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# GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE

(FORMERLY KNOWN AS GEORGIA MILESTONES)

CHECK OUT GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION WEBSITE

[WWW.GADOE.ORG](http://WWW.GADOE.ORG)

# GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE(GSE)SYSTEM

- ON FEBRUARY 19, 2015, THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION (SBOE) VOTED TO RENAME THE ELA AND MATHEMATICS STANDARDS TO THE GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE (GSE). THE RECENTLY REVISED AND SBOE APPROVED ELA AND MATHEMATICS STANDARDS FOR IMPLEMENTATION BEGINNING FOR THE 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR WILL BE CALLED THE ELA AND MATHEMATICS GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE (GSE).THE GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE(GSE) IS A COMPREHENSIVE SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM SPANNING GRADES 3 THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL. GSE MEASURES HOW WELL STUDENTS HAVE LEARNED THE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS OUTLINED IN THE STATE-ADOPTED CONTENT STANDARDS IN LANGUAGE ARTS, MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE, AND SOCIAL STUDIES. STUDENTS IN GRADES 3 THROUGH 8 WILL TAKE AN END-OF-GRADE ASSESSMENT IN EACH CONTENT AREA, WHILE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WILL TAKE AN END-OF-COURSE ASSESSMENT FOR EACH OF THE EIGHT COURSES DESIGNATED BY THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

# FEATURES THE GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE (GSE) INCLUDE:

- OPEN-ENDED (CONSTRUCTED-RESPONSE) ITEMS IN LANGUAGE ARTS AND MATHEMATICS (ALL GRADES AND COURSES);
- A WRITING COMPONENT (IN RESPONSE TO PASSAGES READ BY STUDENTS) AT EVERY GRADE LEVEL AND COURSE WITHIN THE LANGUAGE ARTS ASSESSMENT;
- NORM-REFERENCED ITEMS IN ALL CONTENT AREAS AND COURSES, 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 AS BACK-UP UNTIL THE TRANSITION IS COMPLETE.

# WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE(GSE)?

- THE GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE SYSTEM IS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT HOW WELL STUDENTS ARE MASTERING THE STATE-ADOPTED CONTENT STANDARDS IN THE CORE CONTENT AREAS OF 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 ENDEAVOR (COLLEGE OR CAREER). INFORMING PARENTS, EDUCATORS, AND THE PUBLIC ABOUT HOW WELL STUDENTS ARE LEARNING IMPORTANT CONTENT IS AN ESSENTIAL ASPECT OF ANY EDUCATIONAL ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM. PARENTS, THE PUBLIC, AND POLICY MAKERS, INCLUDING LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND BOARDS OF EDUCATION, CAN USE THE RESULTS AS A BAROMETER OF THE QUALITY OF EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDED THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF GEORGIA. AS SUCH, GSE SERVES AS A KEY COMPONENT OF THE STATE’S ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM – THE COLLEGE AND CAREER READY PERFORMANCE INDEX (CCRPI).

# WHAT CONTENT AREAS AND GRADE LEVELS ARE TESTED?

- STUDENTS IN GRADES 3 THROUGH 8 WILL TAKE AN END-OF-GRADE ASSESSMENT IN THE CONTENT AREAS OF LANGUAGE ARTS, MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE, SOCIAL STUDIES. THESE TESTS ARE ADMINISTERED TOWARDS THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR, TYPICALLY IN APRIL OR EARLY MAY. EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT SELECTS A LOCAL TESTING WINDOW FROM WITHIN THE STATE DESIGNATED TIMEFRAME TO ADMINISTER THE END-OF-GRADE MEASURES.

# STUDENTS AT THE HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL WILL TAKE AN END-OF-COURSE ASSESSMENT IN THE FOLLOWING EIGHT COURSES:

- LANGUAGE ARTS
  - NINTH GRADE LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION
  - AMERICAN LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION
- MATHEMATICS
  - COORDINATE ALGEBRA
  - ANALYTIC GEOMETRY
- SCIENCE
  - PHYSICAL SCIENCE
  - BIOLOGY
- SOCIAL STUDIES
  - UNITED STATES HISTORY
  - ECONOMICS/BUSINESS/FREE ENTERPRISE

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**PARENTS/GUARDIANS WE WILL  
SHARE INFORMATION ON GEORGIA  
STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE(GSE) AS  
WE GET IT!**