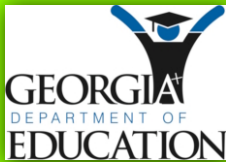


GSO to GO

NEWS FOR
JANUARY
2008



The Monthly Teacher Resource
Newsletter from GeorgiaStandards.Org

GeorgiaMath.Org



General Information

Work Smarter, Not Harder

It's 3:15 p.m., you've just returned from bus duty and you need to find instructional resources for your next lesson or next unit, and you need to find the resources fast! [GeorgiaStandards.Org](http://www.georgiastandards.org) (GSO) offers you an efficient and effective way to find standards, standards-aligned resources and online productivity tools to help you teach using the GPS. [GeorgiaStandards.Org](http://www.georgiastandards.org) has changed the way we work in the information age making our search for resources easier and faster.

Make [GSO](http://www.georgiastandards.org) a permanent link on your school or school system website so you are just one click away from [GSO's](http://www.georgiastandards.org) One-Stop-Shop. It's so easy... Right click on the GSO logo link immediately below this paragraph. Use the Save Target As command in order to save the logo to your local machine for placement on your website. Place the logo on your webpage and link the logo to <http://www.georgiastandards.org>.



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January
2008

Math GPS Has a New Web Address

The [Georgia Department of Education](http://www.georgia.gov) recently started using a new web address that serves as a landing page for the mathematics curriculum of the [Georgia Performance Standards](http://www.georgia.gov). [GeorgiaMath.Org](http://www.GeorgiaMath.Org) is a great source that serves all of Georgia's stakeholders. Parents, teachers and administrators can utilize [GeorgiaMath.Org](http://www.GeorgiaMath.Org) for a variety of math resources. There is a brief welcome message video from State Superintendent of Schools Kathy Cox discussing the need for a mathematics curriculum with more depth and rigor in order to keep up with the fast-paced economy of the 21st century. The new math webpage has a [document](#) where comparisons can be made between the old QCC curriculum and the current GPS Course Content. Visitors of [GeorgiaMath.Org](http://www.GeorgiaMath.Org) can also read what others have to say about the value of a solid foundation in mathematics.



Another Slam Dunk Georgia Read More Video!

[Dominique Wilkins](#), also known as The Human Highlight Film, is an NBA Hall of Famer that spent most of his basketball career as an Atlanta Hawk. And this month, GSO to GO proudly features a [Georgia Read More Video](#) with Wilkins reading a great story that will have your students catching their breath. The Great Grace Chase is written by Cynthia Rylant and illustrated by Mark Teague. This book has a Lexile ranking of AD410L and has 25 words in its vocabulary list. You can [meet the author](#) and then learn more about [her background and personal life](#). If one of your classroom resolutions this year is to integrate more online video into your reading curriculum, then bounce on over to the [Georgia Read More Videos page](#) and [watch Dominique Wilkins](#) read this fun story about Grace the dog.

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 and some of the videos are also available in Spanish. Included with most books are a Lexile score and links to author websites.

Committed to Student Achievement

Have you ever tried keeping up with a State Superintendent of Schools? You might need to put on some sneakers to catch Kathy Cox. Since the beginning of the 2007-08 school year, she has visited dozens of schools all over the great state of Georgia. Catch a glimpse of her ongoing tour of school districts by visiting [travel snapshots](#), a map that highlights Superintendent Cox's travel itinerary of what counties she has visited. And be sure to read the superintendent's [full biography](#) that highlights her accomplishments and service to Georgia public education through her 15 years as a classroom teacher and her service for two terms in the Georgia legislature as a State Representative.



Write a Lesson Plan, Win a Savings Bond!



The [Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta](#) is conducting a [lesson plan contest](#) for the 2007-08 school year. This contest is aimed at those individuals teaching grades six through twelve or pre-service educators from the Sixth Federal Reserve District. Lesson plans should feature a Federal Reserve publication, Web site, and/or multimedia materials. Enter by the February 1, 2008 deadline to win savings bonds ranging from \$200 to \$1,500. If you have any questions about the contest guidelines, you can contact your [local Federal Reserve office representative](#).

