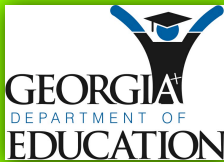


GSO to GO

NEWS FOR
OCTOBER
2007



The Monthly Teacher Resource
Newsletter from GeorgiaStandards.Org

General Information

GSO Portal Receives National Recognition



GeorgiaStandards.Org (GSO) became available to Georgia educators in the beginning of the 2006-07 school year. On [GSO](#), a [MyGaDOE portal login](#) is available to teachers that allow them to develop units, teaching and learning activities, assessments and per-

formance tasks that support the Georgia Performance Standards. Since January 2007, the portal login was accessed nearly 75,000 times with an average time on site of seven minutes.

Recently, a panel of judges from the Center for Digital Education also logged into the MyGaDOE portal and many other website entries to evaluate educational websites on innovation, Web-based delivery of public services, efficiency, economy and functionality. The competition was fierce, but we are thrilled that the judges awarded the GSO Portal Tools with the [2007 Best of the Web Award](#). "Once again, this year's entries showed remarkable innovation," said Marina Leight, vice president of education for the [Center for Digital Education](#). "The K-12 Web

sites continue to improve communication and expand access to learning resources for the students, parents and teachers that they serve." See what all the buzz is about by [registering for a MyGaDOE portal account](#) today.

GSO Categories

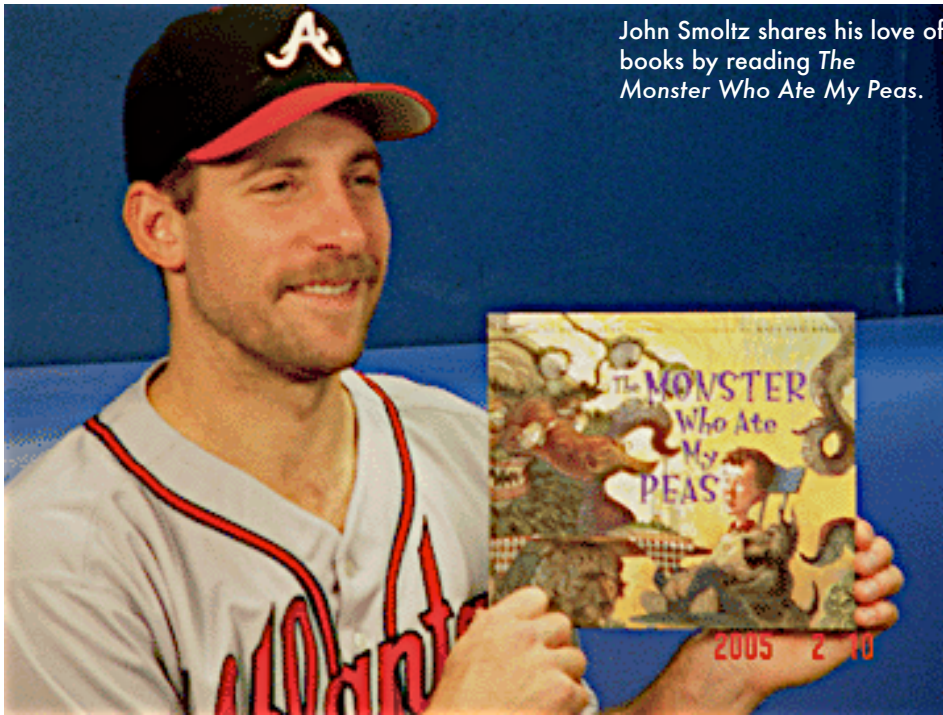
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October

2007

Georgia Performance Standards are Working!

On September 25, 2007 the [National Assessment of Educational Progress \(NAEP\)](#) released national test scores. Georgia scored at all-time highs on the [NAEP](#) in math and reading. The biggest gains, however, were seen in reading, providing further evidence that Georgia's new curriculum – the Georgia Performance Standards – is having a big impact. "These results are a clear indication that education in Georgia is on the right path," said State Superintendent of Schools Kathy Cox. "We know that our new curriculum is setting high expectations for all of our students and those high expectations are paying off." For more information, you can read the official [DOE press release on Georgia NAEP scores](#).



