

# GSO to GO

NEWS FOR  
MAY  
2010



The Monthly Educator Resource  
Newsletter from GeorgiaStandards.Org



GeorgiaStandards.Org  
GATEWAY TO EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL RESOURCES

## General Information

### Georgia Schools to Receive More Than \$122 Million in School Improvement Grants

On April 7, 2010, the U.S. Department of Education announced that Georgia will receive more than \$122 million to turn around its persistently lowest achieving schools through the School Improvement Grants (SIG) program. School districts that have any "persistently lowest achieving" schools can compete for the \$122,815,607 made available to Georgia.

"We're excited to be partnering with our local school systems to provide them with the guidance and resources necessary to

make good decisions about the use of this money," said State Superintendent of Schools Kathy Cox. "This is a great opportunity for schools and communities to transform their high schools so that we can bring student achievement levels up across the board."

When school districts apply, they must indicate that they will implement one of the following four models in their persistently lowest achieving schools:

**TURNAROUND MODEL:** Replace the principal, screen existing school staff, and rehire no more than half the teachers; adopt a new governance structure; and improve the school through curriculum reform, professional development, extending learning

time, and other strategies.

**RESTART MODEL:** Convert a school or close it and re-open it as a charter school or under an education management organization.

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# 2010

### GSO Feedback

The GSO Team welcomes your feedback by contacting us through the following:

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**SCHOOL CLOSURE:** Close the school and send the students to higher-achieving schools in the district.

**TRANSFORMATION MODEL:** Replace the principal and improve the school through comprehensive curriculum reform, professional development, extending learning time, and other strategies. Once schools receive SIG funds, they can begin spending them immediately to turn around schools this fall. States may apply to U.S. ED for a waiver to allow them to spend funds over a three-year period. An additional \$545,633,000 has been provided for SIG in 2010 and will be awarded to states to fund additional schools in the 2011-12 school year.

After submitting the state application, the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) began working closely with eligible schools to offer assistance in the development of an "approvable" plan.

"I'm proud of our dedicated School Improvement staff for developing an application that clearly defined Georgia's goals for ensuring increased student achievement," said Superintendent Cox.

Georgia has a strong record of success when working with schools in Needs Improvement status. This past year, 17 State-directed Schools were removed from Needs Improvement status. As part of Georgia's Differentiated Accountability Plan under No Child Left Behind, a school in Needs Improvement level five and above has a full-time state director that is in the school to offer support, provide assistance in monitoring implementation of strategies, and work with leadership teams to develop plans to sustain student achievement.

More Information:

- [Georgia's application](#), which includes its list of persistently lowest achieving schools
- [Georgia's definition of "Lowest Achieving Schools"](#)

## Superintendent Cox Launches GaDOE iTunes University Site

On April 30, 2010, State Superintendent of Schools Kathy Cox unveiled the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) iTunes University site. At an event at Rutland High School in Bibb County, Superintendent Cox demonstrated how this free technology will allow teachers, students and parents to download many different resources directly onto an iPod or other portable device.

"In these tough budget times, we can all use more help and more resources, especially when those resources are free," said Superintendent Cox. "The GaDOE continues to seek out innovative and cost-effective ways to help make teachers' jobs easier, and iTunes University is one more tool to do that."

The GaDOE recognizes how important it is to use technology to enhance education. The iTunes University site creates a base of digital educational content where users can easily download and access audio and video content for use in the classroom, at home or while driving to work. Visitors to the site can find content on everything from mathematics instruction to parent involvement videos.

"This is an innovative and interactive way for students to learn," said Tony Jones, Bibb County's Teacher of the Year. "It will allow students the luxury to learn at their own pace using technology that most students are familiar with already."

Jones was also a recipient of a GaDOE Advanced Placement (AP) Handheld Technology grant. In November, 56 high schools in 46 school systems received AP Handheld grants. These grants provide teachers the resources to purchase any handheld device, which allows students to access educational material developed by the teachers, including instructional podcasts, activities, and assessments. These resources may also be made available on the GaDOE iTunes University site for other teachers across the state to use in their class-

rooms.

