



March 21, 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Georgia Milestones Assessment System is a comprehensive assessment system for grades 3 through high school. Georgia Milestones End of Course (EOC) assessments measure how well high school students have learned the knowledge and skills identified for each of the eight courses designated by the State Board of Education. 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, who are taking End of Course courses, will also take the corresponding EOC assessments.

Georgia Milestones assessments include:

- open-ended (constructed-response) items in English Language Arts and Mathematics in 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 Georgia criterion-referenced items and to facilitate a national comparison;
- multiple-choice items in all content areas and courses.

Student achievement in each content area is classified into one of four performance levels (as depicted on the Individual Student Report(s)). The Achievement levels are as follows:

- Beginning Learner
  - Lack important knowledge and skills to be successful in this subject
  - Need *substantial* support to be ready for the next grade level or course
- Developing Learner
  - Have some of the knowledge and skills necessary in this subject
  - Need *additional* support to be prepared for the next grade level or course
- Proficient Learner
  - Have the knowledge and skills to be successful in this subject
  - Are prepared for the next grade level or course
- Distinguished Learner
  - Have *advanced* knowledge and skills in this subject
  - Are well prepared for the next grade level or course

For the 2018-2019 school year, Valdosta City Schools students (Grades 9-12) will be taking their Georgia Milestones EOC assessments during the April 22 – May 8, 2019 testing window. The EOC achievement level scores are converted to a more conventional 0-100 point score which serves as 20% of a student's final course grade.

In order to provide students with exposure to the online Georgia Milestones testing platform, the Georgia Department of Education has provided a website at:

<http://www.gaexperienceonline.com/>

In order to access a practice test:

1. Log into the website using **GOOGLE CHROME**
2. Click on the *Test Practice* button
3. Select *Online Tool Training* under either End-Of-Course (EOC)
4. Select the appropriate test practice
5. Select *Standard Online Tools* or the Online Accommodations of *Masking, Contrasting Color, and Color Chooser*
6. Log in using the credentials provided

For more information on Georgia Milestones, please visit the Georgia department of Education's website at [testing.gadoe.org](http://testing.gadoe.org) or contact me at [dcole@gocats.org](mailto:dcole@gocats.org)

Sincerely,

Dr. David L. Cole  
Teaching & Learning Coordinator  
Valdosta City Schools