John Smoltz shares his love of books by reading *The Monster Who Ate My Peas*.

Georgia Read More Features Atlanta Braves Pitcher John Smoltz

The Georgia Department of Education has implemented a literacy program aimed at third grade students called the "[Georgia Read More](#)" program. The concentrated efforts of the [Library Media Services Department](#) have resulted in this award winning [series](#). This program encourages children to read, supports parent-child interaction, and promotes literacy and libraries. Simply select from the many videos of dignitaries and celebrities reading a children's book aloud to a group of students. Each video supplies a link to a vocabulary list that accompanies the story. Also included with most books are a Lexile score and links to author websites.

The October GSO Newsletter features the book *The Monster Who Ate My Peas*. The author is [Danny Schnitzlein](#) and the book is read by Atlanta Braves' pitching phenom [John Smoltz](#). Share Smoltz's love for reading with your students by [watching him read](#) this delightful story to a group of lucky Braves' fans. Here is the [vocabulary list](#) that accompanies *The Monster Who Ate My Peas* and be certain to visit the [author's website](#) which provides many teaching ideas that can be used along with the book. Are you hungry for more videos like this one to view with your class? Then see what else is playing at the [Georgia Read More Program Videos](#) page.

Learner.org Provides Interactive Tutorials

Another GSO Top pick improved their site with more "[Interactives](#)". [Learner.org](#) just recently added 11 dynamic learning tutorials that Georgia teachers can use with their students. "[Interactives](#)" provides educators and students with strategies, content and activities that can enhance and improve students' skills in a variety of curricular areas. For example, middle school math teachers can have students learn about [three-dimensional shapes](#) or to sharpen their skills with [metric system conversions](#). High school science teachers will enjoy incorporating the new [DNA](#) and [Periodic Table](#) "Interactives". Language "Interactives" offers ELA teachers some premium choices to reinforce spelling skills with [Spelling Bee](#). [Elements of a Story](#) is a great resource for grades 2-5 for exploring stories and narratives. And high school students can put their detective skills to the test by determining when and where a historical event took place with the [Historical and Cultural Contexts](#) "Interactive".

GeorgiaStandards.Org

Data Points

Year-To-Date

Visitors to GeorgiaStandards.Org
1,064,776

Unique Visitors
455,836

Page views for all visitors
5,779,892

Average Time on Site
Over 5 minutes

Number of Units that are
Approved and Searchable in GSO
Over 600

Number of Georgia Educators
trained on GSO
3,077

Number of GSO Teacher Groups
714

Number of GSO Training Videos
157

A GSO Top Pick Launches Spanish Pages

The thousands of teachers who have set [GSO](#) as their homepage know they are one click away from [Thinkfinity](#), a GSO top pick, which offers so much to support their curriculum. Thinkfinity now offers their site in a [Spanish version](#). Please note that the educational resources will continue to be available in English only. Within the rest of the Thinkfinity site, look for an "Espanol" link in the upper-right corner to convert webpages to Spanish.



ELA Frameworks on GSO

Attention reading and language arts teachers in Georgia! Have you visited the [ELA frameworks](#) page on [GeorgiaStandards.Org](#) lately? There you will find critical curriculum resources that include [frameworks](#), [lesson plans](#) and [matrices](#) that will assist you in teaching the Georgia Performance Standards. Teachers in grades K-12 can scroll down the page to find curriculum maps, units and tasks in the areas of reading, writing, listening and speaking. High school teachers should note that curriculum maps are also offered in block or traditional schedule formats. On the ELA frameworks page, teachers can also link to [EOCT Content Descriptions](#), [GHS GT](#), [GA Writing Assessments](#) and more.

Georgia Public Broadcasting Offers Online Video and More!