The iTunes University site is the latest teacher technology tool offered by the GaDOE. In September 2009, Superintendent Cox launched two online teacher tools, PBS TeacherLine and Verizon Thinkfinity. PBS TeacherLine offers low-cost, high-quality professional development classes to teachers so they can build content knowledge and earn the Professional Learning Units needed to maintain their certification. The Verizon Thinkfinity tool provides more than 55,000 lesson plans, activities and other resources for classroom teachers.

### Student Contest

The GaDOE iTunes University site is one that students will be able to use to take digital content with them, but also give them an avenue to demonstrate their own creativity. Superintendent Cox announced a student contest today that will encourage students to develop short movies that can be uploaded to the iTunes University site. There will be three category themes:

1. Elementary School: Theme - "Reading For Me!"
2. Middle School: Theme - "Monumental Math Moments!"
3. High School: Theme - "Making It Happen!"

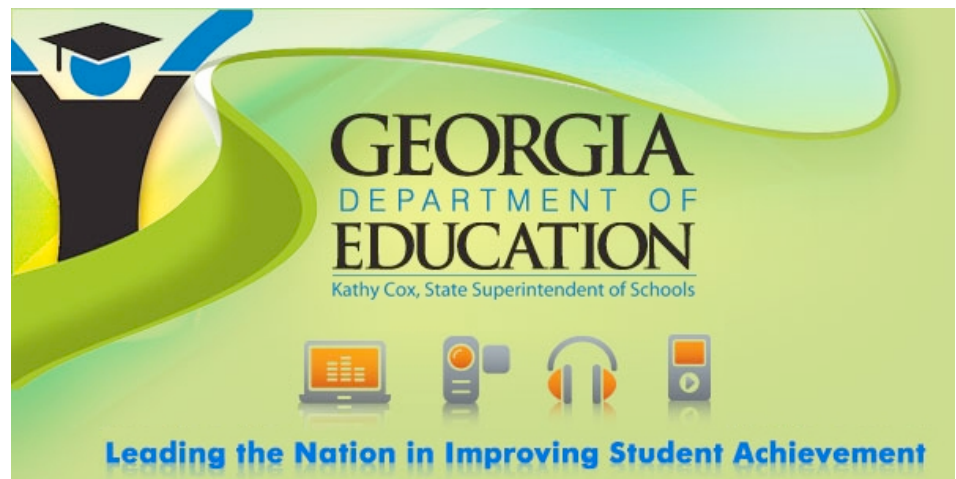
> [Complete contest details](#)

"Today's students have grown up surrounded by technology," said Superintendent Cox. "It is my hope that this contest will spark their creativity and demonstrate how they can integrate technology into the classroom and share with other students."

Winners of the contest will be featured on the GaDOE iTunes University site.

MORE INFORMATION:

- [GaDOE iTunes University site](#)



## Computer Skill Competency (CSC) Special Georgia Requirement is Waived



Effective immediately, the Computer Skill Competency (CSC) Special Georgia Requirement is waived for educator certification.

The CSC requirement was put in place by the PSC as a response to legislation and required educators in Georgia to demonstrate satisfactory proficiency on a PSC approved test of computer skill competency or to complete a PSC approved course. At the April 8, 2010, PSC commission meeting, a change to PSC Rule 505-2-.20 Special Georgia Requirements was initiated to remove the CSC requirement. The Commissioners agreed to waive the requirement until the rule change becomes official, which is expected on July 15, 2010.

The CSC requirement has served its original intent, which was to ensure Georgia educators have satisfactory knowledge of computer skills. As educators who complete a state approved educator preparation program since 2001 are exempt from this requirement since technology is imbedded in their preparation programs, and as the number of educators that have met the requirement upon certificate renewal has increased significantly, the PSC recognizes this component is no longer needed as a special Georgia requirement. The cost to educators and their school systems of time and resources associated with meeting this requirement can no longer be justified.

