



January 8, 2015

To Whom It May Concern,

The comprehensive review of the Common Core Georgia Performance Standards (CCGPS) in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics conducted by the State Board of Education provided various opportunities for teachers, administrators, students, parents, the community, professional organizations, post-secondary institutions, and others to provide input. The 90% approval rating for a standard not to be considered for revision by the Working/Advisory/Academic Committees ensured that all recommendations were carefully studied and considered. Using multiple committees to clarify and change standards and the 60 days of final vetting assured all parties from across the state that all recommendations were thoughtfully reviewed and considered during the final review process.

The revised standards reflect support for increased rigor and vertical alignment. The revisions strengthen the ELA and mathematics standards and provide the stability educators clearly want and need. While the standards provide clear expectations and goals, the school districts have local control over the curriculum, instructional resources, and delivery of instruction to best ensure that students can meet the targeted goals and expectations.

The Georgia Association of Curriculum and Instructional Supervisors (GACIS) support the revised ELA and Mathematics Standards. To further support the successful implementation of the revised standards, we offer the following recommendations.

- Although the revised standards are/will be aligned to the Georgia Milestones Assessment System, the potential implementation or achievement dip must be considered. Teachers, students, parents and the community must be informed and prepared to stay the course.
- Substantial and on-going professional development, at the local and state levels, to ensure that all teachers understand and are prepared to teach rigorous standards is and will continue to be the key component for successful implementation and increased student achievement.
- Instructional resources aligned to the standards must be readily available.
- A definitive decision on the discrete vs integrated high school mathematics debate would provide additional stability.
- The Foundations of Algebra Course and Computer Science courses for math core credit will provide additional support for students who may be struggling in mathematics and more career pathway options.
- An established process for reviewing and updating the standards will ensure the standards reflect emerging research and practices.

GACIS greatly appreciates the members of the State Board of Education and GaDOE staff for their diligence, transparency, and involvement of all stakeholders throughout this review process.

Sincerely,

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