The [GPB Education](#) website has many resources that Georgia teachers can add to their curriculum. On this site, teachers can check the GPB [schedule](#), locate program information through the [program guide](#) and get an overview of showcased events and programs through [highlights](#). From the [GPB Education](#) site, there is a link to [Discovery Education Streaming](#) (also known as United Streaming) which is a huge archive of web-

based videos that Georgia teachers can utilize for classroom use...for free! Obtain your passcode by contacting your school's United Streaming administrator to access videos by subject, grade or standards. Another resource you may want to explore from [GPB Education](#) is the [GPB Education TIE Network](#). According to the [about page](#), the TIE Network "empowers Georgia educators by connecting them with other educators throughout the region."

National Museum of Patriotism is a Great Destination

Located in Atlanta, the [National Museum of Patriotism](#) has prepared a curriculum-friendly experience by aligning field trip exhibits and tours to the Georgia Performance Standards. Directly from their website, K-12 teachers can access the [social studies](#) and [ELA](#) standards in the print-friendly PDF format. The exhibits and collections at the museum have "thought-provoking and emotionally stirring themes." Get a brief overview of all the [exhibits](#) and access some comprehensive [educational resources](#) for before, during and after your field trip. For more information about field trips or [directions](#) to the National Museum of Patriotism visit this [page](#) or call 1-877-276-1692.



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Continuing Education

Professional Learning Videos on GSO

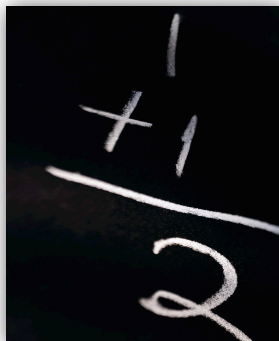
Did you know there are currently over 150 professional learning videos available for teachers on [GSO](#)? The videos on GeorgiaStandards.Org are available for all content areas and grade levels.

For example, if you are a sixth or seventh grade math teacher you will want to view the webcast video series on utilizing manipulatives with the Georgia Performance Standards. Judy O'Neal, a math professor at [North Georgia College and State University](#), does an outstanding job demonstrating an active and engaging performance-based math curriculum for sixth and seventh grade teachers. Here are just a few links to some of those videos:

- > [Grade 6 - GaDOE Math GPS via Pattern Blocks](#)
- > [Grade 6 - GaDOE Math GPS via Algeblocks](#)
- > [Implementing the 7th Grade GPS: Algebra](#)
- > [Grade 7 - Getting Started on the TI-83 Plus](#)

If you have problems accessing the video links above or if you are a Macintosh user please visit the [Mathematics Podcast page](#). Additional sixth and seventh grade videos can be accessed from the [Mathematics Frameworks](#) page by scrolling down to sixth or seventh grades.

Middle and high school math teachers may find the following videos instrumental with teaching the Georgia Performance Standards. Middle school teachers can watch [Inside a Standards-Based Middle School Classroom](#) and high school teachers can view [Inside a Standards-Based High School Classroom](#). High school instructors teaching Mathematics 1 have access to performance tasks, documents and videos from this [Online High School Mathematics Training Materials](#) page.



Tame Those PLUs at the Zoo!

Teachers can earn PLUs by learning at [Zoo Atlanta](#) through their [staff development program](#). Zoo workshops include a behind-the-scenes tour and an encounter with an animal. Workshop attendees leave with grade-specific packets containing hands-on activities that address the Georgia Performance Standards. For more information, [click here](#) or call 1-404-624-WILD. Also worth mentioning is [Teacher Resources](#), where Zoo Atlanta provides educators with free two-week [Educator Loan Boxes](#) or an opportunity to be part of the Zoo Family by signing-up for the mailing lists by [emailing](#) the education department.



GaETC Celebrates 20 Years!

