - 100 to be used in calculating your student's final grade for the course.

Domain Achievement - Provides information about your student's relative strengths and areas of need for subcategories of the content area.

Achievement Comparisons - Your student's scale score compared to other students in the same school, school system, and state.

Reading and Vocabulary*

- Key Ideas and Details
- Craft and Structure/Integration of Knowledge and Ideas
- Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

Some Questions to Ask When Discussing Assessment Results with Teachers:

- In what areas is my student doing well and in what areas does my student need support?
- How can I help support my student's learning at home?
- How do we ensure that my student continues to progress?

Be sure to check out the parent-friendly Q&A about the Georgia Milestones Assessment Program.

For additional information about the Georgia Milestones Assessment System, including Study Guides and Score Interpretation Guides, visit the [Georgia Milestones Resources](https://www.gadoe.org) page.

www.gadoe.org

started with the Winter 2023 administration and appears in Interactive Reporting, is not comparable to the domain structure of prior test administrations, including Fall Midmonth 2023.

EOG and EOC – Data Validation

It is critical that the student demographic data loaded into DRC INSIGHT via the MSU are accurate and match the information uploaded to GaDOE through Student Record and Student Class. Some common data errors include:

- Missing or Incorrect GTIDs.
- Duplicate Student Names.
- Incorrect Spelling or Hyphenation of Student Names.
- Reversals of Student's First Name and Last Name.
- Missing or Incorrect Birthdates.
- Students Incorrectly Associated with "Service" School instead of their "Home" (FTE) School.

School leaders and teachers can help check data by reviewing local attendance rosters for accuracy. Any errors found should be corrected in the SIS *prior to uploading the MSU*. If an error is found after the MSU upload, the error should be fixed in the SIS, and the MSU re-uploaded to INSIGHT.

Student Growth Percentiles (SGPs) will be calculated using the final assessment records compiled by DRC, not assessment data that is later matched by GaDOE.

Students who cannot be matched to a prior assessment score in the assessment files using their GTID will not receive SGPs.

Contacts:

- Joe Blessing, Program Manager, jblessing@doe.k12.ga.us, 470-579-6326.
- Brian Collier, Assessment Specialist, brian.collier@doe.k12.ga.us, 470-579-6355.
- Missy Shealy, Assessment Specialist, mshealy@doe.k12.ga.us, 470-579-5393.

Summary Results for Winter 2023

Summary results for the Winter 2023 EOC administration (i.e., state, system, and school) have been publicly released by the state on the GaDOE [Georgia Milestones website](https://www.gadoe.org) (under "Statewide Results"). This ends the embargo on summary reports for Winter EOC 2023. Because domain information is not included with these summaries, Fall Midmonth 2023 testers are included along with Winter 2023 testers for American Literature, Biology, and U.S. History. This inclusion preserves the longitudinal comparability of the Winter 2023 summaries with past Winter summaries. Note that this inclusion differs from the Winter 2023 summary reports shown on DRC Interactive Reporting, which exclude Fall Midmonth 2023 testers. The new domain reporting structure, which

Dates	Georgia Milestones Tasks and Reminders
10/2/2023 – 5/3/2024	Practice Test with Response Transmission Window
1/2/2024 – 3/22/2024	Spring 2024 EOC Mid-Month Test Setup Window
2/26/2024 – 5/24/2024	Spring 2024 EOG Test Setup Window
2/26/2024 – 5/31/2024	Spring 2024 EOC Test Setup Window
3/4/2024 – 3/15/2024	March 2024 Mid-Month EOC Testing Window
4/8/2024 – 5/17/2024	Spring 2024 EOG Main Administration

Dates	Georgia Milestones Tasks and Reminders
4/15/2024 – 5/24/2024	Spring 2024 EOC Main Administration
4/22/2024 – 7/12/2024	EOG Retest 2024 Test Setup Window
5/13/2024 – 7/12/2024	EOG Retest 2024 Administration

NAEP/NCES

Administration Window Extended



The original NAEP test administration window was Monday, January 29 to Friday, March 8. The administration window has been extended to Friday, March 22 for any schools that may need to administer tests beyond Friday, March 8.

There have been several new processes/tasks introduced during the 2024 assessment. Please provide feedback regarding your interaction with this year's administration directly to Bobbie Bable. Your feedback will be shared with the NAEP Support Center and taken into consideration for future NAEP testing.

Dates	Assessment Tasks and Reminders
1/29/2024 – 3/8/2024	Test Administration Window

Contact: Bobbie Bable, Assessment Specialist,
bbable@doe.k12.ga.us, 470-579-6324.

Accountability Update

The 2024 achievement targets, English language proficiency targets, and graduation rate targets are now available on the [CCRPI Resources](#) webpage under the *Resources for 2024* heading.

The Assessment Matching application with national assessments (ACT, AP, IB, and SAT) will be available soon for district users with CCRPI access in the

MyGaDOE Portal. **This window will close in late June**, so work should begin now. Note that this is one critical step your district will take in ensuring accurate data for the 2024 CCRPI!

