

MEMORANDUM

TO: System Test Coordinators
System Special Education Directors

FROM: John Wight
Director of Assessment Administration

SUBJECT: Nominations of Teachers for the Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA)
Development Committee Meetings

DATE: September 28, 2009

The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) is seeking recommendations for highly qualified educators to participate in the upcoming Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA) End-of-Course Tests (EOCT) Development Committee meetings. These meetings are scheduled for November 9 and 10, 2009 and will be held at a hotel in the Atlanta area. Educators participating in these meetings will determine the structure of the GAA for EOCT courses and identify the curriculum strands to be assessed within each course.

System Test Coordinators and System Special Education Directors should submit the names of qualified special education teachers and content area teachers to focus on the following courses: Ninth Grade Literature and Composition, American Literature and Composition, Biology, Physical Science, Economics/Business/Free Enterprise, US History, Mathematics I and Mathematics II. You may submit up to 3 nominations per system. Please consider educators from your system who:

1. Are experienced in teaching students with significant cognitive disabilities.
2. Demonstrate depth of knowledge in their content area.
3. Demonstrate instructional expertise.
4. Participate in ongoing professional learning including GPS training.
5. Provide leadership among their colleagues.
6. Represent the ethnic and regional diversity of your system.

Educators will be notified in late October 2009 if they are selected for committee participation. Those nominees not selected for this November meeting could be included in a pool from which the Assessment Division staff may select individuals for participation in future events related to the GAA. All nominees should be approved by a school administrator and the system testing director.

Please submit nominations no later than October 16, 2009. The attached nomination form should be completed and returned to our vendor, Questar.

Reimbursements for substitute teachers (where appropriate), mileage at the rate of \$.55 per mile, accommodations, and per diem expenses will be provided for qualifying participants. Breakfast and lunch will be provided to participants. The dinner reimbursement cost is capped at \$15.00.

Thank you for your help with this important part of the GAA program.

If you have any questions regarding nominations or the meetings, please contact Deborah Houston at dhouston@doe.k12.ga.us or (404) 657-0251.

cc: System Superintendents
Kathy Cox, State Superintendent of Schools
Martha Reichrath, Ph.D., Deputy Superintendent for Standards, Instruction, and Assessment
Melissa Fincher, Associate Superintendent of Assessment and Accountability
GNETS Testing Coordinators
RESA Directors