In response to this CSC waiver, the GACE Computer Skill Competency assessment (GACE 178), which could be passed as a test out option for the requirement, is no longer available.

The PSC acknowledges and is very appreciative of the work of the Education Technology Centers, Institutions of Higher Education, Regional Educational Service Agencies, school systems and schools that helped educators meet the CSC requirement by offering the PSC approved course or GACE Internet-Based Testing.

> [Official communication from the PSC](#)

## National Technology Standards for Students, Teachers & Administrators

There are many Georgia Performance Standards that align various technology concepts and competencies to student learning. Take for example, high school math standard [MA3D3](#) that uses technology to evaluate confidence intervals or the fifth grade [ELA5LSV2](#) standard that contains the critical component of using technology to structure a presentation. GeorgiaStandards.Org provides a link to the [International Society for Technology in Education's \(ISTE\) national technology standards](#) for students. These technology standards, known as the ISTE National Educational Technology Standards (NETS-S) and Performance Indicators for Students, can assist teachers that want to document the integration of technology into their curriculum. These technology standards include the following big ideas:

- Creativity and Innovation
- Communication and Collaboration
- Research and Information Fluency
- Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, and Decision Making
- Digital Citizenship
- Technology Operations and Concepts

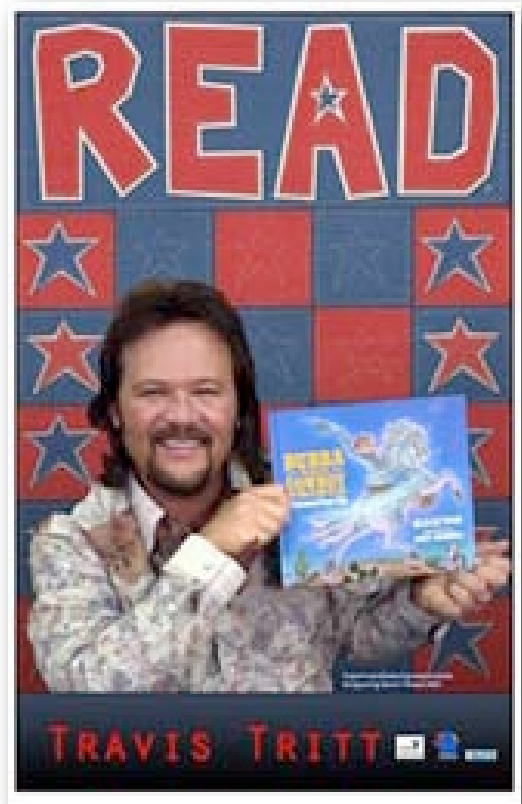
The National Education Technology Standards for Students is a framework that reflects the underlying assumption that all students should have the opportunity to develop technology skills that support learning, personal productivity and decision making. ISTE has also established [NETS for Teachers](#) and [NETS for Administrators](#).



## Kick Your Heels Up with Georgia Read More

Put your bandana on and get ready to Do-Si-Do for this month's Georgia Read More Video. Country Music Singer and Grammy Award Winner, Travis Tritt, reads [Bubba the Cowboy Prince](#) to the students at Hiram Elementary School in Paulding County. The book is authored by [Helen Ketteman](#) and illustrated by James Warhola. This Cinderella spoof with a Texas twist is sure to delight all the cowboys and cowgirls in your class. A CinderELLA story if you will, that is accompanied by the best illustrations this side of the Rio Grande. Now before you go off rustlin' up some cattle or getting them doggies along be sure to download the [vocabulary list](#) that accompanies Bubba the Cowboy Prince: A Fractured Texas Tale. Y'all come back now, ya hear?

> [Watch Travis Tritt read Bubba the Cowboy Prince: A Fractured Texas Tale](#)



## National Teacher Registry



Severe nationwide education budget cuts have resulted in many teachers and schools not receiving enough money to purchase the supplies they need for their classrooms. To address this growing problem the [National Teacher Registry](#) announces a new No Cost service for teachers and schools, public and private, pre-school through college. The [National Teacher Registry](#) helps teachers get items they need for their classroom when there is no budget to purchase them. On the [National Teacher Registry](#) website a teacher or school can create a list of the items that they need and want for their classroom. There are currently over 40,000 items from multiple suppliers on the site and many more products are in the process of being added.

