

# Assessments Administered In Polk School District

## *ACCESS for ELLs*

ACCESS for ELLs is administered, annually, to all English language learners in Georgia. ACCESS for ELLs is a standards-based, criterion referenced English language proficiency test designed to measure English language learners' social and academic proficiency in English. It assesses social and instructional English as well as the language associated with language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies within the school context across the four language domains. ACCESS for ELLs meets the Elementary and Secondary Education Act mandate requiring states to evaluate ELL students in grades K through 12 on their progress in learning to speak English.

## *Georgia Milestones*

Georgia Milestones will be taking the place of the Criterion-Referenced Competency Test (CRCT) for grades 3-8 and the End of Course Tests (EOCT) for grades 9-12. In grades 5 and 8, the test will cover language arts, mathematics, science, social studies. In grades 3, 4, 6 and 7, students will test in Language Arts and Mathematics only. For high school, students will be assessed in 9th Grade Literature & Composition, American Literature & Composition, Algebra I, Geometry, Physical Science, Biology, US History, and Economics.

Beginning in 2014-2015, the Georgia Milestones:

- are sufficiently rigorous to ensure Georgia students are well positioned to compete with other students across the United States and internationally;
- are intentionally designed across grade levels to send a clear signal of student progress/growth and preparedness for the next level, be it the next grade level, course, or college or career;
- are accessible to all students, including those with disabilities or limited English proficiency, at all achievement levels;
- support and inform educator effectiveness initiatives, ensuring items and forms are appropriately sensitive to quality instructional practices; and
- accelerate the transition to online administration, allowing – over time – for the inclusion of innovative technology-enhanced items.

The Georgia Milestones feature:

- inclusion of constructed-response items in ELA and mathematics, in addition to selected-response items
- inclusion of a writing component (in response to text) at every grade level and course within the ELA assessment;
- inclusion of norm-referenced items in every grade and content area to complement the criterion-referenced information and to provide a national comparison; and
- transition to online administration over time, with online administration considered the primary mode of administration and paper-pencil back-up until transition is completed.

## ***Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA)***

An essential tenet of both the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), is the fact that states must ensure that all students, including students with significant cognitive disabilities, have access to a general curriculum that encompasses challenging academic standards. States must also ensure that all students are assessed for their progress toward meeting academic standards.

The GAA is a portfolio of student work that enables the demonstration of achievement and progress relative to selected skills that are aligned to the Georgia curriculum. The portfolio is used to capture student learning and achievement/progress in four content areas: English/Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. This assessment program promotes a vision of enhancing capacities and integrated life opportunities for students who experience significant cognitive disabilities. Committees of Georgia educators developed the requirements of the portfolio system including the number of required pieces of evidence of student performance of tasks aligned to content standards (i.e., student work samples), types of evidence, and the parameters/timing of the collection of student work samples.

## ***Georgia Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (GKIDS)***

The Georgia Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (GKIDS) is a year-long, performance-based assessment. The goal of the assessment program is to provide teachers with information about the level of instructional support needed by individual students entering kindergarten and first grade. GKIDS will allow teachers to assess student performance during instruction, record student performance in an on-line database, and generate reports for instructional planning, progress reports, report cards, SST, and/or parent conferences. Throughout the year, teachers may assess students and record GKIDS data based on their system's curriculum map or report card schedule. At the end of the year, summary reports and individual student reports will be generated based on the data the teacher has entered throughout the year.

## ***Advanced Placement Exams (AP)***

Advanced Placement courses are college-level courses offered by trained high school teachers in the regular high school setting. AP courses guarantee rigor in our classrooms. The high school teachers who offer AP courses are trained by The College Board to offer the course at a college-level and have a syllabus approved by The College Board. AP courses are challenging and require significant study time on a daily basis. Assessments in these classes require sophisticated critical thinking skills. In May of each year, AP students take the AP exam(s). Students who score at the 3, 4 or 5 level may be able to earn college credit for these courses taken in the high school. Policies for credit differ from college to college, so take care to check college admissions and credit policies.

## ***PSAT***

This exam is an excellent opportunity for students to understand the requirements of the SAT, which is a critical reasoning examination used as a criteria in college admission. Tenth grade students who participate in the October administration of the PSAT at their home high school receive a detailed Score Report Plus in December.