The Georgia Educational Technology Conference (GaETC) will be held on November 14 - 16, 2007 at the Georgia International Convention Center. Join the thousands of educators who will travel to Atlanta to celebrate GaETC's 20th year of supporting the integration of technology into the classroom. Over 200 presentations and 200 vendors will be in attendance to showcase the latest trends and products in educational technology. Here is the most current information regarding [lodging and shuttles](#) and the [conference schedule](#) that can be accessed from the GaETC website. A helpful list with [directions](#), [maps](#) and [Atlanta links](#) are also provided on the website. PLU credit may apply: refer to this [page](#) or contact your school district for more information.

GATE 2007 Fall Conference



The [Georgia Association of Teacher Educators](#) is having their annual conference in Savannah, Georgia. The location will be at the Hilton Savannah DeSoto on October 10 - 12, 2007. The theme for 2007 is Preserving Our Democracy: A Makeover for Education. Visit the [website](#) or call for information on the GATE 2007 Fall Conference. PLU credit may apply. Refer to this [Word document](#) or contact your school district for more information.



Educational Technology Training Centers (ETTCs) are located throughout Georgia. ETTCs work collaboratively to provide professional learning, consulting, and service for Georgia educators to promote the appropriate use of technology in support of teaching, learning, and leadership.

>> Find a [training center near you](#).

Celebrating October

communicate

6

Find out the impact Thomas Edison had on the film industry with your students.

7

National Newspaper Week begins.

8

Start celebrating the Metric System.

collaborate

18

Get Smart About Credit Day by watching Learning, Earning, Saving on Learner.Org.

23

Chemistry lovers unite! Celebrate Mole Day from 6:02 a.m. to 6:02 p.m.

connect

Downloads

- > [October Calendar](#)
- > [Columbus Day](#)

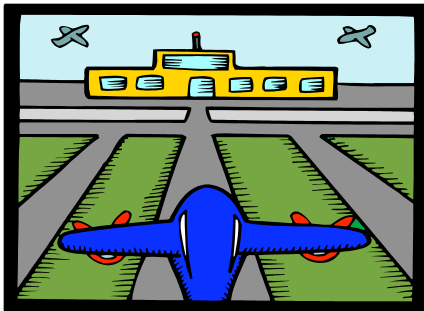
Links

- > [Build a Dinosaur](#)
- > [Explorers of North America](#)
- > [Algebra Matching Game](#)

Themes

- > [Bugs and Insects](#)
- > [Dinosaurs](#)

October in Georgia History



The [New Georgia Encyclopedia \(NGE\)](#) features a gallery for [Lindbergh Day in Atlanta](#) which took place on October 11-12, 1927. There you will see some rare photos that capture Charles Lindbergh's historical forty-eight-state tour in the Spirit of St. Louis, the first plane that crossed the Atlantic Ocean in a non-stop flight.

Teachers can also discuss other significant state facts that are featured on [NGE in October](#), such as what William Bartram discovered along the Altamaha River and what was passed by Governor Alfred Colquitt in October 1879. Your students can also research what fort was being used by the military in 1918 that was located just outside of Columbus. Teachers can have students investigate what two people from Georgia won the Nobel Peace Prize, which also set the record for the most Nobel Peace Prizes from one state. This and more is featured in [October in Georgia History](#) on the [New Georgia Encyclopedia](#). The NGE link is also available on [GeorgiaStandards.Org](#) on the right side of the page under Top Picks.

October EDSITeMent Calendar of Holidays and Special Events

The [October calendar](#) on [EDSITEment](#) is available. As always, the calendar is loaded with comprehensive activities based on Art & Culture, Literature & Language Arts, Foreign Language and History & Social Studies.

[EDSITEment](#) features daily links by web-site feature (W) or lesson plan (LP). October 1, 1908 marks the day that Henry Ford introduced the Model T, and EDSITEment poses the question of, "Was There An Industrial Revolution?" Find out with your students by accessing this [lesson plan](#). U.S. History teachers can also reference [SSUSH16c](#) on Henry Ford, mass production and the automobile. For October 6, you can help your students learn about the impact Thomas Edison had on the film industry, by clicking on [Thomas Edison's Inventions in the 1900s and Today](#). High school teachers can combine the Thomas Edison link with this [Cinema Interactive](#) by [Learner.org](#). Other notable dates from the EDSITEment Calendar for October teaching ideas, includes [Other Worlds: The Voyage of Columbus](#), [On This Day with Lewis and Clark](#) and [The Legend of Sleepy Hollow](#).