GeorgiaStandards.Org Data Points

1/2007 - 12/2007

Visitors to GeorgiaStandards.Org
1,439,648

Unique Visitors
581,972

Page views for all visitors
7,659,075

Average Time on Site
5 minutes 8 seconds

Number of Units that are
Approved and Searchable in GSO
958

Number of Georgia Educators
trained on GSO
9,171

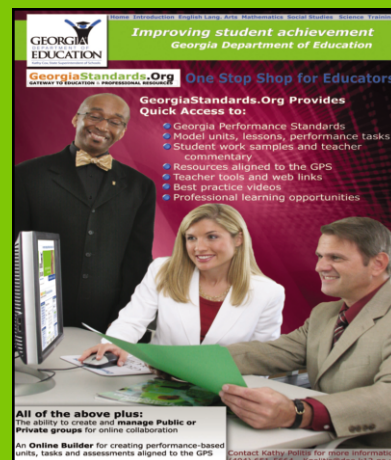
Active Portal Users with
GSO Builder Privileges
9,492

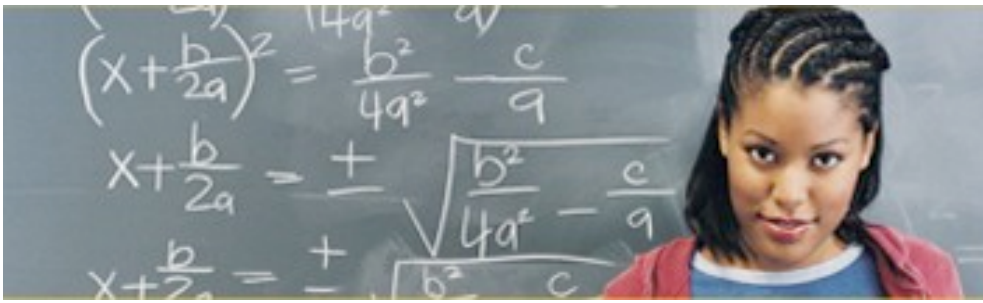
Number of GSO Teacher Groups
805

Number of GSO Training Videos
179

GSO Posters

[GeorgiaStandards.Org](#) posters are available to all Georgia school systems. This year's GSO poster features Georgia teacher of the year Emily Jenette pictured alongside teacher of the year finalists Anthony Stinson and William Haskin. Contact [Kathy Politis](#) for more information for your school posters.





Reinforce Basic Math Skills with Online Video Games

[Academic Skill Builders](#) has a number of [educational video games](#) that can be used to reinforce basic skills such as [Multiplication Grand Prix](#), [Drag Race Division](#), [Meteor Multiplication](#), [Demolition Division](#), [Alien Addition](#) and [Minus Mission](#). [Multiplication Grand Prix](#) and [Drag Race Division](#) allow up to four students to play against each other at the same time from different computers. Teachers can even set-up these multi-player games in public or private modes. Most of the Academic Skill Builders games are optimized ([Wii-formatted Games list](#)) for the Nintendo Wii gaming system by using the Wii Browser and a Wii Remote. Academic Skill Builders provides a [teacher manual](#) with steps on how teachers can use their online educational video games. Eventually, Academic Skill Builders is planning to add features that will enable teachers to save records, customize content, track scores and address problem areas for students.

Math Support for Struggling Learners

Criteria is outlined in the [Georgia Department of Education Support for Struggling Learners in Mathematics](#) document that every effort be made to assist struggling students before they fail a math course. Teachers and administrators can use this [document](#) when addressing the needs of students who are struggling in a math class. There is useful information and guidance on providing a mathematics support class, including its purpose, who should teach this course and what credit is earned for taking a Mathematics Support class. For example, a great strategy that has been proven to have a positive impact on raising student achievement in mathematics is previewing content about to be taught in class. Another early intervention approach that can be used to prevent student failure is by referring to the [Tier 1 Pyramid of Interventions/Response](#). There are many other important questions addressing successful opportunities that secondary teachers can provide to struggling mathematics students by reading [Education Support for Struggling Learners in Mathematics](#).

