



**Better together.**

**Core Belief #1**

We believe each student can learn at or above grade level and will have an equal opportunity to do so.

**Commitment #1**

Each student will learn at or above grade level and have an equal opportunity to do so.

**Core Belief #2**

We believe family and community involvement is critical to student success.

**Commitment #2**

We will foster connections for families and community to support student learning.

**Core Belief #3**

We believe all learning environments should be supportive, safe, and secure.

**Commitment #3**

All school environments will be supportive, safe, and secure.

**Core Belief #4**

We believe effective teachers and leaders produce excellent results.

**Commitment #4**

We will recruit, support, retain, and recognize results-driven teachers and leaders.



# **HENRY COUNTY SCHOOLS**

## **A PARENT'S GUIDE to**

### **GEORGIA MILESTONE**

### **ASSESSMENT**

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

The Georgia Milestones Assessment System (Georgia Milestones) is a state required comprehensive assessment system spanning grades 3 through high school. Georgia Milestones measures your students mastery of the state 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 grade 5 and 8 students will also take the EOG Social Studies assessments and grade 8 students will take a science EOG. High school students will take End-of-Course (EOC) assessments for each of the eight EOC associated courses in which they are enrolled, as designated by the State Board of Education.



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

Georgia Milestones is designed to provide information about how well students are mastering the state adopted content standards. Georgia Milestones is designed to provide students and teachers with critical information about a student's individual achievement and his/her 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 be on the Georgia Milestones Assessment?**

**Georgia Milestones is administered on-line, and it includes the item types described below:**

- open-ended (constructed-response) items - where students have to create short written responses to show what they know in English Language Arts (all grades and courses);
- a writing component - where students write an essay (in response to passages read by students) at every grade level and course within the English Language Arts assessments;
- technology-enhanced items that are multiple step problems using interactive items on the assessment; and
- multiple-choice items in all content areas and courses.



## When do students take the assessment?

**For students in grades 3-8**, schools will test students between the dates of April - May of each year.

**For students in grades 9-12**, schools will test students in May of each year. (These dates also apply to middle school students taking high school course with a EOC.)

The students will take different sections each day. The total time tested each day is around 2 hours.



## What can I do to help my student be prepared for the test?

**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.
- Remember to always be positive during this period and offer encouraging words.

## What resources are available for my child to prepare for GMAS?

There are 2 main online resources to help you and your child become familiar yourself with the assessment content and the assessment platform:

- **Experience Online Georgia** provides students with an opportunity to become familiar with the online testing platform through the Test Practice link. This practice site does not require a log-in and is available 7 days a week. <http://www.gaexperienceonline.com/>

❖ Importantly, this practice site is not designed as a “practice test” to measure a student’s knowledge of course content and scores will not be generated. Rather, it is intended to allow students to familiarize themselves with the online platform prior to testing.

- **Georgia Milestones Study Guides** are intended to serve as a resource for parents and students. They contain practice questions and learning activities for each content area. The Georgia Milestones study guides can be reached at the following website:

- ❖ Grades 3-8: <https://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Assessment/Pages/EOG-Study-Resource-Guides.aspx>
- ❖ Grades 9-12: <https://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Assessment/Pages/EOG-Study-Resource-Guides.aspx>