



Georgia Department of Education

Curriculum & Instruction Updates

Educating Georgia's Future

March 2016

FROM C&I DIRECTOR PAM SMITH

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State Board of Education Updates

Science: The State Board of Education approved the first Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE) for Science, which will be implemented during the 2017-2018 school year following a full year of teacher training and resource development. The new standards were developed based on public feedback from teachers, parents and families, students, business and industry, and community members who shared their input through survey opportunities and committee participation. Following the development process, the standards were posted for a 60-day public comment period which ran from January 15 to March 14, 2016.

- [Summary of Changes](#)

“These standards were developed based on feedback from the public – from teachers, students, parents, business and industry leaders, higher education representatives, and other concerned citizens,” State School Superintendent Richard Woods said. “We are grateful for the thousands of Georgians who took the time to review the proposed standards and share their opinions – they have helped us create appropriate standards with ample time available for teacher training.”

“The standards review process is intended to give educators, parents, and other stakeholders an opportunity to express their concerns, and changes were made on the basis of their responses,” State Board Chair Mike Royal said. “As a result, these new science standards are a direct response to the needs of Georgia’s students.”

As part of the review process that produced the new standards, science teachers across the state were asked to provide feedback for every single standard and element in their grade level or high school course.

The science surveys drew more than 9,000 teachers, with participation from every school district. Regional Education Service Agencies (RESAs) assisted in development of the survey, and the University System of Georgia provided a third-party analysis of the survey results.

Students, parents and families, business and industry, and community members were also invited to provide feedback on the existing standards through an additional survey. SEDL, an affiliate of American Institutes for Research, assisted in management of this survey, and Georgia State University provided a third-party analysis of the results.

Survey results were used by practicing Georgia science teachers to guide revisions made to the existing standards. Advisory and academic committees also took part in the revision; committee members included district-level instructional leaders, parents, and representatives from business and industry, Georgia’s university and technical college systems, nonprofit organizations and other education-related state agencies.

The proposed standards were then posted for 60 days of public comment. Following that period, committee members reconvened to review the survey data and make recommendations by grade level and high school course. During the time public comment was open, the GaDOE received 5,098 responses to the science survey.

Supporting Documents – Science

- [Georgia Standards of Excellence – Science](#)
- [Science – Board Item](#)
- [Science – Crosswalk](#)

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Social Studies: The State Board of Education postponed their discussion and review of the proposed Social Studies Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE) until the next State Board of Education meeting. The draft GSE will be taken back to social studies committee members to discuss recommendations for modifications/clarifications. If approved at the next State Board meeting, the Social Studies GSE will be implemented beginning in school year 2017-18.

College Readiness Mathematics Added to List of State-Funded 9-12 Courses

On March 31, 2016, the State Board of Education approved the College Readiness Mathematics course. This course has been added to the list of State-Funded courses with course number 27.08900. The List of State-Funded courses supported by [State Board of Education Rule 160-4-2-.20 is posted here](#). See the Mathematics section.

Important Links

- [List of State-Funded Courses](#)
- [Summary of Changes](#)

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

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Professional Learning

Dodge Learning Resources is sponsoring the Georgia Conferences on Learning and Teaching June 7-8, in Perry, Georgia. Nationally and internationally recognized authors and experts Rick Wormli, Jeff Anderson, and Nell Duke are among the presenters. Concurrent workshop sessions are designed to enhance writing instruction, improve student learning, and inspire teachers, coaches, and administrators. This year's conference title is "Teaching Across Curriculum Boundaries."

- [More Information](#)

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION UPDATES

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Remedial Education (REP)

On March 31, 2016, the State Board of Education initiated the amendment process for Rule 160-4-5-.01 Remedial Program. The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, which includes the synopsis, strikethrough version of the current rule, and a draft version of the proposed rule, details how you and the public can provide your feedback on these revisions.

- [The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#)

The State Board of Education will hold a hearing and consider the proposed rule at its May meeting on May 5, 2016.

MATHEMATICS

Sandi Woodall, swoodall@doe.k12.ga.us

Mathematics Updates

As previously noted, the State Board of Education approved a fourth mathematics course option titled College Readiness Mathematics to be added to the roster of state-funded 9th-12th grade courses.

College Readiness Mathematics is designed as a bridge course for high school students who will enroll in non-STEM post-secondary study and will serve to meet the high school fourth mathematics course graduation requirement. This course has been approved by the University System of Georgia as a fourth mathematics course beyond Algebra II or Advanced Algebra for non-STEM majors.

Specifics surrounding College Readiness Mathematics' resources and professional learning and other current K-12 mathematics education issues will be discussed at the district mathematics supervisor update webinar scheduled for April 12, 2016.

- [Register for April 12, 10:00 a.m. Webinar Session](#)

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CTAE

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First Annual Georgia JROTC Cross Service Drill Meet

The First Annual Georgia JROTC Cross Service Drill Meet was held at Georgia Military College on Saturday, February 27, 2016. Twelve schools from across the state arrived and participated in the events from 8:00-4:00. The top three overall winners received trophies and they are as follows:

- First Place — Luella HS
- Second Place — Coffee HS
- Third Place — Lee County HS

Medals and trophies were awarded to winners in each of the different individual events.

Thanks to all who competed and plans are already being made for an even larger event next year.

Special thanks are extended to:

The Georgia Military College for hosting the event, making their facilities available to our cadets and instructors, and providing tours of the campus

The National Guard for providing trophies

The Georgia JROTC State Advisory Committee for creating and providing the event as well as donating \$1,500 to GMC for student scholarships

Major Mac Kelly Jr., Senior Marine Instructor at North Forsyth High School, for managing the logistics and serving as the meet coordinator

MOWR Update

Program Regulations for the 2016-2017 academic year (FY 2017) will be released in May 2016 upon GSFC Board of Commissioners' approval. The Regulations are announced through a Dear Colleague Letter each year and hosted on GAcollege411.org and GSFC.org.

