



Georgia Department of Education

Educating Georgia's Future

# Curriculum & Instruction Updates

September 2015

## FROM C&I DIRECTOR PAM SMITH

### GAESP and GAMSP Fall Conference

Pam Smith, [pamsmith@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:pamsmith@doe.k12.ga.us)

The Georgia Associations for both Elementary and Middle School Principals are working in collaboration to provide their annual Fall Conference on November 8 - 10, 2015, at the Marriott Savannah Riverfront in Savannah.

Conference Title: The Three "Rs" (Refocus, Recharge, Reconnect)

Program presentations include:

- Richard Woods, State School Superintendent, DOE
- Updates, Pam Smith, Director of Curriculum
- Who Packs Your Parachute? Patrick Grady, National Keynote
- The Masterpiece in You! Richard Hight, National Keynote
- Deborah Tyler Leadership Development, NAESP
- Valarie Wilson, Executive Director Ga. School Boards

### 2015 Fall Curriculum Directors' Conference Presentations

Many thanks to all who were able to attend the 2015 Fall Curriculum Directors' Conference on September 23 in Athens. Access the [conference presentations with this link](#).

## STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION UPDATES

### Information Technology (Computer Science) Pathway Courses

Delda Hagin, [dhagin@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:dhagin@doe.k12.ga.us)

On September 25, 2015, the State Board of Education approved to post three Computer Science courses for 60 days of public review and comment. The three courses are part of the Information Technology Cluster/Pathway and include: Embedded Computing, Game Design: Animation and Simulation, and Web Development.

> [Provide feedback regarding the course standards](#)

## ASSESSMENT

### Updated Georgia Milestones Webpage

Anthony Eitel, [aeitel@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:aeitel@doe.k12.ga.us)

In recent weeks, the GaDOE Assessment team has been posting new and updated resources to the Georgia Milestones webpage.

Additionally, the webpage has been reorganized into two categories of resources: Test Administration/Teacher Resources and Parent Resources. Please check out the [Georgia Milestones webpage](#) when time permits.

# Curriculum & Instruction Updates



## MATHEMATICS

### Frequently Asked Questions

Brooke Kline, [bkline@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:bkline@doe.k12.ga.us)

#### **Q: Which Computer Science courses meet the fourth mathematics high school graduation requirement?**

A: The following Computer Science courses would meet the fourth mathematics high school graduation requirement. The courses are identified in the [most recent version of IDA-3](#) on pages 109-111. They are Information Technology courses and the designation is explained within the course name cell.

- 11.01600 Advanced Placement Computer Science A: Course meets fourth science or fourth mathematics or world language requirement; Two computer science courses from the same pathway will satisfy two years of sequenced foreign language courses.
- 11.01700 International Baccalaureate Computer Science, Year One: Course meets fourth science, or fourth mathematics, or world language requirement; Two computer science courses from the same pathway will satisfy two years of sequenced foreign language courses. Note: IB schools must satisfy IB requirements that may differ from this state option.
- 11.01710 International Baccalaureate Computer Science, Year Two: Course meets fourth science, or fourth mathematics, or world language requirement; Two computer science courses from the same pathway will satisfy two years of sequenced foreign language courses. Note: IB schools must satisfy IB requirements that may differ from this state option.
- 11.47100 Computer Science Principles: Course meets fourth science, or fourth mathematics, or world language requirement; Two computer science sequenced courses from the same pathway will satisfy two years of sequenced foreign language courses.

- 11.47200 Programming, Games, Apps and Society: Course meets fourth science, or fourth mathematics, or world language requirement; Two computer science sequenced courses from the same pathway will satisfy two years of sequenced foreign language courses.

#### **Q: Will a student who was unsuccessful in CCGPS Coordinate Algebra B and is enrolled in GSE Algebra I B miss instruction of any standards?**

A: Students who did not earn credit in CCGPS Coordinate Algebra B and are enrolled in GSE Algebra I B will need to address the standards contained in Unit 3 of GSE Algebra I A (Modeling and Analyzing Quadratic Functions) and additional GSE Algebra I A standards MGSE9-12.N.RN.2, MGSE9-12.N.RN.3, and MGSE9-12.A.APR.1.

#### **Q: Will a student who was unsuccessful in CCGPS Coordinate Algebra B and is enrolled in GSE Coordinate Algebra B miss instruction of any standards?**

A: Students who did not earn credit in CCGPS Coordinate Algebra B and are enrolled in GSE Coordinate Algebra B will **not** miss instruction of any standards because no gaps in content occur between CCGPS Coordinate Algebra and GSE Coordinate Algebra.