Once a registry is created, a direct link to the registry can be sent by the teacher or school to parents and friends. Parents and friends can access the list on the Internet, purchase items from the list, and have the items delivered directly to the teacher or school. In many cases this is a charitable donation which can be deducted on the purchaser's tax return.

## Learn about the Holocaust with GALILEO Resource Britannica

Encyclopaedia Britannica presents a Spotlight on one of history's darkest chapters, [the Holocaust](#). This Spotlight covers everything from the origins of the Holocaust in the mind of Adolf Hitler to the legacy of the horror in art and memory. There are also extensive photographs and videos (warning: some of them are graphic), an extended bibliography, and discussion questions tied to each of the five parts and written especially for teachers and classroom use.

> [Explore the Reflections on the Holocaust](#)

## Think Big, Think Fast, Thinkfinity!

It already has tens of thousands of free educational resources for use in and out of the classroom, but now Georgia Department of Education partner [Verizon Thinkfinity](#) has a whole lot more. Verizon Thinkfinity recently unveiled an updated and expanded website that contains:

- A new online [Thinkfinity Community](#) where teachers, parents and administrators can share ideas, ask for assistance or discuss the topics of the day
- Virtual online filing cabinets where teachers can save their favorite online lesson plans, interactives and resources so they are always just a click away
- Newsfeeds on the latest educational resources
- [New social media tools](#), widgets and blogs

Take a few minutes and explore the [new Thinkfinity](#). And, of course, spread the word to other educators!

# Continuing Education

## Free Online Training for Britannica Subscribers



Britannica Online subscribers are invited to participate in online Britannica training sessions. This is a complimentary service provided to see what's new with Britannica Online and learn different ways to use it in your school or library! K-12, Academic, and Public Librarians will all enjoy these 1-hour online presentations that they can attend without having to leave the school or library. Sign up at [www.info.eb.com/webinar](http://www.info.eb.com/webinar).

### Upcoming Training Schedule:

*Academic Sessions (1:00 p.m. Eastern Time)*

- Tuesday, May 11
- Thursday, June 17
- Tuesday, July 13
- Thursday, August 19

*K12 All Levels Sessions (4 p.m. Eastern Time)*

- Thursday, May 13
- Tuesday, June 15
- Thursday, July 15
- Tuesday, August 17

*K12 Elementary Sessions*

- Thursday, May 13 (12 p.m. Eastern Time)
- Tuesday, June 15 (2:00 p.m. Eastern Time)
- Thursday, July 15 (12 p.m. Eastern Time)
- Tuesday, August 17 (2:00 p.m. Eastern Time)

*K12 Secondary Sessions*

- Thursday, May 13 (2:00 p.m. Eastern Time)
- Tuesday, June 15 (12 p.m. Eastern Time)
- Thursday, July 15 (2:00 p.m. Eastern Time)
- Tuesday, August 17 (12 p.m. Eastern Time)

## Britannica Online - Creating Workspaces, Putting Videos into PowerPoint & New Features

Learn all about using the Workspace feature in your classroom/library with your students and patrons! The Workspace feature is a versatile tool that can be used in many different ways. During this [1-hour webinar](#), you will also learn how to put the videos available on Britannica Online into PowerPoint Presentations, and you will learn about any new or updated features that Britannica has. This webinar is available for all Britannica Online subscribers, but it is strongly recommended that you attend an introductory webinar first. GALILEO provides access to Britannica and an array of other [information resources](#).