Reminder that a MOWR on-line application and a MOWR Student Participation Form must be completed for each term a student participates, this includes summer as well.

MOWR School Participation Forms have been changed. MOWR School Participation Forms are now only being required every 4 years for public and private high schools. The new one for 2017-2020 must be signed and submitted to the Georgia Student Finance Commission by July 1, 2017.

Participating Home Study Programs in Georgia must continue to sign a MOWR Home Study Program Participation Agreement each year as part of the Georgia Department of Education process for submitting the Declaration of Intent to homeschool.

Georgia Student Finance Commission sent out Dear Colleague Letters on March 14, 2016, regarding MOWR updates and participation agreements. Three different letters were sent and are posted on gsfc.org

STEM Georgia Teachers' Academy

Gilda Lyon, glyon@doe.k12.ga.us

STEM Georgia Teachers' Academy Professional Learning Opportunity

Augusta University - June 14-15, 2016 - (Free)

- [Register for Augusta](#)

UGA Tifton Conference Center - June 28-29, 2016 - (Free)

- [Register for Tifton](#)

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SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES AND SUPPORTS

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Student Success: Imagine the Possibilities!

Reminder: Interested in support for helping all students in your school district graduate? The Division of Special Education Services and Supports collaborates with School and District Effectiveness as well as other Divisions in the Department of Education to provide targeted support for districts as they work to decrease their dropout rate and increase their graduation rate. Student Success: Imagine the possibilities (SSIP) is built on the work of Georgia's State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG) that is now aligned with Georgia's SSIP. For more information about resources visit the [website](#) or contact your regional; GLRS director.

What's Special About Special Education?

The Florida Department of Education and The University of South Florida collaborated to produce "What is Special About Special Education?" The graphics and technical assistance paper delineate the provision of specially designed instruction in the context of tiered instruction and intervention. These documents can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

GO-IEP

[Georgia Online IEP \(GO-IEP\)](#) is an IEP application developed by the GaDOE and available through SLDS. It includes the Special Education Eligibility and IEP as well as many other forms and reports. This application has many audit rules that are designed to assist staff in developing compliant the Eligibility and IEP reports. [GO-IEP](#) also has features to help with some required state reports such as Student Records.

Currently, about 75 school districts are using GO-IEP and an additional 25 will be added next year. Districts who are interested in learning more about [GO-IEP](#) can find additional information on the GaDOE website.

SOCIAL STUDIES

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Updates

Looking for information on Social Studies Professional Learning for the Georgia Standards of Excellence? Watch the webinar recording of [Tentative Plans for Science & Social Studies Professional Learning](#) from March 22, 2016 and/or download the [Tentative Plans for Science & Social Studies Professional Learning](#) PowerPoint.

The Georgia Council for the Social Studies is now accepting proposals for the 2016 conference. The theme is: Change, Challenge, Opportunity.

- [Submit proposal](#)

New PowerPoint resources are available for Economics in the frameworks for each unit. Click to see [new Economics resources](#).

Looking for Living Histories for your classroom that help teach positive character traits in a historical context? Check out the [free resources from the Medal of Honor Program](#).

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SCHOOL COUNSELING

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MAGIC Summer Professional Learning for School Counselors

May 31, June 1, June 2, 2016
Macon Centreplex - Macon, GA
8:15 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Lunch provided. School Counselors can choose from three different sessions.

To Register

1. Visit ctaern.org (Login info: First three letters of last name and last four digits of SSN)
2. Workshop catalog
3. Workshop categories (upper right)
4. Guidance/Career Development
5. Click “Register” tab to register for the desired summer workshop(s) you would like to attend.
6. An email confirmation will be sent to you after successfully registering for each workshop.

Calculating the HOPE/Zell Miller Scholarship Grade Point Average (GPA)

Here is the link to the [HOPE/Zell Miller Scholarship document](#) that explains how the GPAs are calculated. Within this document, Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC) acknowledges that all fourth science courses will be included in the calculation. For more information, contact Myrel Seigler at mseigler@doe.k12.ga.us.

Move On When Ready - Reminder

Eligible High Schools should begin completing the agreement application with Georgia Student Finance Commission in order to participate in the Move On When Ready program for 2016-17. The online application is now available at gacollege411.org.

Career Seminar Series

New this year, Roswell High School Student Services created “The Hub,” a student-centered space for college and career preparation, student seminars, parent coffee talks, and student mental health support. The Hub transforms a quiet place for students to “chillax,” to a busy work space, with students and parent volunteers exploring post-secondary options. One new program in The Hub this year is the “Career Seminar Series,” in which local business people come to Roswell High School to present to students on various career industries in Georgia. The first seminar related to engineering and manufacturing included engineers from Georgia Tech.

Future Career Seminar topics include medicine and orthopedics, robotics, corporate citizenship, and environmental sustainability. Roswell Counselor Lauren Butler is coordinating the series and providing a wealth of career-related information for the students.

COLLEGE READINESS

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Webinars for AP Lang and Lit

In preparation for the May 2016 AP exams and as a response to input from teachers of AP Lit and Lang across the state, the College Readiness Unit at GaDOE will host webinars for teachers of AP English Language on April 12 and April 19 and for AP English Literature on April 20. The broad topic for these April sessions is Writing Strategies. Each webinar will be led by a panel of master AP teachers from GA public high schools.

To register for any of these sessions contact Bonnie Marshall, bmarshall@doe.k12.ga.us.