MATHEMATICS EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Georgia Performance Standards (GPS) for mathematics were developed by teachers and educators from both K-12 and higher education, with input from leaders in government, business, and industry. Committee members examined math standards from other states and nations where the content focused on fewer, integrated topics at each grade level. Following extensive public input and revisions, the Standards were approved by the State Board of Education in 2005.

The math curriculum is closely aligned to the standards of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, the American Statistical Association, Achieve, and the College Board, including the New SAT. It is very much in tune with what is occurring across our country and around the world.

Implementation of the new math GPS will occur over a multi-year period. Grade 6 was implemented in 2005; K-2 and 7 in 2006; grades 3-5 and 8 in 2007; and grades 9-12 during 2008-2011. Teacher training and textbook selection coincides with the implementation cycle.

Georgia's mathematics standards have been designed to achieve a balance among concepts, skills, and problem solving. The curriculum stresses rigorous concept development, presents realistic and relevant tasks, and keeps a strong emphasis on computational skills. At all grades, the curriculum encourages students to reason mathematically, to evaluate mathematical arguments both formally and informally, to use the language of mathematics to communicate ideas and information precisely, and to make connections among mathematical topics and to other disciplines. Grade-level information, including Standards and resources, can be found at www.georgiastandards.org. Click on "Math" and then "Math Frameworks."

The new Georgia Performance Standards are designed to help prepare more students to be successful in higher-level courses. Middle schools can continue to offer accelerated courses and high school credit courses for students who have the prerequisite skills. At the high school level, advanced courses continue to be available, including honors, gifted, joint enrollment, Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate.

In 2007-2008, the eighth grade will transition from the QCC curriculum to the new GPS curriculum. During this transition year, systems that choose to offer high school math credit at the middle school may offer QCC math courses (Algebra I, for example), since the new high school GPS courses will not be in effect until 2008-2009. Students who take Algebra or Geometry will be required to complete the End-Of-Course-Test (EOCT) in order to earn credit. All eighth grade students will take the CRCT which is aligned to the eighth grade GPS.

In today's competitive world, *all* students must have strong core classes (math, English, social studies, science) in order to be successful in college or in the world of work. Parents, educators, and community leaders can help Georgia lead the nation in improving student achievement by working together to successfully implement this new mathematics curriculum.