

Understanding the Georgia Milestones / Georgia Alternate Assessment 2.0 (GAA)

TERRELL MIDDLE SCHOOL

PARENT WORKSHOP

TUESDAY

APRIL 2, 2024,

9:00 AM (IN- PERSON)

6:00 PM (VIRTUAL)



Agenda

Sign-in/Greetings

Overview of the Georgia Milestones

Content Areas Tested

Assessment Administration Dates

Test Design

Levels of Performance

Overview of the Georgia Alternate Assessment 2.0

Promotion Requirements

How to help your child prepare for Testing

Dates to Remember

Questions/Suggestions/Concerns

Overview

The Georgia Milestones Assessment System is a comprehensive summative assessment program and represents a single system of summative assessments that span all three levels of the state's educational system – elementary, middle, and high school. The system is designed to send consistent signals about students' preparedness for the next level, be it the next grade, course, or endeavor, such as entering college or beginning a career after leaving the K-12 educational system.

Purpose

The Georgia Milestones Assessment System is designed to provide information about how well students are mastering the state-adopted content standards in the core content areas of English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.

Importantly, Georgia Milestones is designed to provide students with critical information about their own achievement and their readiness for their next level of learning – be it the next grade, the next course, or the next endeavor (college or career).

Content Areas Tested by Grade Level

6TH & 7TH GRADES

- ❖ English language arts
- ❖ Mathematics

8TH GRADE

- ❖ English language arts
- ❖ Mathematics
- ❖ Science
- ❖ Social Studies

Georgia Milestones Assessment Administration

STATE OF GEORGIA TESTING WINDOW

Spring EOG Main

4/8/2024 – 5/17/2024

EOG Retest

5/13/2024 – 7/12/2024

TERRELL COUNTY TESTING WINDOW

Spring EOG Main

4/15/2024 – 4/26/2024

EOG Retest (8th Grade ONLY)

6/24/2024 – 6/25/2024

General Test Design

Georgia Milestones is administered primarily on the computer and includes the following features:

- Technology-enhanced items in all grades and courses,
- Open-ended (constructed response) items in English language arts in all grades and courses,
- A writing component (in response to passages read by students) at every grade level and course within the English language arts assessment,
- A reported Lexile score based on the English language arts assessment in all grades and courses, and
- Estimated norm-referenced performance ranges for all grades and courses.

General Test Design cont.....

ELA will consist of
3 sections, 1 of
which will focus
mainly on writing



Mathematics will
consist of 2
sections



Social Studies will
consist of 2
sections



Science will
consist of 2
sections



GMAS: 4 Levels of Performance

The four achievement levels on Georgia Milestones are *Beginning Learner*, *Developing Learner*, *Proficient Learner*, and *Distinguished Learner*. The general meaning of each of the four levels is provided below:

Beginning Learners do not yet demonstrate proficiency in the knowledge and skills necessary at this grade level/course of learning, 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 demonstrate partial proficiency in the knowledge and skills necessary at this grade level/course of learning, as specified in 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 demonstrate proficiency in the knowledge and skills necessary at this grade level/course 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 demonstrate advanced proficiency in the knowledge and skills necessary at this grade level/course of learning, as specified in Georgia's content standards. The students ***are well prepared*** for the next grade level or course and are well prepared for college and career readiness.



Georgia Alternate Assessment 2.0 Overview

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004 (IDEA) and Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) require that states ensure all students, including those with significant cognitive disabilities, have access to challenging academic standards and participate in the state's assessment program.

The Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA) 2.0 is comprised of standardized performance tasks and is intended to provide tiered participation within the assessment for students working at various levels of complexity. The GAA 2.0 is designed to measure the degree to which students with significant cognitive disabilities have mastered alternate achievement standards in the core content areas of English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.

- The GAA 2.0 is administered to all eligible students in the following areas:
- Grades 3-8, and high school will be assessed in English language arts and mathematics.
- Grades 5, 8, and high school will be assessed in science.
- Grades 8 and high school will be assessed in social studies.



Purpose / Eligibility

This assessment provides meaningful information about classroom instruction and helps identify students' areas of strength and improvement. If a student's IEP team determines that a student cannot meaningfully access the Georgia Milestones Assessment System, even with maximum appropriate accommodations, then the student must participate in the GAA 2.0.

ELIGIBILITY

The decision to assess using the GAA 2.0 is made by the IEP team after considering, responding, and providing rationale to the following eligibility questions:

1. Does the student require intensive, individualized instruction in a variety of instructional settings?
2. Does the student have a significant cognitive disability?
3. Does the student require specialized supports to access and participate in the grade-level Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE) that require modifications based on the student's Present Levels of Academic Achievement and Functional Performance (PLAAFP)?
4. Does the student require specialized supports to demonstrate age-appropriate adaptive behavior?

Promotion Requirements

STATE POLICY

- ELA – In grades 5 and 8, state law requires that students earn At/Above Grade Level designation in reading as well as score in the Proficient Learner (Level 3) achievement level or above to be promoted to the next grade.
- Math – In grades 5 and 8, state law requires that students earn At/Above Grade Level in math as well as score in the Proficient Learner (Level 3) achievement level or above to be promoted to the next grade.
- The determination is based on the linkage of the Lexile scale to Georgia Milestones.

LOCAL POLICY

- Local board requires that students in grades 6-8 pass all of their core subjects (math, ELA, science & social studies) with a grade of 70 or better for the end of the year in order to be promoted to the next grade. Failure to do so can result in attending summer school or being retained.
- In addition to the local policy 8th graders are required to score on the proficient level (level 3) on the GA Milestone Assessment in ELA and Math.

Benefits of Georgia Milestones

- Results will be provided more quickly and in a more user-friendly format.
- Computer-based testing is more efficient, innovative and engaging.
- Allows Georgia to compare student performance across schools and districts statewide, as well as provide information on how Georgia students compare with their peers nationally.
- Provides accurate measures of achievement and growth for all students, including those with disabilities and English learners. Test accommodations will be available to provide appropriate accessibility needed for accurate results.

What can I do to help my child?

- ❑ Make sure your child is present each day of testing as any missed sections will have to be made up on another day.
- ❑ Be sure to have your child at school ON TIME (8:00 AM). Students who arrive after testing session has begun will have to take the missed section during a make-up session.
- ❑ Make sure your child is well rested. He/She should go to bed early each night.
- ❑ Make sure he/she eats a good breakfast.
- ❑ Make sure your child dresses in comfortable clothing. A light jacket/sweater would be good for students that are cold natured.
- ❑ Make sure your child has 2-Number 2 pencils daily.
- ❑ Most importantly....encourage your child to do his/her best and not to be anxious about the test!

Dates to Remember



April 15th – 26th

EOG Georgia
Milestones
Administration



April 18th

Progress Reports
available in Infinite
Campus



May 17th

Last Day of School





Questions????



Resources

<https://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Assessment/Pages/Georgia-Milestones-Assessment-System.aspx>

https://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Assessment/Pages/GAA_2.aspx

www.gadoe.org

www.georgiastandards.org

www.pta.org