Exemplary Math Questioning Techniques Caught on Video

At the top of the [Math Frameworks webpage](#) is a link to a document that has an introduction to the "[Georgia Instructional Framework in](#)

[Mathematics](#)." The mathematical frameworks document emphasizes many elements that can be utilized as a guide in teaching a standards-based curriculum. This includes the usage of tasks that can be used to maximize student achievement for Mathematics GPS. In a standards-based curriculum, teaching and learning should occur through a series of complex interactions. This includes communications between the teacher and individual pupils as well as communications between teacher and the entire class. Watch the videos on [Questioning in Class](#) (scroll down the page) to see examples of classroom questioning techniques to stimulate student thinking and learning with one-on-one and whole class interactions. Also worth a look is [Tips from the Trenches](#), which is a video series that provides mathematical GPS tips from many experienced teachers.

Integrating Technology into your Curriculum

Is one of your New Year's resolutions to integrate more technology into your curriculum?

[GeorgiaStandards.Org](#) can help you with that goal. On the left-side of the [GSO homepage](#) under the Teacher Tools Portlet, you will notice a link to [4Teachers.org](#). [4Teachers.org](#) offers teachers the tech help they need through many online tools and resources. You can get inspired by glancing over some [teacher success stories](#) of using technology in the classroom. Through these testimonials, teachers describe what they did in their classroom with technology and the equipment and software that they used. [4Teachers.org](#) offers a set of fifteen tools that can be used by educators. One of those tools is [PersuadeStar](#), a free online application that is designed for students in grades five through twelve to help them write an online persuasive essay. Once teachers register, they can assign an essay with selected criteria for students to use such as analysis of example essays, essay planning tool, essay writing space, spelling feedback and source and bibliography information. Student work is tracked to the registered teacher through an assignment code. This is a free online program that can improve student writing skills, so why not register for [PersuadeStar](#) today?

Meet the GSO Staff

Kathy Politis

1952 Twin Towers East
205 Jesse Hill Jr. Drive SE
Atlanta, GA 30334
p. (404) 463-1280
f. (404) 657-5183
kpoltis@doe.k12.ga.us

Beth Caraccio

1952 Twin Towers East
205 Jesse Hill Jr. Drive SE
Atlanta, GA 30334
p. (404) 657-3543
f. (404) 657-5183
bcaracci@doe.k12.ga.us

Scott J. Wilson, Ph.D.

1952 Twin Towers East
205 Jesse Hill Jr. Drive SE
Atlanta, GA 30334
p. (404) 463-6404
f. (404) 657-5183
scwilson@doe.k12.ga.us

Lynda Byrne

Center for Quality Teaching and Learning
Cunningham Center for Leadership Development
Columbus State University
Columbus, GA 31907-5645
p. (706) 565-3647
f. (706) 565-3648
byrne_lynda@colstate.edu

Traci M. Boyd

1952 Twin Towers East
205 Jesse Hill Jr. Drive SE
Atlanta, GA 30334
p. (404) 463-1280
f. (404) 657-5183
tboyd@doe.k12.ga.us

Tony Vlachakis, MS

1952 Twin Towers East
205 Jesse Hill Jr. Drive SE
Atlanta, GA 30334
p. (404) 463-1280
f. (404) 657-5183
vlachak@doe.k12.ga.us

Continuing Education

Georgia Teachers Invited to Join Elluminate Sessions

The following invitation was recently sent to over 11,000 Georgia educators by Kathy Politis, the [GeorgiaStandards.Org Program Manager](#). This invite is actually extended to all the Mathematics and English/Language Arts teachers in Georgia.

Teachers,

As a [GeorgiaStandards.Org](#) user, I wanted you to be aware of this information that was sent to Curriculum Directors and Principals. We look forward to continuing to support your school and school systems' GPS teacher training initiatives.

