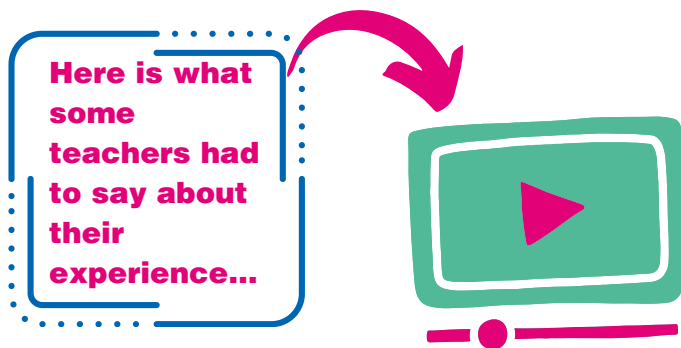


The goal of this newsletter is to share information with teachers about the Georgia Student Assessment Program in order to deepen understanding of the program, its purpose, and its uses.

Test Development

Educator Involvement

State assessments in Georgia are [developed and customized](#) by the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE), in partnership with a test development vendor and Georgia educators. Each year, committees of educators from across Georgia come together to review newly developed test questions to ensure the questions are accessible and appropriate measures of the content standards for each grade level and content area.



Rangefinding

Have you ever wondered how students' written responses are scored for the Georgia Milestones English Language Arts assessment? Well, the first step in scoring these responses is a process known as rangefinding. Rangefinding is a crucial step in the item development process for constructed-response items as it effectively sets scoring expectations and defines how the rubrics are interpreted.

Before any test item is used operationally (meaning it counts toward a student's score), it is field tested with a sample of Georgia students. During rangefinding, committees of Georgia

educators use a diverse set of student responses from constructed-response field test items to establish the scoring guidelines for all future administrations of those items.

Rangefinding committees:

- review the scoring rubric and any scoring philosophy associated with the item type or task;
- evaluate student responses and determine which score point is the most appropriate for each response; and
- provide input to the scoring rationale that will be the foundation of training materials.

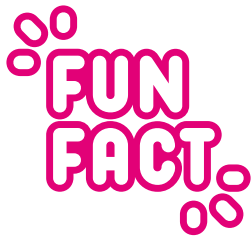
Georgia educators establish the scoring guidelines for all written responses.

The training materials developed during rangefinding are later used to train scorers when the same items appear on future test administrations.

Constructed-Response Scoring

Prior to beginning scoring of constructed-response items, materials from the rangefinding meeting are compiled into three sets: anchor sets, training sets, and qualifying sets. The anchor and training sets are used to train scorers, also known as readers. Potential readers must then successfully score student responses in the qualifying set. They must qualify for each individual item to be allowed to score that item.

Once a group of readers is qualified, student responses are scored based on the guidelines established during rangefinding.



Handscoring quality management reports are monitored daily by GaDOE and its testing vendor.

As part of our documented quality management process, a variety of monitoring techniques have been established and are used daily throughout the scoring window to ensure accuracy of the scoring process.

- **Validity** - A minimum of ten "validity papers" are assigned each day to each reader. These papers have been previously scored by GaDOE or the rangefinding committee to determine a "true" score. Scores assigned by each reader are then compared to the "true" score. Each reader's percent of agreement with the true scores of validity papers is used to monitor the reader's scoring accuracy. Readers will be retrained or released if not meeting expected validity standards. When this happens, all scores assigned by that reader are dropped and the papers are re-assigned to another qualified reader.
- **Inter-Rater Reliability** - A percentage of papers are assigned to two different readers. The percent of agreement across readers is used as a quality control metric. Low levels of agreement may indicate that some re-training is necessary.
- **Read-Behinds** - Scoring Directors "read-behind" a percentage of papers for each reader to further assess the reader's scoring accuracy and identify areas for targeted retraining.