The accountability team has updated several webinars related to CCRPI. These trainings are intended for a broad audience — anyone interested in understanding CCRPI! Suggested audiences include principals and school leadership teams, SIS personnel, counselors, STCs, special education staff, and other district leaders. For full descriptions, refer to the [GaDOE Professional Learning Events](#) catalog. Please note that you do not need an account to view a webinar. Just click on *Professional Learning* in the top right-hand corner and choose *Events*. Then use the search feature to find a webinar.

The following recordings are currently available:

- CCRPI: Accountability and the Big Picture
- CCRPI: Components of CCRPI for Elementary/Middle School
- CCRPI: Components of CCRPI for High School
- Ensuring Accurate CCRPI Data
- Understanding CCRPI Applications and Processes

Please contact the GaDOE [accountability specialist](#) assigned to assist your district with any questions or concerns about CCRPI and accountability. Your district accountability point of contact (POC) gains critical information at the Accountability Monthly Updates and is another good resource for you.

GaDOE Professional Learning (PL) Events for March-May 2024

Are you looking for professional learning opportunities to support educator practice? Visit the [GaDOE Professional Learning Events](#) to view upcoming virtual webinars, webinar recordings, in-person events, on-demand content, and by-request workshop opportunities.



All training sessions are Microsoft Teams webinars. Please register with your district email address for the webinar in the [GaDOE Professional Learning Events](#) or the link in the table below. Once registered, an email is sent from Microsoft Teams, noreply@teams.registration.microsoft.com, allowing you to add the webinar to your calendar.

Conference and training session dates and times are subject to change.

Required Assessment Virtual Training Sessions

Date	Title http://login.community.gadoe.org/events	Time	Intended Audience
4/25/2024	GKIDS 2.0 End-of-Year Training and Reports	10 a.m. – 12 p.m.	STCs

WIDA Webinars

Date	Title (Registrations for all sessions are in the WIDA Secure Portal.)	Time	Intended Audience
3/5/2024	Post Testing: Data Validation	2 – 3 p.m.	STCs
3/12/2024	Post Testing: Interpreting Score Reports – ACCESS for ELLs	2 – 3 p.m.	STCs
5/23/2024	Post Assessment Training	10 a.m. – 12 p.m.	STCs

FIP

Date	Title http://login.community.gadoe.org/events	Time	Intended Audience
3/20/2024	FIP #6 The Road to Student Ownership of Learning with FIP	10 – 11 a.m.	STCs
4/17/2024	FIP #7 More on Student Ownership of Learning with FIP	10 – 11 a.m.	STCs

GKIDS

Date	Title http://login.community.gadoe.org/events	Time	Intended Audience
4/25/2024	GKIDS 2.0 End-of-Year Training and Reports	10 a.m.– 12 p.m.	STCs

Georgia Milestones Courses

Date	Title http://login.community.gadoe.org/events	Time	Intended Audience
Webinar Recording	Understanding the Georgia Milestones English Language Arts Assessment	24/7	Grades 3-12 Teachers, Instructional Coaches, School Leaders, District Leaders
	Understanding Georgia Milestones – Math		
	Understanding the Georgia Milestones Science Assessment		
	Understanding the Georgia Milestones Social Studies Assessment		
	Introduction to Reading and Evidence-Based Writing, Gr 3-12		
	Examining the Opinion Essay, Gr 3-5		Grades 3-12 ELA Teachers, Instructional Coaches, Assistant Principals, Principals, Literacy Coordinators
	Examining the Argumentative Essay, Gr 6-HS		
	Examining the Informative/Explanatory Essay, Gr 3-HS		
	Best Practices for Narrative Writing, Gr 3-12		
	Narrative Writing on Georgia Milestone, Gr 3-12		
	Using Description in Narrative Writing, Gr 3-5		
	Using Description in Narrative Writing, Gr 6-8		
	Using Description in Narrative Writing, American Literature		
	Understanding Georgia Milestones Scores and Reports		Assessment Staff, District Leaders, School Leaders

Understanding Assessment Virtual Training Series

Date	Title http://login.community.gadoe.org/events	Time	Intended Audience
Webinar Recording	Day 1 – Assessment Foundations for Teachers & Leaders	24/7	Grades K-12 Teachers,
	Day 2 – Formative Assessment Processes, Part 1		

Date	Title http://login.community.gadoe.org/events	Time	Intended Audience
	Day 3 – Formative Assessment Processes, Part 2		Instructional Coaches, Teacher Leaders, School Leaders
	Day 4 – Formative Assessment Processes, Part 3		
	Day 5 – Summative Classroom Assessment, Part 1		
	Day 6 – Summative Classroom Assessment, Part 2		
	Day 7 – Summative Classroom Assessment, Part 3		
	Day 8 – Standardized Assessments		
	Day 9 – Balanced Assessment Systems for Teachers		

Georgia Learns Courses

[How to Access Georgia Learns](#) contains information and screenshots to assist educators in accessing courses in Georgia Learns.



Assessment Training Courses

Date	Title	Time	Required Audience
Available	Test Coordinator Course: Effectively Administering Georgia's Standardized Assessments	24/7	STC, SchTC
Available	Accessibility and Accommodations for State Assessments	24/7	STC, SchTC
Available	Georgia Milestones Test Examiner Course 2023-2024	24/7	STC, SchTC, Test Examiners and Proctors