

Georgia Department of Education


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Georgia Assessment Overview and FAQs

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Assessment & Accountability



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The primary purpose of school is **teaching and learning**.

Assessment and accountability plays an important role,
but importantly – *that role is supporting with the primary
focus being teaching and learning.*

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Assessment Foundations



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All assessments rely on a relatively small number of exercises to permit the user to draw inferences about a student's mastery of larger domains of knowledge and skill.

Formative: takes place during instruction to provide feedback to teaching and learning; used by both students and teachers.

Interim: takes place after a sequence of instruction to evaluate students' knowledge and skills relative to a specific set of academic goals, typically within a limited timeframe.

Summative: takes place at the end of instruction to certify mastery or assign grades; typically used for accountability.

Georgia Milestones are summative assessments.

Assessment FAQs



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• What tests are state mandated?

- Kindergarten students participate in an ongoing formative measure called the [Georgia Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills \(GKIDS\)](#). [Grade K]
- The [Georgia Milestones Assessment System](#) is the primary assessment program consisting of End of Grade (EOG) and End of Course (EOC) measures. [Grades 3 – HS]
- Students with significant cognitive disabilities participate in the [Georgia Alternate Assessment \(GAA\)](#) in lieu of Georgia Milestones.
- English language learners (EL students) must take the [ACCESS for ELLS](#) test on an annual basis to measure their English proficiency. [Grades K – 12]
- When selected, students in identified grades (typically 4 and 8) must also participate in the [National Assessment of Educational Progress \(NAEP\)](#).

Assessment FAQs



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- **What is the purpose of the state-mandated testing program?**
 - To measure student achievement of the state-adopted content standards and inform efforts to improve teaching and learning.
- **How should the results of the assessment program be utilized?**
 - As a gauge of the quality of education provided to students across the state.
 - To identify strengths and weaknesses in instructional practice(s) and help establish priorities in planning educational programs.

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Assessment FAQs



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- **How many state-mandated tests does a student take each year?**
 - Depending on the grade level, elementary and middle school students will take 2 or 4 tests (EOG).
 - In high school, the number of tests (EOC) taken by a student is dependent on his/her course enrollment.

Depending on the grade-level, students take 1 to 4 fewer tests than in previous years.

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State-Mandated Tests 2016 -2017



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Grade	# State Tests	Test/Content Area
K	1	GKIDS
3	2	GM EOG: ELA and Math
4	2	GM EOG: ELA and Math
5	4	GM EOG: ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies
6	2	GM EOG: ELA and Math
7	2	GM EOG: ELA and Math
8	4	GM EOG: ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies
High School	7 or 8*	GM EOC: 9 th Grade Lit; American Lit; Coordinate Algebra or Algebra I; Analytic Geometry or Geometry; Physical Science**; Biology; US History; Economics

*Dually enrolled students are no longer required to take certain EOCs.
**High school students may take either Physical Science or Physics; there is no EOC for Physics.

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- Has the number of state-mandated tests increased or decreased since implementing Georgia Milestones?
 - With the implementation of Georgia Milestones in 2014-2015, the number of state-mandated tests has *decreased* from 43 (2013-2014) to 24 (2016-2017).

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• Why was Georgia Milestones needed and developed?

- The former assessment programs were outdated and did not provide coherent information about the achievement of Georgia's students.
- The former testing programs sent discrepant signals about the achievement of Georgia's students.

2013

NAEP – Grade 4: 34% at/above proficient
CRCT – Grade 4: 93% met/exceeded

2015

NAEP – Grade 4: 34% at/above proficient
GM ELA – Grade 4: 37% proficient/distinguished

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Where Does Georgia Stand? 2015 Grade 4 NAEP Reading



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Lower Performing (14)	Similar Performing (22)	Higher Performing (15)
Arkansas South Carolina Alabama Michigan West Virginia Louisiana Arizona Hawaii Nevada Mississippi Alaska California District of Columbia New Mexico	Pennsylvania Washington Ohio Montana North Dakota Colorado Maine Delaware Iowa Wisconsin Minnesota Maryland Missouri New York Georgia	Illinois Oklahoma Idaho National Public Kansas South Dakota Oregon Tennessee Texas Massachusetts Department of Defense New Hampshire Vermont New Jersey Virginia Connecticut Wyoming Kentucky Indiana Florida Nebraska Utah North Carolina Rhode Island

Note: National Public is included for reference only and is not included in the jurisdiction count.

Where Does Georgia Stand? 2015 Grade 4 NAEP Mathematics



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Lower Performing (4)	Similar Performing (19)	Higher Performing (28)
California District of Columbia New Mexico Alabama	Oklahoma Maryland Missouri Idaho Delaware Rhode Island Hawaii Oregon Arizona Illinois South Carolina New York Georgia Alaska Michigan	Massachusetts Minnesota New Hampshire Indiana Department of Defense Wyoming Virginia New Jersey Washington North Dakota Texas Nebraska North Carolina Ohio Iowa Pennsylvania Wisconsin Vermont Florida Utah Maine Kentucky Colorado Montana Kansas Tennessee Connecticut National Public South Dakota

Note: National Public is included for reference only and is not included in the jurisdiction count.

Where Does Georgia Stand? 2015 Grade 8 NAEP Reading



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Lower Performing (5)	Similar Performing (18)	Higher Performing (28)
Hawaii Louisiana New Mexico Mississippi District of Columbia	Ohio Rhode Island Tennessee Michigan National Public Florida New York Arizona Oklahoma Delaware Georgia Texas North Carolina South Carolina Alaska	Department of Defense New Hampshire Massachusetts Vermont Connecticut New Jersey Minnesota Montana Wisconsin Utah Nebraska Wyoming Pennsylvania Idaho Maine Indiana Iowa Colorado Maryland Kentucky Oregon Washington South Dakota North Dakota Missouri Virginia Illinois Kansas

Note: National Public is included for reference only and is not included in the jurisdiction count.

