



Georgia Milestones and Accountability

Beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, the State of Georgia will utilize the Georgia Milestones Assessment System (Georgia Milestones) to measure student achievement in accordance with state and federal law. The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) requires states to implement high-quality, yearly student academic assessments that are aligned to the state's academic content standards. Further, state law and ESEA require these state assessments to be incorporated into the state's Single Statewide Accountability System. Pursuant to Georgia's waiver of certain ESEA requirements, the College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) is the state's measure of accountability serving as the Single Statewide Accountability System. As a result, Georgia Milestones will be utilized to calculate CCRPI scores for state and federal accountability.

No provision of state or federal law has been waived to preclude 2014-2015 Georgia Milestones results from being used to calculate CCRPI scores for state and federal accountability. As a result, in accordance with state and federal law, no schools, including state charter schools, will be "held harmless" for student performance on the Georgia Milestones or the calculation of the CCRPI using Georgia Milestones. **All schools, including state charter schools, will receive a 2014-2015 CCRPI score that incorporates student performance on Georgia Milestones and that CCRPI score will be utilized for state and federal accountability purposes.** School accountability measures utilizing the CCRPI include, but are not limited to, the determination of Priority, Focus, Alert, and Reward schools and academic accountability goals included in charter school contracts.

However, the State Board of Education (SBOE) has provided schools some flexibility in using student results on the 2014-2015 Georgia Milestones for individual student-level decisions. At its August 2014 board meeting, the SBOE approved a waiver of Rule 160-4-2-.11 PROMOTION, PLACEMENT, AND RETENTION, sections (3)(a), (3)(b), (3)(c), and Rule 160-4-2-.13 STATEWIDE PASSING SCORE, sections (2)(d), (2)(e), (2)(f), for the 2014-2015 school year. **This waiver allows schools to opt out of using the results of Georgia Milestones when deciding to promote or retain students who did not meet expectations on the Georgia Milestones. Additionally, this waiver allows schools to opt out of using a student's score on a Georgia Milestones end-of-course assessment as 20% of his or her final course grade.** Please note, however, that schools may choose to continue utilizing student results on the Georgia Milestones for promotion and retention decisions and schools may also choose to continue utilizing a student's score on a Georgia Milestones end-of-course assessment as 20% of his or her final course grade.

Additionally, pursuant to Georgia's waiver of ESEA student scores on Georgia Milestones contribute to the teacher's Teacher Effectiveness Measure and the leader's Leader Effectiveness Measure in the teacher (TKES) and leader (LKES) evaluation systems. On September 23, 2014, the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) submitted a request to the U.S. Department of Education (USD OE) seeking flexibility from Georgia's ESEA waiver to delay, for one year, the high-stakes consequences related to the use of student growth measures in TKES and LKES. GaDOE has not yet received a response from USD OE regarding this request. **As USD OE has not yet granted Georgia the authority to depart from this provision of its ESEA waiver, schools should be prepared to implement TKES and LKES as it is designed – including using student performance on Georgia Milestones as part of the evaluation of teachers and leaders.**