

### ***What is the Georgia Milestones Assessment System?***

The Georgia Milestones Assessment System (Georgia Milestones) is a comprehensive assessment system spanning grades 3 through high school. Georgia Milestones measures how well students have learned the knowledge and skills outlined in the state-adopted content standards in English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. Students in grades 3 through 8 will take End-of-Grade (EOG) assessments in English Language Arts and Mathematics, while grades 5 and 8 students will also take the EOG Science and Social Studies assessments. High school students will take End-of-Course (EOC) assessments for each of the ten courses in which they are enrolled, as designated by the State Board of Education.

### ***What is the purpose of Georgia Milestones?***

Georgia Milestones is designed to provide information about how well students are mastering the state-adopted content standards in the core content areas of English 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 the next endeavor (college or career).

### ***What types of questions will a student see on the Georgia Milestones assessments?***

Georgia Milestones includes the item types described below:

- open-ended (constructed-response) items in English 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 English Language Arts assessments;
- nationally norm-referenced items in all content areas and courses to complement the Georgia criterion-referenced information and to provide a national comparison; and
- multiple-choice items in all content areas and courses.

Georgia Milestones will be transitioned to online testing over time. Online is considered the primary mode of testing, with paper-and-pencil available as backup until the transition is complete.



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### ***Where can I find more information about Georgia Milestones?***

Talk with your student's teacher or school principal. They can provide specific information about the dates your student will be taking the assessments this year. Resources to help your student prepare for Georgia Milestones are available on the Georgia Department of Education's website at <http://testing.gadoe.org>. To see what online testing is like, you and your student may visit the Experience Online Testing Georgia website at <http://gaexperienceonline.com>. The items on the demonstration tests are general and represent multiple grade levels. They do not assess student achievement.

### ***What can I do to help my student?***

Students who are prepared, calm, and rested perform better on tests. Here are some of the many ways to help your student approach Georgia Milestones in a relaxed, positive way:

- Encourage your student to employ good study and test-taking skills. These skills include following directions carefully, avoiding careless errors, and reviewing work.
- Explain the purpose of the tests. The assessments give students an opportunity to show what they have learned in school. They also give teachers information that helps them plan instruction.
- Point out that some items may be more difficult than others.
- Be certain your student gets plenty of sleep and has a healthy breakfast and lunch. Taking tests is hard work for many students and can require a lot of energy.
- Be certain your student is at school on time. Rushing and worrying about being late could affect performance on the tests.
- Remember to ask your student about the testing at the end of each day.