Contact: Lisa Hardman, ELA Assessment Specialist, lhardman@doe.k12.ga.us, 470.579.6354

2023-2024 Georgia Milestones Mathematics Assessments

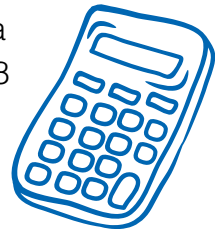


With the implementation of Georgia's K-12 Mathematics Standards beginning in the 2023-2024 school year, the [Georgia Milestones mathematics assessments](#) have been redeveloped to align with the new standards.

Revised mathematics [test blueprints](#) communicate the standards assessed as well as the number and types of items included on the test.

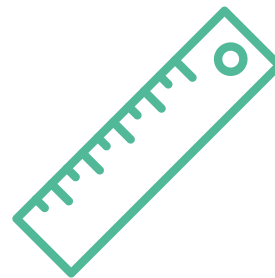
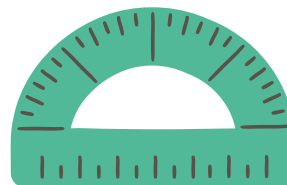
Calculators

Georgia Milestones mathematics assessments will no longer include a non-calculator section for grades 6-8 and Algebra. **Calculators will be allowed for all items** on the assessments as follows:



- Grades 6 & 7
 - basic or scientific calculator
- Grade 8, Algebra: Concepts & Connections
 - scientific or graphing calculator

New Tools and Item Types



Protractor and ruler tools will be new to the assessment for applicable items. Also new are Shared Stimulus Sets which group three different one-point items together in a rich problem situation.

For practice interacting with the different item types, visit [Experience Online Testing Georgia](#).

Contact: Nijia Byrd, Test Development Program Manager, nbyrd@doe.k12.ga.us, 470.579.6349

Assessment Resources

Georgia Milestones Study and Assessment Guides

Georgia Milestones **Study Guides** help students and parents understand more about the assessment and how to prepare students for participation. The guides contain information about the core content and skills covered on each assessment, as well as sample test questions with explanations of correct and incorrect answers.

Georgia Milestones **Assessment Guides** acquaint educators with the structure and content of each assessment. In addition to the information included in the Study Guides, the Assessment Guides provide educators with testing resources such as test blueprints and achievement level descriptors, as well as additional information about each sample question.

Study and Assessment Guides for English Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies can be found on the [Georgia Milestones Resources](#) webpage.



For mathematics, [Online Study and Assessment Guides](#) are now available!

GAA 2.0 Teacher Resource Guides

The [GAA 2.0 Teacher Resource Guides](#) acquaint Georgia educators and other stakeholders with the GAA 2.0 structure and test content. The guides provide information about test design, including test content, task structure, depth of knowledge, accessibility, and test blueprints. Sample tasks are also provided, including the Test Examiner Booklet and Student Booklet.

The appendix of each Teacher Resource Guide provides the Extended Content Standards for the

applicable content area, along with Teacher Notes which can help educators make modifications based on the highly variable needs of students who require instruction using the Extended Content Standards.

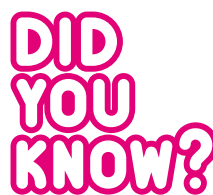
Contact: Nijia Byrd, Test Development Program Manager, nbyrd@doe.k12.ga.us, 470.579.6349

Lexile® and Quantile® Hub

Our state's partnership with MetaMetrics®, the Lexile and Quantile creator, allows Georgia educators free access to Premium features in the [Lexile and Quantile Hub](#), an online platform designed to offer educators instructional and planning resources for their work with students. Simply use your school-issued email address when [registering](#)!

Contact: Lisa Hardman, ELA Assessment Specialist, lharden@doe.k12.ga.us, 470.579.6354

Georgia Milestones Interactive Reporting for Teachers



If activated by their district, teachers can view Georgia Milestones results for their students in a dynamic [reporting system](#). Ask your school or

system test coordinator if this feature can be made available in your district!

Professional Learning

Visit our [Professional Learning](#) webpage to learn about offerings from the Assessment Division available in the [GaDOE Professional Learning Events](#) catalog.

Contact: Jan Blose, Director of Assessment Development, jblose@doe.k12.ga.us, 404.275.5147