

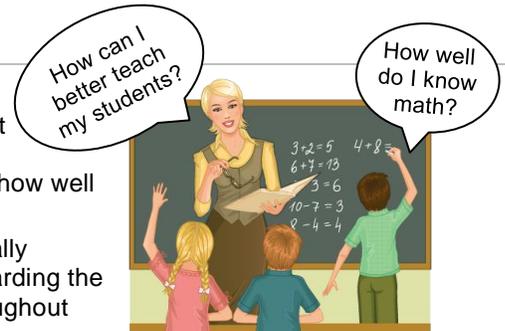


UNDERSTANDING STUDENT TESTING IN GEORGIA'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

It is important for the Pickens County School District to continually provide information about the performance of our schools. Test scores alone do not determine how effective our schools are. However, asking students to participate in testing provides our district and the state with information on how well our students are learning what is being taught.

Our district, like **ALL** public school districts in the state of Georgia, are legally required to administer state tests. This document provides information regarding the state-mandated tests and how our district measures student progress throughout the school year.



COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS – THE GOAL FOR ALL STUDENTS

The goal of the Pickens County School District is to prepare all students for a successful life after high school. Whether their path takes them to college, to vocational school, to military service, or directly to the workforce, our students need knowledge and skills to compete and succeed.

All public school systems are graded on the “College and Career Readiness Index” (CCRPI), a signal of college and career readiness for Georgia’s students. Georgia has defined College and Career Ready as:

Students who are on-track to possess the English language/literacy/mathematics knowledge and skills needed upon graduation to enter directly and succeed in:

- *Entry-level credit-bearing postsecondary courses without the need for remedial coursework; or*
- *Job training and/or postsecondary education necessary for student’s chosen career (i.e. technical/vocational program, community college, apprenticeship or significant on-the job training)*



PHS Graduate



College Ready



Technical/
Vocational Ready



Military Ready



Work Ready

WHY STUDENTS ARE TESTED

The Georgia Department of Education requires **ALL** public schools to do the following testing:

1. Measure Academic Growth of Students (taken throughout the year)
2. Administer Georgia Milestones Tests (taken at the end of a grade and/or end of a course)

In addition to state-mandated testing, students may choose to participate in college preparatory classes and/or career training programs that involve testing. Examples include: AP classes, College/Military Entrance Exams (ASVAB, PSAT, SAT, ACT), “Move on When Ready” college courses, CTAE (Career, Technical, Agricultural, and Education) certification courses, and Gifted Identification.

MEASURING STUDENT GROWTH THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL YEAR

State law dictates school districts must determine a way to measure how well students are learning throughout the school year. A team of teachers and administrators from the Pickens County School District selected evaluation tools to be utilized in our schools. In addition, schools use other informal measures to assess student growth.



GEORGIA MILESTONES TESTS

The Georgia Milestones tests are given to all Georgia students in 3rd through 12th grade to measure how well they have learned language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.



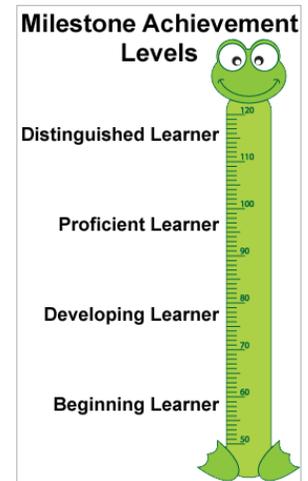
- Each spring, all districts are given a 9-day “window” of dates in which students are to be tested.
- The Pickens County School District has five (5) days of testing and uses the remaining four (4) days for make-up tests.
- The Pickens County School District testing window begins this Friday, April 22, 2016.
- Students are tested on one (1) subject each day and each test lasts approximately two (2) hours. Students take tests using a computer.
- **Students in Grades 3—8:** Take an End-of-Grade (EOG) test in each subject area.
- **Students in Grades 9—12:** Take the End of Course (EOC) test in the ten (10) following courses (math courses follow students’ class progression):

Algebra I	Economics
American Literature and Composition	Geometry
Analytic Geometry	Ninth Grade Literature and Composition
Biology	Physical Science
Coordinate Algebra	United States History

WHAT THE RESULTS WILL SHOW

The results provide an indicator about each student’s achievement and how prepared they are to move on to the next grade or educational level.

- **Parents:** Your student’s score report shows how well your student has learned language arts, mathematics, science and social studies. You can schedule time to talk with your child’s teacher about his/her strengths and areas needing improvement.
- **Teachers:** Teachers look at this data to see what your student has mastered or needs to review. Teachers can use the data to modify their teaching methods and improve student performance.
- **Schools:** All schools use the data to improve student performance through changes in scheduling, resources, lesson plans, and curriculum.
- **District:** The district uses the data as a source of information to understand the needs or strengths in a school or set of schools.
- **State of Georgia:** The state uses the information as part of the achievement requirement for measuring the College and Career Readiness Index (CCRPI) for the Pickens County School District.



WHAT SHOULD PARENTS/STUDENTS DO BEFORE THE TEST?

Most importantly, don’t stress. Remember the goal of these tests is to help guide schools to improve student achievement. The best thing students can do is get a good night’s rest, eat a good breakfast, and come to school with a great attitude!

QUESTIONS?

If you have questions regarding the state and local tests, please contact:

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