- Wednesday, May 12
- Wednesday, June 16
- Wednesday, July 14
- Wednesday, August 18

## Using US Documents in the Classroom

The National Archives and Records Administration preserves and makes available to the public the permanently valuable records of the United States Government. Millions of records can be accessed in the formats such as documents, maps, drawings, photographs, films and sound recordings that have captured the American experience of government since 1774. Starting in June 2010, Summer Workshops for Educators on [Using Historical Documents in the Classroom](#) will allow teachers to be immersed in the study of government records such as the [Declaration of Independence](#), the [Constitution](#) and the [Bill of Rights](#) at various [summer workshops for educators](#). The staff of the [National Archives and Records Administration](#) will show teachers how to use historical documents in the classroom. Participants will learn how to do research in historical records, create classroom material from records, and present documents in ways that sharpen students' skills and enthusiasm for history, social studies, and the humanities. Workshops are offered in many US cities. Workshop overview, location details and how to apply can be accessed from [this page](#).

## All the World's a Stage

Teachers of grades 4-12 have the opportunity to earn five Professional Learning Units (PLUs) by registering for [No Fear Shakespeare](#), a class which is accredited by the Georgia Department of Education. Learn the newest techniques behind making Shakespeare fun for your students in a casual, relaxed environment. Teachers of grades 4 - 5 will become acquainted with Shakespeare's stories and explore innovative ways of introducing them to young students. Teachers of grades 6 - 12 will have the opportunity to blow off the dust of the pages and look at Shakespeare's material differently, making the work more relevant to today's older students. Georgia Shakespeare's professional staff will help make sure your student's eyes don't glaze over at the mere mention of the "bard," ensuring that they achieve the building blocks necessary for future education.

- When: Monday thru Friday, June 7th - 18th, 2008
- Cost: \$200
- Time: 9:00 - 2:00 Daily
- Where: Conant Performing Arts Center
- Contact: Allen O'Reilly, at 404-504-3401 or email Allen at [allen@gashakespeare.org](mailto:allen@gashakespeare.org)



## GPS Glossary Differentiation

Differentiation is a broad term referring to the need of educators to tailor the curriculum, teaching environments, and practices to create appropriately different learning experiences for students. To differentiate instruction is to recognize students' varying interest, readiness levels and learning profiles and to react responsively. There are four elements of the curriculum that can be differentiated: content, process, products and learning environment.

Celebrating May	communicate	collaborate	connect
	<p><b>May 8</b> <b>1886</b> - The first <a href="#">Coca-Cola</a> fountain drink was sold in Jacobs Pharmacy in Atlanta.</p> <p><b>May 12-13</b> <b>1961</b> - The first group of <a href="#">Freedom Riders</a>, traveling from Washington, D.C., to the Deep South to protest segregation, passed through Georgia.</p> <p><b>May 26</b> <b>1935</b> - Aviator Amelia Earhart and educator Martha Berry were among a group of women granted honorary degrees by <a href="#">Oglethorpe University</a> in Atlanta.</p>	<p>May is a <a href="#">month full of history for Georgia</a> and <a href="#">The New Georgia Encyclopedia</a> has many articles celebrating these important events.</p> <p>The <a href="#">May calendar</a> from <a href="#">EDSITEment</a> has holidays, special events, lesson plans and websites for teachers.</p> <p><a href="#">GeorgiaStandards.Org</a> is the Thinkfinity State Education Partner in Georgia. GSO provides <a href="#">Thinkfinity professional development</a> for educators and trainers.</p>	<p>Downloads &gt; <a href="#">May 2010 Calendar Word Template (DOC)</a></p> <p>Links &gt; <a href="#">GSO Contact Information</a> &gt; <a href="#">Connect with GSO on Twitter</a> &gt; <a href="#">GPS by Grade Level, K-8</a></p> <p>May Writing Prompt Have students write a story set in the solar system or beyond.. Eduplace also offers the following <a href="#">May activities</a> for grade levels K - 8.</p>

## Teacher Appreciation Week

May 2-8, 2010 is [Teacher Appreciation Week](#)! The GeorgiaStandards.Org team wants to thank the teachers of Georgia for all that you do for children! You make a difference to students every single day and have a profound impact on them far beyond the walls of the classroom. Ever Garrison eloquently affirms this by stating, "A teacher is a compass that activates the magnets of curiosity, knowledge, and wisdom in the pupils."