#### **Q: Will a student who was unsuccessful in CCGPS Analytic Geometry B and is enrolled in either GSE Analytic Geometry B or GSE Geometry B miss instruction of any standards?**

A: Students who did not earn credit in CCGPS Analytic Geometry B and are enrolled in either GSE Analytic Geometry B or GSE Geometry B will **not** miss instruction of any standards.

# Curriculum & Instruction Updates



## SCHOOL COUNSELING

### Save the Dates

Myrel Seigler, [mseigler@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:mseigler@doe.k12.ga.us)

#### Dates and locations:

October 6 - GAfutures training--Tifton, UGA Conference Center

October 7 - GAfutures training--Columbus, Cunningham Center

October 20 - GAfutures training--Cartersville, Clarence Brown Conference Center

October 22 - GAfutures training--Atlanta Metropolitan College

October 26 - GAfutures training, Athens, Classic Center

November 4-6, Georgia School Counselors Association Annual Conference, Savannah

#### Upcoming Webinars

Maria Grovner, [mgrovner@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:mgrovner@doe.k12.ga.us)

October 7 - ASCA's Mindsets and Behaviors

October 8 - Best Practices for Theme Days, Weeks, and Months

October 27 - Value Added Career Activities for Elementary Level (morning)

October 27 - Spicing Up Your College Counseling Initiatives (afternoon)

## SCIENCE

### Fall Workshops at the Georgia Aquarium

Juan-Carlos Aguilar, [jaguilar@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:jaguilar@doe.k12.ga.us)

#### Why Do We Explore?

Join National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Georgia Aquarium Education Staff as they introduce Volume 1 of the NOAA Ship Okeanos Explorer Education Materials Collection: Why Do We Explore? for Grades 5-12. During this professional development offering, you will learn how to use standards-based lessons and other resources to explore topics related to climate change, energy, human health and ocean health.

Workshop Date: October 3, 2015

Target Audience: Grades 4-12

#### Ocean Talks

Ocean Talks provides an opportunity for you to meet our research team and learn about the work they are doing in the field to better understand the aquatic world. These mini workshops are held quarterly to provide you with current information and lessons that link to your classroom.

Workshop Dates: October, January, and April (TBD)

Target Audience: Grades K-12

Check [website for dates and more information](#) after September 1st.

#### Remote Operated Vehicle

Looking to link STEM concepts with ocean exploration and research? During this hands-on workshop, you will build your own Remote Operated Vehicle (ROV) from PVC pipe and other materials. You will also learn about ROV technology and its use in research, monitoring and the exploration of national marine sanctuaries.

Workshop Dates: November 6 and 7, 2015

Target Audience: Grades 5-12

For more information contact Kim Morris-Zarneke, Manager of Interpretive Programs at 404-581-4192 or by e-mail at [kzarneke@georgiaaquarium.org](mailto:kzarneke@georgiaaquarium.org)

# Curriculum & Instruction Updates



## REVISION OF STANDARDS: SCIENCE & SOCIAL STUDIES

Science Program Manager, Dr. Juan-Carlos Aguilar, [jaguilar@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:jaguilar@doe.k12.ga.us)  
Social Studies Program Manager, Shaun Owen, [sowen@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:sowen@doe.k12.ga.us)

A review of K-12 Science and Social Studies Standards is underway. Following is the **tentative** timeline for the review and revision process:

- October 2015 – K-12 Working Committees meet to revise the standards
- November 2015 - Advisory and Academic Review Committees meet to review the draft recommended changes to the standards
- January 2016 - Recommendations for revised standards are presented to the State Board of Education (SBOE) to post for 60 days of public review and comment
- April 2016 - Draft standards are presented to the SBOE for consideration
- 2016-2017 - Initial communication, resource development, and professional learning
- 2017-2018 school year - Year one of K-12 implementation; ongoing communication, resource development, and professional learning

## SOCIAL STUDIES

### Middle School Social Studies Standards

Shaun Owen, [sowen@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:sowen@doe.k12.ga.us)

There have been concerns expressed regarding the extent to which religion is addressed in the Georgia Performance Standards (GPS). According to the Georgia Performance Standards, in sixth grade students should be able to describe the cultural characteristics of Europe, including the major religions in Europe; include Judaism, Christianity, and Islam (SS6G11b). In the seventh grade, students should be able to describe the diverse cultures of the people who live in Southwest Asia (Middle East), and compare and contrast the prominent religions in Southwest Asia (Middle East): Judaism, Islam, and Christianity (SS7G8c).

