

Assessment Flexibility: ESSA & Senate Bill 211

Georgia Department of Education

Background

- Federal requirements surrounding assessment, introduced by No Child Left Behind in 2001, remain:
 - all public school students enrolled in grades 3 through 8 must be assessed annually in reading/language arts and mathematics;
 - high school students enrolled in public schools must be assessed at least once in grades 9 through 12 in reading/language arts and mathematics;
 - science must be assessed at least once in grades 3 – 5, 6 – 9, and 10 – 12.

Federal/State Testing Requirements in Georgia



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Grade	State Required (§20-2-281)	Federally Required	
K	GKIDS	—	
1	[Literacy / math formative: Keenville]	—	
2	[Literacy / math formative: Keenville]	—	
3	GM EOG <u>or</u> GAA: ELA / Math	ELA / Math	Science
4	GM EOG <u>or</u> GAA: ELA / Math	ELA / Math	
5	GM EOG <u>or</u> GAA: ELA / Math / Science / Social Studies	ELA / Math	
6	GM EOG <u>or</u> GAA: ELA / Math	ELA / Math	Science
7	GM EOG <u>or</u> GAA: ELA / Math	ELA / Math	
8	GM EOG <u>or</u> GAA: ELA / Math / Science / Social Studies	ELA / Math	
High School (9-12)	GM EOC <u>or</u> GAA: ELA (9th Grade Lit / American Lit) / Math (Coordinate Algebra or Algebra I / Analytic Geometry or Geometry) / Science (Physical Science / Biology) / Social Studies (US History / Economics)	ELA / Math	Science

Note: Georgia Milestones (GM)/Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA) are used to fulfill federal testing requirements for ESEA/ESSA.

ESSA Assessment Requirements

- States are required to administer the *same* academic assessments to all public elementary school and secondary school students in the state
 - Alternate assessments based on alternate academic achievement standards are permissible for students with significant cognitive disabilities (limited to 1% *participation*)
 - Eighth grade students taking advanced high school mathematics may take the end of course rather than the grade 8 end of grade in mathematics

Note: Georgia will request a waiver to continue flexibility granted under ESEA allowing middle school students taking an advanced science course (i.e., Physical Science) to take the associated EOC in lieu of the EOG; the request will expand to include an advanced language arts course (i.e., 9th Grade Literature).

ESSA Assessment Flexibility

- At states' discretion, ESSA allows:
 - single summative assessment or multiple statewide interim assessments that result in a single summative score;
 - seven states to seek a demonstration period (no more than 5 years) for an innovative assessment approach that is technically sound, results in an annual summative determination, and can be scaled statewide;
 - local districts to petition the state to administer a nationally-recognized high school academic assessment to all students in the district in lieu of state high school assessment; comparability and technical quality must be established prior to its use, including federal peer review.

Assessment Working Committee Recommendations



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- Regarding areas of flexibility, the committee has recommended:
 - additional study and analysis is needed regarding the use of multiple statewide interim assessments;
 - districts be allowed to pursue a locally selected nationally-recognized high school assessment and present evidence the requirements outlined in law are met;
 - districts be allowed to present innovative solutions for consideration to be scaled statewide.
- The committee recommended the establishment of a task force to vet assessment flexibility options and make recommendations to the Superintendent Woods and the State Board of Education.