
February 22, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

On March 8, 2021, we will begin to administer the Georgia Milestones for Algebra I, Biology, American Literature and US History courses that ended on January 19, 2021. The Georgia Department of Education designates specific windows in which the Georgia Milestones may be administered. This is the first opportunity Atlanta Public Schools has to administer the Milestones while offering face-to-face instruction. Unfortunately, due to the high-stakes nature of the Georgia Milestones, no virtual options have been made by the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE). The assessments must be administered in person, in a secure environment.

While State Superintendent Richard Woods plans to resubmit GaDOE's request for a federal testing and accountability waiver, until we hear a decision, APS is still required to administer all Milestones assessments. In order to lessen the impact of Covid-19 on students' performance, the Georgia State Board of Education voted to reduce the weight of the Milestones on a student's semester grade from 20% to .01%. Although the weight of the exam has been reduced significantly, students are still required to take the EOC. Per Atlanta Public Schools' Administrative Regulation IHA-R(2), if a student fails to sit for an EOC, the student will receive a "No Grade Earned (NGE)" on his/her transcript and will be required to repeat the course.

We understand that families may be apprehensive about testing in person, but know that we are taking every precaution to ensure a safe testing environment including but not limited to social distancing, sanitized devices, flexible scheduling, required wearing of PPE, etc.

There are many families who have chosen to continue virtual learning. Testing in-person is still an option available to these families during each testing window. If a student does not test during the March window, he/she will be permitted to make up the missed assessment during the Spring Main administration in April/May and/or the Summer Main administration in June.

You may access the Intent to Participate in the Winter 2020 Milestones Assessment In-person survey at the following link. I kindly ask that you submit your intent by no later than March 3, 2021.

<https://forms.gle/38bbMt7oFX22M9zK8>

If you have any questions, please contact me at ycmckee@atlanta.k12.ga.us

Sincerely,

Yolanda McKee

School Test Coordinator