

# Georgia Milestones

Assessment System



Adapted from Power Point presentations from the Georgia Department of Education (GADOE) 2061- 2017 School Year



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*"Making Education Work for All Georgians"*  
[www.gadoe.org](http://www.gadoe.org)

# Georgia Milestones

- **Features include:**
  - inclusion of **constructed-response items** in ELA and mathematics, in addition to selected-response items
  - inclusion of a **writing** component (in response to text) at every grade level and course within the ELA assessment;
  - inclusion of **norm-referenced items** in every grade and content area 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 back-up until transition is completed.



# Georgia Milestones

## Comprehensive

- single program, not series of tests (e.g., CRCT; EOCT; WA); formative assessment tools to complement summative

## Coherent

- consistent expectations and sufficient challenge to position Georgia students to compete with peers nationally and internationally
- consistent signal about student preparedness for the next level, be it the next grade, course, or college/career
- consistent signal about student achievement both within system (across grades and courses) and with external measures (NAEP; PSAT; SAT; ACT)

## Consolidated

- combine reading, language arts, and writing into a single measure to align to the standards



# Woodstation's Plan

- *At Woodstation this year (2016-2017) we are testing all students on-line.*
  - *We re using our computer labs to help with preparing students with skills necessary for testing procedures on-line.*
  - *We are now have one to one technology which will help with test administration.*



# Georgia Milestones: Unique Features

## Features include:

- inclusion of constructed-response (**fill in the blank**) items in ELA and mathematics, in addition to selected-response items (**multiple choice**)
- inclusion of a writing component (in response to text) at every grade level and course within the ELA assessment



# Georgia Milestones: Unique Features

## Features include:

- *inclusion of norm-referenced items in every grade and content area* to complement the criterion-referenced information and to provide a national comparison.



# Georgia Milestones: Unique Features

## Blended: Criterion-Referenced and Norm-Referenced

Georgia Milestones will provide:

- **criterion-referenced performance information** in the form of four performance levels, depicting students' mastery of state standards
- **norm-referenced performance information** in the form of national percentiles, depicting how students' achievement compares to peers nationally

Note: To provide norm-referenced information, some norm-referenced items may not align to Georgia's content standards. Only aligned NRT items will contribute to proficiency designations.



# Georgia Milestones

- It is important to remember that Georgia Milestones is primarily a criterion-referenced test, reflecting the content standards for each grade and course
  - Woodstation Elementary School teachers teach the Georgia state-adopted content standards.





# Georgia Milestones: Unique Features

## Item Types:

- **Selected-Response** (multiple-choice)
  - all content areas (Math, ELA, Reading, Science, and Social Studies)
  - evidence-based selected response in ELA
- **Constructed-Response**- is a general term for assessment items that require the student to generate a response as opposed to selecting a response.
  - ELA and mathematics
- **Extended-Response** – require more elaborate answers and explanations of reasoning. They allow for multiple correct answers and/or varying methods of arriving at the correct answer. Writing prompts and performance tasks are examples of extended-response items
  - ELA and mathematics



# Examining Georgia Milestones Item Types

Example – Grade 3 Mathematics – Fractions



# Multiple Choice : Example

Which fraction is largest? B is the correct answer

(A)  $\frac{1}{4}$

(B)  $\frac{1}{2}$

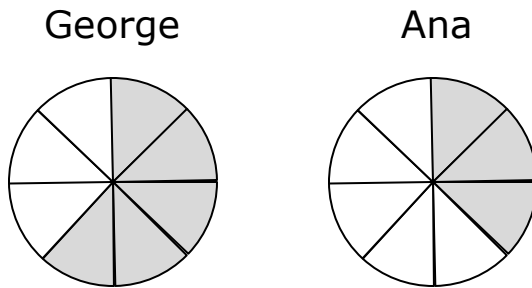
(C)  $\frac{1}{6}$

(D)  $\frac{1}{3}$



# Constructed Response: Example

George and Ana each had a 12-inch pizza. Both pizzas were split into 8 equal pieces. The shaded pieces are the portion of their pizzas that George and Ana ate.



