

Assessment

- Throughout the year, classroom teachers will assess each student's growth and progress toward achievement of the learning goals specified in the state curriculum (GPS or QCC if GPS have not been implemented).
- These classroom assessments will be used to guide instruction in order to provide every child with the opportunity to learn and to succeed.
- Students will be made aware of the performance expectations for 5th grade and will acquire self-monitoring and self-assessing skills to help them maximize their achievement.
- In the spring, Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests in Reading, Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies will be administered to 5th graders in order to provide a standardized measure of student learning.
- Beginning in the year the Georgia Performance Standards are implemented for a content area, the CRCT will directly align with those GPS.
- In March, the Grade 5 Writing Assessment will be administered.
- Georgia law also mandates the administration of a norm-referenced test to all 5th grade students sometime during the school year. The state provides the Iowa Test of Basic Skills; a school may choose to administer an alternate norm-referenced test at the system's own expense.

Dear Parents,

Thank you for all you do as parents to guide your children's learning! I am confident that the future of all our children will be bright because of your continued support of public education in Georgia.



We are beginning the most extensive improvement in Georgia education undertaken in the last 18 years—the implementation of the Georgia Performance Standards (GPS). The new state curriculum sets high standards, maintains clear expectations, and will place our schools and our students not just at the top of the Southeast, but at the top of the nation.

As a parent, I personally understand that this kind of change may generate questions and concerns: Why do we need a change? How will this impact my child? What will be different in my child's classroom?

For this reason, I have made communication and keeping you informed an absolute priority. Georgia's teachers and administrators have been preparing for this change, and they will be able to answer many of your questions at your local schools. I also encourage you to visit the Georgia Department of Education website to find out more about the new curriculum: www.georgiastandards.org.

It is a great day for education in Georgia. Like never before, our state is unified behind a mission to raise the achievement level of all students in our public schools. Toward this aim, we have rallied together and successfully tackled many challenges, ushering in a new level of accountability and quality in education. Thank you for your support as we continue to raise the bar for our state's most precious resource, our children.

Kathy Cox,
State Superintendent of Schools

Implementation Schedule for the Georgia Performance Standards in 5th Grade

2005-2006
English Language Arts

2006-2007
Science

2007-2008
Mathematics

2008-2009
Social Studies

Curriculum & Instructional Services

1754 Twin Towers East
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Tel (404) 656-2608

FAX (404) 656-5744

www.georgiastandards.org

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5th Grade

THE NEW GEORGIA PERFORMANCE STANDARDS



*We will lead the nation
in improving student achievement.*



Kathy Cox,
State Superintendent of Schools

www.gadoe.org

5th Grade Language Arts

Fifth grade students will receive instruction in reading, writing, and listening, speaking, & viewing. By the end of 5th grade, students will demonstrate mastery of many concepts and skills, including the following:

- Read and comprehend texts from a variety of genres and a variety of subject areas
- Construct new knowledge by making connections between new and previously held ideas
- Write for a variety of purposes
- Understand a problem or conflict in text and determine an appropriate solution
- Use background knowledge and experiences to draw conclusions and make valid generalizations
- Use evidence/reasoning to support opinions and solutions to problems

5th Grade Mathematics

Fifth grade students will be actively engaged in developing mathematical understandings in real and relevant contexts. By the end of 5th grade, students will be able to:

- Classify counting numbers into subsets (odd/even, prime/composite); find factors and multiples; and use divisibility rules
- Find equivalent fractions and add/subtract fractions/mixed numbers with unlike denominators
- Understand and apply percentages to circle graphs
- Compute area and volume of simple geometric figures and measure capacity
- Understand congruence and the relationship of circumference to diameter of a circle
- Represent and investigate mathematical expressions algebraically by using variables
- Discuss advantages and disadvantages of various types of graphs (including circle graphs)
- Problem solve, develop arguments, use language of mathematics, make connections, and communicate

5th Grade Science

Fifth grade students will investigate evidence related to scientific concepts. They will conduct experiments and do research that focuses on earth science, physical science, and life science. By the end of 5th grade, students will be able to:

- Use records, tables, or graphs to predict patterns of change
- Identify and find examples of constructive and destructive forces while relating the role of technology to monitoring and controlling these forces
- Explain the difference between physical and chemical change
- Describe the relationship between electricity and magnetism
- Classify organisms into groups
- Compare and contrast characteristics of learned behaviors and of inherited traits
- Identify plants, animals, single-celled organisms, and multi-celled organisms
- Relate how microorganisms are harmful or beneficial

5th Grade Social Studies

Fifth grade students will continue the formal study of United States history, beginning with the Civil War and culminating with the present. Concepts in geography, government, and economics will interface with the study of history. By the end of 5th grade, students will be able to:

- Explain the causes, major events, and consequences of the Civil War, and analyze the effects of Reconstruction
- Describe and explain life in America from the late 19th century to the present, including the U. S. involvement in various wars and conflicts, the Great Depression and the New Deal, the Cold War, and significant people and events during this time period
- Locate important places in the United States, both natural and man-made
- Describe and explain how geography affects economic growth and expansion of the U. S.
- Explain the protection of citizens' rights under the constitution, including the process for and history of amending the U. S. Constitution
- Use economic concepts of trade, opportunity cost, specialization, voluntary exchange, productivity, and price incentives to illustrate historical events