Decisions for resources to support the standards are made at the local school or school district levels.

### Professional Learning for Social Studies

The GaDOE is bringing Bruce Lesh, author of the book [Why Won't you Just Tell me the Answer?](#) to deliver professional development workshops for Middle and High School Social Studies teachers. Participants will receive a free copy of his book. He will present, at no charge, to five RESA districts during the year. Workshop topics: historical thinking and historical literacy, integrating literacy skills, and teaching with primary and secondary documents. Keep checking the [Social Studies webpage](#) for specific workshop dates and locations.

# Curriculum & Instruction Updates



## FINE ARTS

Jessica Booth, [jbooth@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:jbooth@doe.k12.ga.us)

The Georgia Department of Education added a Fine Arts Specialist serving Curriculum and Instruction and the GA Virtual School this summer. Please direct all Fine Arts related questions to:

Jessica Booth  
[jbooth@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:jbooth@doe.k12.ga.us)  
Fine Arts Specialist  
GA Department of Education  
Suite 1754 Twin Towers East  
205 Jesse Hill Jr. Drive  
Atlanta GA 30334  
404-656-0675

> [Fine Arts Program Page](#)

### New Grant Opportunity

Tina Lilly, [tlilly@gaarts.org](mailto:tlilly@gaarts.org), 404-962-4827

Offered by Georgia Council for the Arts (GCA), the new Vibrant Communities grant will fund arts projects in counties where no organization received a GCA Project or Partner Grant for FY16. The complete list of eligible counties is included in the guidelines. This grant will fund programs such as performances, exhibits, residencies, workshops, lecture/demos, and festivals.

To accompany the guidelines, GCA created a sample list of arts and arts education programs for which a community, organization, agency, institution, or school may request support. Both the guidelines and the sample program list can be found on the [GCA website](#).

## COLLEGE READINESS

### AP Exams, May 2016

Becky Chambers, [rchambers@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:rchambers@doe.k12.ga.us)

The state will again pay for one AP exam for each qualifying low income student. The cost of 2016 AP exams for low income students remains at \$53.00. The full price of a 2016 AP exam is \$92.00.

### AP Champion Competition

GaDOE and The College Board are sponsoring the 2016 AP Champion competition. Five state winners will be selected from the applicants. The competition is for the best plan for your AP Day Celebration in your school. Applications and criteria were sent to all high school principals on September 28, 2015. The deadline for principals to submit completed applications is November 10, 2015.

# Curriculum & Instruction Updates



## SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES AND SUPPORTS

### Student Success: Imagine the Possibilities

Anne Ladd - [aladd@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:aladd@doe.k12.ga.us)

The Division of Special Education Services and Supports has been collaborating with other Divisions within DOE, local school districts, other agencies and resources across the state to share information about **Student Success: Imagine the Possibilities**, a comprehensive, multi-year focus on improving results for Students with Disabilities (SWD), specifically graduation outcomes. As a part of this focus, all school districts will develop or revise local improvement strategies to increase the graduation rate for SWDs. In addition, 50 districts (representing 46% of the state's SWD population) have been identified to receive intensive technical assistance and will work collaboratively with regional teams to outline next steps. Districts were selected based on: participation in the Graduate FIRST Project; a SWD graduation rate approximately  $\leq 30\%$ ; and priority, focus or alert school status based on graduation rate. Special Education staff have been providing information through meetings, webinars and documents to get the message out statewide that through seamless technical assistance that builds capacity for district leadership to support school leadership (teaching and learning), students will achieve better outcomes and graduate from high school.

Discussions with districts indicate that some may have issues of equity. Barriers often exist in districts related to:

#### 1. Access to the General Curriculum for All Students

- Universal Design for Learning (UDL)
- Differentiated Instruction

- Interventions and Supports
2. Access to Positive School Climate for All Students
    - Learning environments that nurture the whole child
  3. Access to Specially Designed Instruction for Students with Disabilities
    - Appropriate services and supports

Did you know that 65% of Georgia's children with disabilities (ages 6-21) are served inside of the regular class 80% or more of the day? It is important as districts plan with stakeholders that they ask themselves:

- Do all students have equitable access to the general curriculum?
- Do teachers have access to written curricula that are aligned to standards?
- Do teachers have access to inclusive planning opportunities to create weekly plans that meet the needs of all students?
- What is the role of district leadership in developing, implementing, and evaluating local curriculum?

The resources for **Student Success: Imagine the Possibilities** are available to help districts address barriers and increase graduation rates. For more information visit DOE's Student Success Webpage or contact your local Georgia Learning Resource System (GLRS) director.