

Enhanced Instructional Programs

APS replaces CRCT, EOCT and writing assessment with Georgia Milestones

Beginning in the 2014-15 school year, Atlanta Public Schools will no longer use the Criterion Referenced Competency Test (CRCT) to test students' knowledge in reading, English/language arts, math, science, and social studies. The Georgia Milestones test will replace the CRCT, CRCT-M and the writing assessment for 3rd, 5th and 8th graders, as well as the End of Course Test (EOCT) for 9th through 12th graders.

The Georgia Milestones is a single, comprehensive testing system developed by the Georgia Department of Education for school districts in Georgia. It offers increased rigor in all content areas and raises the level of expectations for students and teachers.

The new testing system will also give teachers and administrators the information they need to compare APS students with students from other states.

Highlights of the Georgia Milestones Assessment System

Benefits

- Increases expectations for student learning and achievement;
- Embeds norm-referenced items to provide a national comparison;
- Aligns expectations with other external measures to send a consistent signal of how Georgia students are doing compared to their peers; and
- The GaDOE has partnered with the University System of Georgia and the Technical College System of Georgia to ensure the tests are good indicators of students' college and career readiness.

What's Different

- This is not a reinvention of the CRCT or the EOCT. Georgia Milestones is a new program;

- Georgia Milestones is not a series; it is a single program;
- English/language arts, reading and writing will be combined into one test;
- This new testing system requires students to show a deeper understanding of the material, and use details directly from the story to support their explanations;
- It provides consistent expectations and rigor to position students to compete nationally and internationally;
- It provides a consistent message about students' readiness to move to the next grade level;
- Students will respond to multiple choice and essay-style test items; and
- Students must show and provide explanations of their work for math problems on tests.
- Georgia Milestones will transition to an online administration over a five-year period. Online administration

will ultimately become the primary method for administering the program, with pencil and answer sheets serving as backup methods. Students with certain disabilities may still be allowed to take the pencil/answer sheet versions, and braille forms will be available.

Who will it impact?

- Georgia Milestones will be offered to students in grades 3-12;
- Elementary and middle school students will continue to be tested in ELA, math, science and social studies;
- High school students will be tested in ninth-grade literature and composition, American literature and composition, coordinate algebra, analytic geometry, physical science, biology, U.S. history and economics. The Georgia High School Writing Test will remain as a separate administration in September 2014.



Pacing Calendars

APS will implement pacing calendars for literacy, math, social studies and science at the start of the 2014-15 school year. Teachers will use these calendars to pace their instruction throughout the school year. Parents can use the calendars to stay informed about what their children should be learning in each core content area throughout the year. To access the calendars, visit the district website at www.atlantapublicschools.us/pacing.

Curriculum Parent Guides

The Department of Teaching and Learning now offers curriculum parent guides in the areas of literacy, mathematics, science, and social studies. These guides provide direction to parents about what their children will be learning and how parents can support that learning in grades K-12. The guides will be available electronically on the APS content areas web page. Parents can also pick up printed copies from APS schools.