

### ***When do students take the assessments?***

Students will take the assessments on days specified by their local school system within designated state testing windows.

The EOC Main Winter administration will occur from late November through early January. The Spring Main administration will occur from late April through early June, with the Summer Main administration taking place in June and July. In addition, Mid-Month administrations are available during designated months of the year for students who require testing at a time other than the Main administrations.

Students in grades 3 through 8 will participate in the EOG assessments from early April through early May. The Retest administration will occur from May through July.

### ***What scores do students receive on Georgia Milestones?***

The state-adopted content standards set specific academic benchmarks and expectations for all students in Georgia's public schools. Georgia Milestones measures how well a student has acquired the knowledge and skills outlined in the standards for his or her grade level. Students are not compared to each other but are measured instead on how well they are meeting the standards. Student achievement in each content area is classified into four performance levels. Student test results are provided to parents and schools.

Georgia Milestones includes a limited sample of nationally norm-referenced items to provide a signal of how Georgia students are achieving relative to their peers nationally. Only approved norm-referenced items aligned to Georgia standards will contribute to a student's criterion-referenced achievement level, scale score, and grade conversion score.

In grades 3, 5, and 8, Georgia Milestones results inform promotion/retention decisions in the areas of reading (grades 3, 5, and 8) and mathematics (grades 5 and 8). If needed, students are afforded a retest opportunity in the summer. For high school students, the EOC measures serve as their final exam with the resulting score counting as 20 percent of their final course grade.

Performance on the English Language Arts portion of Georgia Milestones is linked to the Lexile scale, a national reading measure that matches students to appropriately challenging reading materials. An abundance of books and articles are assigned Lexile measures by publishers. All major standardized tests can report student reading scores in Lexiles.

For more information about the Lexile scale, as well as resources to help select literature for your student, visit [www.gadoe.org/lexile.aspx](http://www.gadoe.org/lexile.aspx) on the Georgia Department of Education website.



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### ***Are students with disabilities or students who are English Learners required to take Georgia Milestones?***

State rules, federal requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) mandate that all students participate in the state assessment program. All students must be tested in all Georgia Milestones content areas at their respective grade levels or courses.

Specified accommodations are allowed on state assessments for students who require them. Neither an Individualized Education Program (IEP) team nor a parent can request that a student be exempted from the assessment program. However, if an IEP team determines regular state testing is inappropriate for a student, even with accommodations, the student may participate in the Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA).

While Georgia Milestones' primary mode of testing is online, paper-and-pencil tests will be available for students who require that mode of testing (e.g., Braille).

Students with limited English proficiency who enrolled in a U.S. school for the first time may receive a one-year deferment from assessment in EOG content areas other than Mathematics and Science. Deferments are not permitted for EOC assessments.

## **Georgia Department of Education**

Assessment and Accountability  
1554 Twin Towers East  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334  
Tel (404) 656-2668  
Toll-Free (800) 634-4106  
Fax (404) 656-5976  
<http://testing.gadoe.org>

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