Express in fractions how much pizza George and Ana ate. Use the symbol  $<$ ,  $=$ , or  $>$  to show who ate more pizza.

George

$$\frac{5}{8}$$

$>$

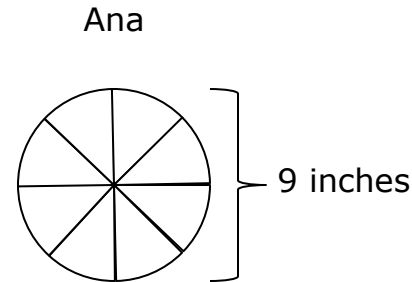
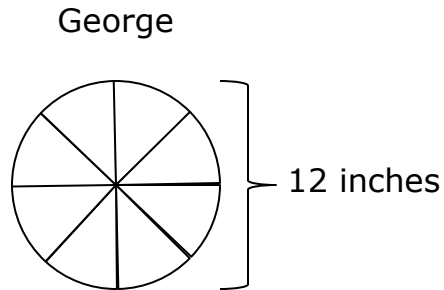
Ana

$$\frac{3}{8}$$

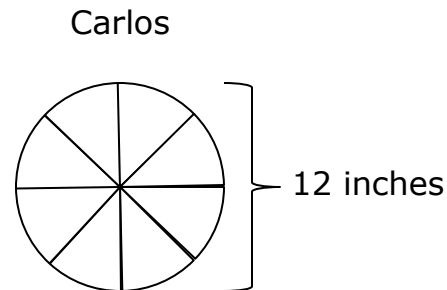
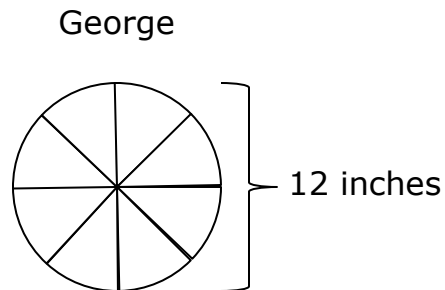


# Constructed Response: Example

George has a 12-inch pizza. Ana has a 9-inch pizza. George and Ana both ate  $\frac{1}{2}$  of their pizza. George says he ate more than Ana. Is George right? Explain why or why not.



George is right. His pizza was bigger so  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a bigger pizza is more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a smaller pizza.



Carlos has a 12-inch pizza. He ate  $\frac{1}{4}$  of his pizza. Did George or Carlos eat more pizza? Explain your answer.

George ate more pizza. Their pizzas are the same size.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the pizza is more than  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the pizza.

# Georgia Milestones

## General Test Parameters

- ELA will consist of 3 sections, 1 of which will focus mainly on writing ( 1 writing section on the first day and 2 sections the next day)
- Mathematics will consist of 2 sections
- Science will consist of 2 sections (5<sup>th</sup> grade only)
- Social Studies will consist of 2 sections (5<sup>th</sup> grade only)

Each section will be approximately 70 minutes.



# Catoosa County Test Dates

- ELA- (1 section) Writing portion April 24th
- ELA- (2 sections) April 25<sup>th</sup>
- Math- (2 sections) April 26<sup>th</sup>
- Science- (2 sections) April 27<sup>th</sup>
- Social Studies- (2 sections) April 28<sup>th</sup>
  - Make-up days: May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup>



# Georgia Milestones

## General Test Parameters: ELA

### Criterion-Referenced

Total Number of Items: 44 / Total Number of Points: 55

#### Breakdown by Item Type:

- 40 Selected Response (worth 1 point each; 10 of which are aligned NRT)
- 2 Constructed Response (2 points each)
- 1 Constructed Response (worth 4 points)
- 1 Extended Response (worth 7 points)

### Norm-Referenced

- Total Number of Items: 20 (10 of which contribute to CR score)

### Embedded Field Test

- Total field test items: 6

Total number of items taken by each student: 60





# Georgia Milestones

## Writing at Every Grade

- All students will encounter a constructed-response item allowing for **narrative** prose, in response to text, **within first or second section of the test** (contributes to the writing score).
- Within the writing section of the test, students will read a pair of passages and complete a series of “warm-up” items:
  - 3 selected-response items asking about the salient features of each passage and comparing/contrasting between the two passages
  - 1 constructed-response item requiring linking the two passages
  - 1 writing prompt in which students must cite evidence to support their conclusions, claims, etc.

