

# GCPS 8th graders show what they know this spring...

## 2018–19 Georgia Milestones Online

The 8th Grade Georgia Milestones Assessment is part of the Georgia Milestones assessment system, spanning 3rd grade to high school. This state assessment measures how well 8th grade students have learned knowledge and skills in the core areas of language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. This assessment provides information about student achievement and readiness to move on to the next level of learning.

For the spring 2019 administration of the Milestones assessment, all Georgia students will take the assessment online. New this year, students will answer technology-enhanced questions as part of the assessment. (See the back of this flyer for more about the types of questions on the Milestones assessment.) Here in Gwinnett County Public Schools (GCPS), adjustments to the testing calendar and an increase in capacity for computers used for testing will ensure a smooth testing experience for students and allow for a normal instructional day for students who are not in testing.

### So, what's new?

**One Subject. One Grade.** On any given day during the testing window, only students in one grade at a school will participate in assessments in a single subject. This change has several benefits. With just one grade in testing, instruction can continue in other grades and subjects. This schedule also gives students more time between test days, reducing “test fatigue” and helping students who may have testing anxiety. With the adjusted testing schedule (one subject/one grade per day), Milestones will seem less like a testing event— Milestones Week— and more like a regular school day. **Remember, if you have students in different grades, they will test on different days.**

### 8th Grade Milestones Dates

Social Studies Sections 1 and 2	Tuesday	April 9, 2019
Language Arts Section 1	Wednesday	April 10, 2019
Language Arts Section 2	Thursday	April 11, 2019
Language Arts Section 3	Friday	April 12, 2019
Mathematics Section 1	Monday	April 29, 2019
Mathematics Section 2	Tuesday	April 30, 2019
Science Sections 1 and 2	Monday	May 6, 2019



**Access to Computers for Testing.** The technology-enhanced questions require higher technology specifications on computers used for testing. Your child's school will have enough computers with adequate capacity so that every student in a grade level will be able to take a Milestones exam on the designated day, using morning and afternoon sessions if needed. As much as possible, computers in the media center and productivity labs will not be used for testing so that students in other grades and subjects have continued access to these technology resources on testing days.

### End-of-Course Milestones Dates

8th graders enrolled in high school mathematics and science courses— Algebra I, Physical Science, and Biology— take an End-of-Course (EOC) assessment during the following windows instead of taking the math and science assessments listed to the left.

Mathematics EOC	April 29–May 2, 2019
Science EOC	May 6–9, 2019

## And, what's the same?

**Milestones is not an "all day" event.** Times for each section range from 45 up to 85 minutes for most sections. Students have 70 to 90 minutes for the writing section. On most days, students will have about an hour of testing. Students will continue instruction and normal school activities the rest of the day. See the testing schedule for Gwinnett 8th graders on the other side of the flyer.

**Your student will be ready!** Gwinnett's Academic Knowledge and Skills (AKS) curriculum includes all of the state standards, so the teaching and learning that goes on in the classroom every day prepares students for the rigorous assessments of Georgia Milestones. In addition, classwork, homework, quizzes, and tests throughout the school year prepare students for the assessment. Of course, regular school attendance and participation in the classroom is critical to a student's academic success as well.

**You can support your student.** Remind your child that the tests will cover material learned in class. Check the "Testing" section at <http://bit.ly/GCPSparenttips> for tips on how you can support your child.



**Your student can practice.** Help your student become familiar with the online testing environment and the tools that will be used for testing. Visit [GAExperienceOnline.com](http://GAExperienceOnline.com), select "Test Practice," and follow the prompts to see the types of questions and tools available.

## Types of Questions for 8th Grade Milestones

Georgia Milestones includes four types of questions:

**Selected Response:** These multiple-choice questions in the language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies assessments require students to select an answer from a set of options.

**Constructed Response:** Used for both the language arts and mathematics exams, these open-ended questions require students to generate a response that both answers the question and provides an explanation.

**Extended Response:** In the writing component of the language arts assessment, students answer questions with more in-depth answers and extensive explanation.

**Technology-Enhanced Response:** These items are more interactive, requiring students to use technology to answer the question. Examples include a "drag and drop" response, editing text, shading an object, graphing, or classifying items. These items are part of assessments in all subjects.



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