Publish it on GSO

Doing something great in your classroom? Then publish that unit or teaching activity on the GeorgiaStandards.Org portal. This is an excellent way to share your best practices with other Georgia teachers.



Celebrating October

Get Smart About Credit Day

October 18 is [Get Smart About Credit Day](#). Learner.org features award-winning economics teacher Marc Johnson in the video [Learning, Earning, Saving](#) which is about salaries, wages, millionaires, compound interest and the stock market. Learner.org also offers the [Math in Daily Life](#) Interactive for high school students that address savings, credit and the important topic of credit cards.



Mole Day

Chemistry teachers and students can celebrate [Mole Day](#) on October 23 from 6:02 a.m. to 6:02 p.m. Mole Day was created to commemorate Avogadro's Number (6.02×10^{23}). Watch the "The Mole" Program 11 of "[The World of Chemistry](#)" from Learner.org to find out more about Avogadro's number. In the "[The Mechanical Universe...and Beyond](#)" Learner.org video instructional series, Program 49 covers Avogadro's number and its role in the development of atomic theory.



National Newspaper Week



October 7-13 is [National Newspaper Week](#). Incorporate this year's theme of "Public notices in newspapers ... because good government depends on it" into your

curriculum. High school students can watch the Learner.org video instructional series on writing and reporting, in addition to the many aspects of news making with [News Writing](#). The delicate balance between democracy and

the media can be explored in your classroom by watching the tenth program titled "[Democracy in America](#)" from "[The Media: Inside Story](#)". Last but not least, elementary school teachers can visit [Crayola.com](#) for some great classroom [downloads](#) for [National Newspaper Week](#).

A Perfect 10!

The tenth day of the ten month calls for a celebration of the Metric System, which is actually celebrated from October 8-12. Measure in by first visiting the [National Council of Teachers of](#)



[Mathematics](#) website for some great links on information and activities. Don't forget about the "Interactive" [Metric Conversions](#) by Learner.org that teaches students how to do conversions. Also, review metric system basics with the video and Web-based content of [The Metric System](#), in the third session of [Learning Math: Measurement](#). Want to practice the Metric System and bake cookies at the same time? Then the [Cooking by Numbers](#) "Interactive" by Learner.org is worth a look with your students.

Other Outstanding October Links and Downloads

Elementary teachers may want to print an [October Calendar](#), [Columbus Day](#) or [Halloween](#) (Word formatted) editable and printable files for this month from Education World. [Education World](#) also offers [a month of fun](#) with a link to interactive puzzles and learning games such as [Build a Dinosaur](#), [Explorers of North America](#) and [Algebra Vocabulary Matching Game](#). Then the [Education Place](#) features [Bugs and Insects](#), [Computers](#), [Dinosaurs](#) and [Explorers](#) as October themes for teachers in grades K-8



Other GaDOE News

New GSO Content

[Click here](#) to view the new content that was added to GeorgiaStandards.Org in September 2007.

October Media Matters

A [newsletter](#) for people who love Library Media Centers. You can also access the [Media Matters archives](#).

GaDOE Press Releases

[Click here](#) to access media information for encouraging K-12 education in Georgia.

GSO Press Releases

Read all the [latest news](#) regarding Georgia Standards.

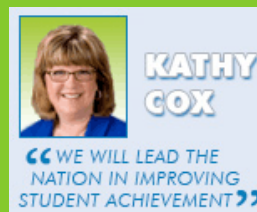
Subscribe to GaDOE Newsletter or Updates

If you would like to receive the e-newsletter or updates from GaDOE, [click here](#).

GeorgiaStandards.Org is a program under the office of Instructional Technology within the Georgia Department of Education

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