



WHITFIELD COUNTY SCHOOLS
Dalton, Georgia
SINCE 1872

Dear Parent/Guardian:

For the 2014-2015 school year, Georgia has rolled out new assessments. Grades 3-8 changed from the Georgia Criterion Referenced Competency Test (GaCRCT) to the new Georgia Milestones. The new assessments will be used to gauge how well students are mastering the standards and how ready students are to succeed in college and careers. Students will be asked not only what the answer is to a question, but why and how they know the answer.

The new assessments will contain the following types of items:

- Open-ended items also known as constructed responses
- Short answers and extended responses
- Multiple choice questions



By 2019, 100% of students across Georgia will test online. The Georgia Department of Education has required all school systems in year one to test 30% of students online. Whitfield County schools will be testing grades 3 and 6 in all subjects (language, math, science, and social studies). In preparation for these online testing sessions, we will be participating in a Statewide Online Readiness Test from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM on Tuesday, January 13, 2015.

- The purpose of the Statewide Online Readiness Test is to test the school bandwidth and load on the online network.
- The readiness test will be approximately 30 minutes.
- No test items will be scored or reported.

In order to help your child with this transition to the new state online assessments, please partner with us to support your child in the following ways:

- Provide opportunities for longer periods of reading and writing.
- Practice keyboarding skills by typing paragraphs, essays, or class assignments.
- Visit the following websites and discuss these available resources with your child:
 - Experience Online Testing Georgia practice site at <http://learnoas.ctb.com/GA/>
 - National PTA Parent's Guide to New Tests in Georgia at www.pta.org/parentsguide

If you have questions about the Georgia Milestones End of Grade (EOG) or Statewide Online Readiness Test, please contact Audrey M. Williams, Ed.D., Chief Officer of Assessment & Accountability, at (706) 217-6732.