### Genres

Writing prompts will be **informative/explanatory** or **opinion/argumentative** depending on the grade level. Students could encounter either genre.

**Warning:** Students who simply rewrite excerpts from the passage(s) to illustrate their point(s) will not receive favorable scores.

# Georgia Milestones

## General Test Parameters: Mathematics

### Criterion-Referenced

Total Number of Items: 53 / Total Number of Points: 58

#### Breakdown by Item Type:

- 50 Selected Response (worth 1 point each; 10 of which are aligned NRT)
- 2 Constructed Response (worth 2 points each)
- 1 Constructed Response (worth 4 points)

### Norm-Referenced

- Total Number of Items: 20 (10 of which contribute to CR score)

### Embedded Field Test

- Total field test items: 10

Total number of items taken by each student: 73



# Georgia Milestones

## General Test Parameters: Science

### Criterion-Referenced

Total Number of Items: 55 / Total Number of Points: 55

#### Breakdown by Item Type:

- 55 Selected Response (worth 1 point each; approximately 10 of which are aligned NRT)

### Norm-Referenced

- Total Number of Items: 20 (approximately 10 of which contribute to CR score)

### Embedded Field Test

- Total field test items: 10

Total number of items taken by each student: 75



# Georgia Milestones

## General Test Parameters: Social Studies

### Criterion-Referenced

Total Number of Items: 55 / Total Number of Points: 55

#### Breakdown by Item Type:

- 55 Selected Response (worth 1 point each; approximately 10 of which are aligned NRT)

### Norm-Referenced

- Total Number of Items: 20 (approximately 10 of which contribute to CR score)

### Embedded Field Test

- Total field test items: 10

Total number of items taken by each student: 75



# Georgia Milestones: Rubrics

- Rubrics are item specific and therefore cannot be released.
  - Generally speaking, rubrics outline the expectations for the answer(s) along with sufficient justification/explanation
    - **Student cites evidence from the text to support answer in ELA**
    - **Student explains reasoning or approach to problem solving in mathematics**
    - **Student answers all portions of the item**



# Key Findings From Pilots of Formative Open-Ended Items

- Overall performance shortfalls
  - Students were not familiar with these types of items
    - Many responded ‘dnk’ – as in ‘do not know’
  - Students did not show their work, detail their thoughts, rationales, cite evidence to support their answer or claim
    - Tendency was to cite answer only – as if a multiple-choice item
  - Students did not read carefully and answer all parts of the question/item



# How is Woodstation preparing your children for the Georgia Milestones?

- Constructive Response (CR) items included in chapter/unit test of all subject areas
- Teaching specific strategies to answer CR items
- Milestones Assessment Guides with sample items.



# Test taking strategies

## RELAXED

- **R**ead the question carefully then reread the passage or problem to find the right answer.
- **E**xamine every answer choice before you choose your answer.
- **L**abel your answer in the passage leave the hard ones for last.
- **A**lways check your work and answer sheet.
- **X**-out (eliminate) answers that cannot be right.
- **E**xceptional effort- give a Woodstation Generals try.
- **D**on't spend too much time on one question. Don't doubt yourself!





# How can YOU Help prepare your children for the Georgia Milestones?

## Your Responsibility:

- Get plenty of rest each night
- Eat a healthy breakfast
- Be on time for school

## Students Responsibility:

- Relax
- Check over their completed work
- Think before they answer
- Try hard. Do their best
- Don't rush to finish
- Listen carefully and follow directions



# TEST DATES:

## Woodstation Elementary

- Monday, April 24<sup>th</sup> – ELA section 1
- Tuesday, April 25<sup>th</sup> – ELA sections 2 & 3
- Wednesday, April 26<sup>th</sup> – Math
- Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup> – Science (5<sup>th</sup> grade)
- Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup> – Social Studies (5<sup>th</sup> grade)





## Questions & Answers

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