Where Does Georgia Stand? 2015 Grade 8 NAEP Mathematics



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Lower Performing (8)	Similar Performing (15)	Higher Performing (28)
Nevada Oklahoma West Virginia New Mexico Mississippi Louisiana Alabama District of Columbia	Illinois Rhode Island North Carolina National Public Missouri Alaska New York Delaware Hawaii Georgia Tennessee Michigan Kentucky South Carolina California	Massachusetts New Hampshire Minnesota New Jersey Department of Defense Vermont Wisconsin North Dakota Virginia Montana Indiana Wyoming Washington Nebraska Iowa Utah Colorado Ohio Maine South Dakota Connecticut Kansas Texas Idaho Pennsylvania Maryland Arizona Oregon

Note: National Public is included for reference only and is not included in the jurisdiction count.

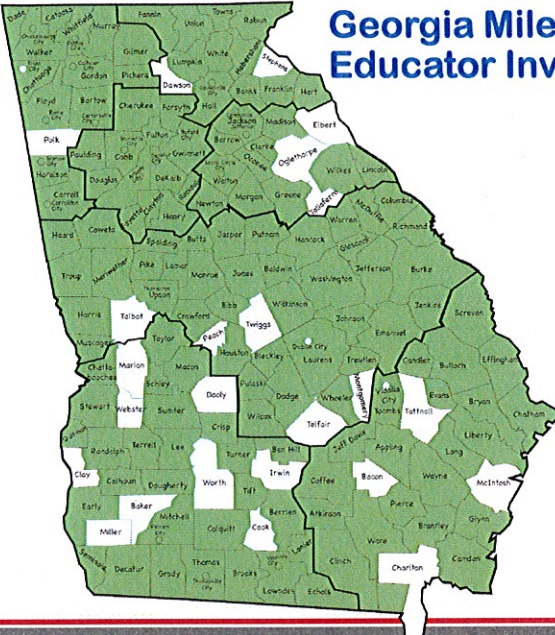
Assessment FAQs




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• Who developed Georgia Milestones?

- The Assessment Division oversees the development of the state assessment program, including Georgia Milestones. In spring 2013, a contract was awarded to CTB McGraw-Hill through a competitive bid process managed by the Department of Administrative Services (DOAS). CTB was acquired by Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) in June 2015.
- The test development process relies heavily on the inclusion of Georgia educators as subject matter experts. Committees of Georgia educators, including faculty members from the Technical College System of Georgia and the University System of Georgia, have directly informed the development of the Georgia Milestones program.
- All aspects of the state testing program are vetted with our Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), comprised of 6 national measurement experts.





**Georgia Milestones
Educator Involvement**

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Statewide Schools

- Georgia Cyber Academy
- Georgia Virtual School (GaVS)
- State Schools

Higher Ed

- Technical College System of Georgia
- University System of Georgia

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Assessment FAQs



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• When do districts receive student scores?

- Student scores are posted electronically on a daily basis, along with a district data file. Reports and data files are updated, daily, throughout the testing window.
- Content areas that include open-ended items take longer to score than machine scored multiple-choice items.
- Final score reports, including summary reports, are posted after the state window has closed and all student data has been processed. This is necessary because the final reports include comparative data at the school, district, and state level.

Assessment FAQs



- **How many tests were administered in Spring 2016?**

- Approximately 3.9 million tests administered, scored and reported.

Remember, each grade-level EOG consisted of 4 tests.

- **How many tests were administered online?**

Georgia Milestones	Spring 2015	Spring 2016
End of Grade	30%	55%
End of Course	71%	91%
Total	53%	73%

When including the Winter 2015 EOC administration, **75%** of tests were administered online during the 2015-2016 administration.

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Assessment FAQs



- **How many test sections were interrupted in Spring 2016?**

End of Grade [Each student has 9 sections across the 4 content area tests]

- Number of test sections without interruption: 93.5%
- Number of test sections interrupted: 6.5%
- Number of test sections interrupted more than once: 1.98%

End of Course [Each test has 3 (ELA) or 2 (math, science, social studies) sections]

- Number of test sections without interruption: 97.3%
- Number of test sections interrupted: 2.7%
- Number of test sections interrupted more than once: 0.39%

It is important to note the cases quantified above include test-administration errors that were not due to some type of software or hardware malfunction.

Assessment FAQs



• What steps have been taken to implement Senate Bill 364?

- The grades 3, 4, 6, and 7 Georgia Milestones EOG in Science and Social Studies have been discontinued.
 - Released test items in these grades/content areas have been made available for local formative use.
- The testing calendar for the Spring 2018 EOG administration has been changed to allow districts to test later in the spring.
 - The Spring 2018 window opens one week later than has been the case in past years (April 9, 2018). It will close two weeks later than in the past (May 18, 2018 – within one week of Memorial Day).
- GaDOE has begun development of an innovative and developmentally appropriate formative assessment for grades 1 and 2 in literacy and mathematics.

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Assessment FAQs



• What recommendations are being made as a result of ESSA?

- Stay the course – Georgia has made significant improvements to its assessment program and should continue on its current path. Georgia Milestones includes more informative item types, provides information on student mastery of state content standards as well as a national comparison, and provides a more accurate picture of student performance based on high expectations than previous programs.
- Focus on providing more, high-quality formative assessments that can be used to guide instruction and improve student performance.
- Explore opportunities to innovate, both in formative and summative ways.

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