Georgia Milestones Assessment System

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| The Georgia Department of Education will implement a new testing system, the ***Georgia Milestones Assessment System* during the 2014-2015 academic year**. The new system will replace the CRCT. Georgia Milestones will be aligned to the Common Core Georgia Performance Standards (CCGPS) and will require more from students than the previous assessments, in order to better prepare students for college and career and to provide a more realistic picture of academic progress. A major benefit of the new system is that it is one consistent testing program across grades 3-12, whereas previously students took a series of individual tests. The new testing system will include open-ended questions to better gauge students’ content mastery.  With this transition, Dr. John Barge, State Superintendent of schools wants the public to be prepared for change. “The increased expectations for student learning reflected in Georgia Milestones may mean initially lower scores than the previous years’ assessment scores,” he said. "That is to be expected and should bring Georgia’s tests in line with other indicators of how our students are performing. We need to know that students are being prepared, not at a minimum-competency level but with rigorous, relevant education, to enter college, the workforce or the military at a level that makes them competitive with students from other states."  The Georgia Department of Education has indicated that there will be a delay in receiving the scores the first year and that we will likely receive the scores in fall 2015. It is important to keep in mind that Georgia has not implemented a new assessment system since 2000 (CRCT) and at that time scores were also delayed. The results will be delayed to provide sufficient time for the Georgia Department of Education to ensure that the assessment results are analyzed to determine validity and reliability.  Listed below are some websites that might be useful in better helping you understand the new Georgia assessment.  Parent’s Guide to New Tests in Georgia – National PTA  <http://www.pta.org/files/Advocacy/CCSSIToolkit/Common%20Core%20State%20Standards%20Resources/Assessments%20Resouces/PTA_GA_6PG_17DEC13_FINAL.pdf>  Georgia Department of Education Georgia Milestones Assessment System  <http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Assessment/Pages/Georgia-Milestones-Assessment-System.aspx>  Georgia Department of Education Testing/Assessment  <http://www.gadoe.org/curriculum-instruction-and-assessment/assessment/Pages/default.aspx> |