

General Information

The Department of Learning and Performance is sending this communication to update schools on the latest information surrounding Georgia Milestones Assessment.

We have included areas that have been updated so that schools are aware of the changes and resources available. Please take appropriate steps in your building to ensure all stakeholders aware. You may want to pay close attention to the changes in the use of Desmos as a technology tool during testing and the technology enhanced items.

Georgia Milestones Updates & Resources

Desmos Calculators

Beginning with the winter 2019 administration, the calculators for Georgia Milestones assessments are changing to Desmos calculators. Desmos provides publicly available calculators that students can use in the classroom and at home by accessing www.desmos.com. Desmos calculators provide a seamless resource to use for both instruction and assessment. The Georgia Milestones [calculator policy](#) has not changed.

We would advise schools to use the Desmos tool with students as frequently as possible ahead of the winter and Spring EOG/EOC administrations. We want to avoid allowing the technology to be a barrier in receiving accurate student achievement levels. Please refer any questions you may have to our Math Coordinator – [Ms. Towanda James](#).

Milestones Technology Enhanced Items

Technology Enhanced Items were field tested during the spring 2019 Georgia Milestones assessment. These items were reviewed and will now be a permanent part of the Milestones assessment.

The state has provided a guide for the new items with screen shots and scoring descriptions you can access [here](#). The new items will also be included in the Georgia Milestones Online Experience starting in Mid-November. We would encourage schools to take advantage of this opportunity to review and practice these items with your students.

A chart showing the number of Technology-enhanced items by assessment is listed below.

Content Area	Additional TE items for 2019-2020	Total TE items for 2019-2020	Overall Test Total Items	Overall Test Total Points
ELA	1	2	61	55
Math	3	4	73	58
Science	2	6	76	60
Social Studies	2	6	76	60

Milestones Online Experience

The Georgia Milestones Online Testing Experience is available for schools to use to ensure students are familiar with the online platform. Schools are welcome to visit and use the site as often as needed to ensure students are comfortable with the testing platform and tools available. You can visit the Georgia Milestones Online Experience [here](#).

- Administering district CFAs online also exposes students to online testing and ensures they are comfortable using technology-based tools during testing.

Georgia Milestones Resources

Georgia Milestones Test Blueprints for all content areas have been updated as of August 2019 to reflect changes to the number and

types of items on each assessment. Schools administrators and teachers are advised to review these items to ensure instruction reflects state level expectations. You can access the blueprints [here](#).

Georgia Milestones Assessment Guides

Assessment Guides for all content areas have been updated in 2019 with changes to the assessment design tables to reflect the increase in technology-enhanced items. The new narrative writing checklists are also available in the Assessment Guides.

- [End of Grade Assessment Guides](#) - These Assessment Guides are provided to acquaint Georgia educators and other stakeholders with the structure and content assessed on the End of Grade (EOG) measures.
- [End of Course Assessment Guides](#) - These Assessment Guides are provided to acquaint Georgia educators and other stakeholders with the structure and content assessed on the End of Course (EOC) measures.

Milestones Achievement Level Descriptors

ALDs are narrative descriptions of the knowledge and skills expected at each of the four achievement levels and were developed for each grade level, content area, and course; [ALDs can be accessed here](#). It is important to understand that a student should demonstrate mastery of the knowledge and skills within his/her achievement level *as well as all content and skills in any achievement levels that precede his/her own, if any*. For example, a Proficient Learner should also possess the knowledge and skills of a Developing Learner *and* a Beginning Learner.

The Assessment Department and the four Core Content Coordinators have been providing ALDs professional development to teachers this fall via Content Department Chair meetings, and IPLs will receive this training in an upcoming meeting, so it can be redelivered within your buildings.

Winter Georgia Milestones Administration (HS Only)

Georgia Milestones Winter 2019 EOC

School Test Coordinators will begin training this month on Winter EOC procedures and expectations. The county will provide additional training session for new test coordinators to ensure they are given the support needed to facilitate testing at your schools. We will also offer several “drop-in” sessions for school test coordinators who may need additional support or need clarification.

**School Test Coordinator Drop – In Support Dates:
All sessions are at the BOE in Assessment Trailer C**

November 13th- 9-11AM

November 15th – 9-11AM

November 21st - 1-3PM

November 22nd- 1-3PM

December 2nd- 3-5PM

December 3rd – 3-5PM

Parent Letter - Georgia Milestones Winter 2019 EOC

[Enclosed](#) is a letter High Schools may use to communicate with parents about the upcoming Winter EOC Testing Window. This letter will also be accessible via the Assessment Toolkit. (when you download the format corrects)