## May EDSITEment Calendar of Special Events

The [May calendar](#) from [EDSITEment](#) is posted and as always is full of holidays, special events, lesson plans and websites for educators.

## May in Georgia History

May has many significant events that make history in Georgia, such as the first Europeans were known to have set foot on Georgia soil arrived with Spaniard Pedro de Quejos on May 3, 1525. They landed two ships at the mouth of the Savannah River on an exploratory expedition. The New Georgia Encyclopedia has [this article](#) and over [40 more](#) that celebrate important events that occurred in Georgia during the month of May.



THE NEW GEORGIA  
ENCYCLOPEDIA

## May is Better Hearing and Speech Month

[Better Hearing and Speech Month \(BHSM\)](#) is an annual event to raise awareness about communication disorders and to promote treatment that can improve the quality of life for those who experience problems with speaking, understanding or hearing. The [American Speech-Language-Hearing Association \(ASHA\) website](#) offers several resources for this annual event. For example, at the ASHA site classrooms can win prizes by entering [student drawings](#) in the [ASH Drawing Contest \[PDF\]](#). You can even download PDF templates such as BHSM bookmarks ([Design 1](#), [Design 2](#) or [Design 3](#)). The [ASHA 2010 BHSM screensaver](#) is also available as a Windows only download. The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association also has many resources for the public, such as:

- [How To Detect Communications Disorders In Your Children](#)
- [What You Can Do About Hearing Loss](#)
- [Activities For Kids](#)



<http://twitter.com/GaStandardsOrg>

### Recent GSO Tweets

PBS Teacherline has a free orientation course:

<http://www.pbs.org/teacherline/free-orientation-course/>

Annenberg Media's newest interactive, Dynamic Earth, illustrates how mountains, volcanoes & earthquakes are formed:

<http://bit.ly/9CVKbn>

Dollar General is offering up to \$5,000 for literacy grants in the 35 states where it operates (DEADLINE 5/21/2010):

<http://bit.ly/9qSaw6>

What's a zouave & how does it connect to the Civil War? See our artifact of the week for photo, info, & related resources

<http://ow.ly/1we8Q>

What is Learning Village?

<http://bit.ly/ark5xW>

Report on Teens and Mobile Phones:

<http://bit.ly/cmiiwf> @pew\_internet

RT @GAPartnership Economics of Education report presents key issues linking economic prosperity to public ed in GA:

<http://bit.ly/bZlxr8>

Number of GSO Tweets since 3/23/2009:  
257

## Meet the GSO Staff

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## Subscribing to GSO to GO



Subscribe to the GSO to GO Monthly Newsletter to stay informed about general information about the Georgia Performance Standards, new GSO website content, continuing education and monthly teaching themes. Get on the list by sending an email with the subject line 'GSO to GO Subscribe' to [GSOwebmaster@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:GSOwebmaster@doe.k12.ga.us) with your full name and email address.

## Other GaDOE News

### GSO to GO Archives

[Click here](#) to view previous issues of GSO to GO or to listen to a [GSO to GO Voices Podcast](#).

### Media Matters

A newsletter for people who love Library Media Centers. The Media Matters newsletter, a customizable newsletter for media center specialists and librarians, has been posted on the [GaDOE website](#) or access the [Media Matters archives](#).

### GaDOE Press Releases

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

### GSO News

Read the [latest news](#) regarding GeorgiaStandards.Org and the Georgia Performance Standards in the Announcements section of the GSO home page.

### Subscribe to GaDOE Newsletter or Updates

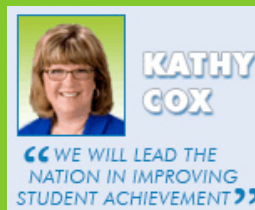
If you would like to receive the e-newsletter or updates from GaDOE, [click here](#).

### About GSO

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

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