Georgia Milestones

2018-2019

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

The Georgia Milestones Assessments are a yearly end-of-grade measure of student achievement in grades 3-8 in the following areas:

**Grades 3, 4, and 5**
- English Language Arts (ELA)
- Mathematics

**5th grade only**
- Science
- Social Studies
What is the purpose of the Georgia Milestones?

- It is designed to show how well a student has met the learning expectations at his or her grade level.
- It provides information on students’ readiness for the next grade level.
- It shows how much progress is made from one grade level to the next.
In grades 3, 5 and 8, the 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 May.
**Online Testing and Dates**

Georgia Milestones will be administered online to grades 3-5 using Chromebooks and desktop computers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AM Session</th>
<th>PM Session</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 9</td>
<td>Grade 3 and 5 ELA Section 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 10</td>
<td>Grade 3 and 5 ELA Section 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 11</td>
<td>Grade 3 and 5 ELA Section 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 12</td>
<td>Grade 4 ELA Section 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 15</td>
<td>Grade 4 ELA Section 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 16</td>
<td>Grade 4 ELA Section 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 17</td>
<td>Grade 3 and 5 Math Section 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 18</td>
<td>Grade 3 and 5 Math Section 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 19</td>
<td>Grade 5 Science Sections 1&amp;2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 22</td>
<td>Grade 5 Social Studies Sections 1&amp;2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 23</td>
<td>Grade 4 Math Section 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 24</td>
<td>Grade 4 Math Section 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What types of questions will a student see on the Georgia Milestones assessments?

- Open ended (constructed response) items in English Language Arts and Mathematics.
- A writing component in response to pages read by students at every grade level.
- Nationally norm-referenced items in all content areas to complement the Georgia criterion-referenced information and to provide a national comparison.
- Multiple Choice items in all content areas.
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. 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:

- Beginning Learners
- Developing Learners
- Proficient Learners
- Distinguished Learners
Beginning Learners

- These students do not yet demonstrate proficiency (skills & abilities) in the knowledge and skills necessary as described in Georgia’s content standards.

- Substantial academic support is needed for these students to be prepared for the next grade level.
Developing Learners

- Students demonstrate partial proficiency in the knowledge and skills necessary as described in Georgia’s content standards.

- These students need additional academic support to ensure success in the next grade.
Proficient Learners

• These students demonstrate proficiency (meet expectations) in knowledge and skills expected at their grade level.

• They are prepared for the next grade level and are considered to be on track for college and career readiness.
Distinguished Learners

- These students demonstrate advanced proficiency in the knowledge & skills expected at their grade level.

- They are well prepared for their next grade level and are well prepared for college and career readiness.
The Individual Student Report (ISR) provides information on your student’s overall performance for the content areas tested at the end of the grade for grades 3-8.

Your student’s performance on the Georgia Milestones End-of-Grade Assessment for Grade 3

1. **CONTENT AREA**: This shows you the subject area(s) in which your student was tested.

2. **ACHIEVEMENT LEVEL**: Milestones results are reported using four categories of achievement that are represented with bar stacks. In previous state tests, achievement was reported in three categories (Does Not Meet, Meets, and Exceeds). Under the new system of reporting, proficiency is the target.

3. **SCALE SCORE**: A scale score is the total number of correct answers converted to a consistent and standardized scale across different forms of the test. Within each range of scores, achievement will fall in one of four achievement levels. The scale score range varies from subject to subject and grade to grade based on the actual test.
This section gives a summary of your student’s achievement in ELA.

This section details your student’s performance on the Reading and Vocabulary portions of the test.

This section details your student’s performance on the Writing and Language portions of the test. This section shows how many points a student earned out of a total for the different components assessed in the essay.

The Comparison chart shows scale score ranges for each achievement level and how your student’s score compares to averages for the school, the school district, and the state.
Lexiles

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 on the Georgia Department of Education website.
Lexiles

- This is an educational tool that links text complexity (how easy or difficult a piece of writing is to read) to readers’ ability on something known as the Lexile scale.
- These “stretch” Lexile bands are the basis for determining at what text complexity level students should be reading—and at which grades—to make sure they are ultimately prepared for the reading demands of college and careers.

- K-1       N/A
- 2-3       420-820L
- 4-5       740-1010L
- 6-8       925L-1185L
- 9-10      1050L-1335L
- 11-CCR    1185L-1385L
Lexile information measures a student’s reading ability. Please note that when looking for suggested titles based on a Lexile score, you should factor in a student’s age and interests. Your student’s teacher can provide additional age-appropriate suggestions to match and to stretch your student as a reader.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Leisure Reading: 710L-810L</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Lexile</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Confessions and Secrets of Howard J. Fingerhut</td>
<td>Hershenhorn, Esther</td>
<td>710L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Girlhood Diary of Louisa May Alcott</td>
<td>Alcott, Louisa May</td>
<td>760L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Treasure of Alpheus Winterborn</td>
<td>Bellairs, John</td>
<td>800L</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Motivating Challenge: 810L-860L</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Lexile</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outside and Inside Flats and Mice</td>
<td>Markle, Sandra</td>
<td>820L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Outcasts of 19 Schuyler Place</td>
<td>Konigsburg, E. L.</td>
<td>840L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who’s Afraid of the Dark?</td>
<td>Bonsall, Crosby</td>
<td>860L</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
This section gives a summary of your student’s achievement in the subject tested. In this example, it is a summary of Mathematics for a 3rd grader.

The “Domain Category” is the area of focus tested in the subject area for a particular grade level, for example, Geometry in Mathematics, Geography in Social Studies, or Cells in Science.

The “Performance” information lets you know how your student did in that area of focus. The level of fill in the circle indicates your student’s level of mastery. For Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies, these results are reported as:

- Remediate Learning (lowest level of performance)
- Monitor Learning (acceptable level of performance)
- Accelerate Learning (highest level of performance)

Teachers will use this information to determine if a student needs additional time and opportunities to master a topic or if the student has mastered it and is ready to tackle more advanced concepts.
National Percentile

The Georgia Milestones assessment includes a small number of questions in each content area that are used on a nationally norm-referenced test, TerraNova. 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.

This information provides a general snapshot of how a student’s answers compare to a national sample of students in the same grade.
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.
- Explain to your child that these tests give students the opportunity to show what they have learned in school.
- Point out that some items may be more difficult than others.
How can I support my child in preparing for the Georgia Milestones Assessments?

- Be certain that your child gets plenty of sleep and has a healthy breakfast and lunch.
- Be certain your student is at school on time. Rushing and worrying about being late can affect performance on the tests.
- Ask your child about the testing at the end of each day.
- Remind your student to charge their Chromebook each night and bring it to school each day.
How can I support my child in preparing for the Georgia Milestones Assessments?

- Video Presentation
  [http://tinyurl.com/pe7yep4](http://tinyurl.com/pe7yep4)

- Experience Student Tests
How can I support my child in preparing for the Georgia Milestones Assessments?

- **Assessment Guides**
  
  [http://tinyurl.com/k456ktz](http://tinyurl.com/k456ktz)  
  highly recommended😊