The [Georgia Department of Education](#) will be hosting a series of on-line professional learning sessions for teachers in the areas of K-8 Mathematics and K-12 ELA/Writing. Please share this information with classroom teachers so they will be able to participate in these opportunities. The purpose of these professional learning sessions is to support the implementation of the [Georgia Performance Standards](#). [GaDOE](#) content area specialists will use GPS frameworks, tasks, formative assessments, and instructional practices to guide participants through rich discussions focused on student learning.

These professional learning sessions will be held through [Elluminate](#), an on-line interactive communication program. Teachers will be able to participate from school or home. The only requirement is a computer with internet access. Schools may choose to offer PLU credit for participation in these professional learning sessions. Possible options for offering PLU's are included below. Additionally, these Elluminate sessions will be recorded. Directions for accessing recordings are below.

This information will also be posted on [GeorgiaStandards.Org](#) on the [Training page](#). Teachers should review the document links below and follow the short steps to prepare computers in advance.

Please [contact me](#) or John Wight (jwight@doe.k12.ga.us) with any questions or feedback you may have. We look forward to working with you.

Thank you!
Kathy Politis
kpolitis@doe.k12.ga.us



Elluminate Training Information & Links

- > [Elluminate Live! V8 Participant Quick Reference Guide](#)
- > [Elluminate Pre-configuration Instructions](#)
- > [Directions for Accessing Elluminate Recordings](#)
- > [Options for PLU Support](#)
- > [K-8 English Language Arts TALKs \(Talking About Learning and Kids\), Winter 2008](#)
- > [K-12 English Language Arts TALKs \(Talking About Learning and Kids\), Winter 2008, Links to Meetings](#)
- > [K-8 Mathematics TALKs \(Talking About Learning and Kids\), Winter 2008](#)
- > [K-8 Mathematics TALKs \(Talking About Learning and Kids\), Winter 2008, Links to Meetings](#)

Connect with other Educational Professionals

[Tapped In](#) is an online education community with the vision of transforming professional development. This academic community consists of K-12 teachers, librarians, administrators, and professional development staff as well as university faculty, students, and researchers who gather to learn, collaborate, share, and support one another. [Tapped In](#) believes that a combination of online activities and engaging training opportunities should be available to all educators. [Sign-up](#) for a free membership and enter Tapped In as a member. Once you are logged in a reception chat area appears at the bottom portion of the page with a friendly and well-staffed helpdesk that is available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. (Pacific Time Zone). There are many tools to explore on the [Tapped In](#) site, such as groups. Groups in Tapped In have a room associated with them and are owned by one Tapped In member. Group members can meet to have online conversations and post to a discussion board about a particular subject or content area. A search for "math" in Groups returned 16 matches. In selecting the Math Transformers Group, you can see that their purpose is to learn how to differentiate math instruction. Currently, there are 14 members of the Math Transformers Group who meet online monthly. In fact, if you click on the [calendar link](#) you can see the many monthly activities available to educators.

Learn Cool Tools at the ETTC in Valdosta

The [Educational Technology Training Center \(ETTC\) located at Valdosta State University](#) is the training center for the southern-central region of Georgia. Teachers may want to sign-up for [Cool Tools](#), a workshop series featured on the first Tuesday of each month. Upcoming workshop events include Cooling it with Galileo and Google Web-creator on February 5, 2008. On March 4, 2008, teachers can enroll for the Podcasting at its Finest or Web 2.0: Blogs & Wikis. Register for one of these great sessions by calling 229-249-2781. Additional [technology-enriched courses](#) are available for PreK-16 administrators, teachers, para-professional and technical staff. [Registration information](#) and a [complete listing](#) of all courses is available. Most of these courses offer PLU (Professional Learning Unit) credit. You can find the ETTC at [Valdosta State University](#) in addition to the other 12 ETTCs serving the state on the [Georgia Department of Education](#) website. The Educational Technology Training Centers (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. [Thirteen ETTC training centers](#) are located throughout the state for your convenience.

39th Annual Children's Literature Conference

Athens, Georgia is hosting the 39th Annual Conference on Children's Literature from February 29 to March 1, 2008. K-8 teachers, library media specialists, public librarians and others interested in children's literature will enjoy this venue. The conference will take place in the [Georgia Center for Continuing Education Conference Center & Hotel](#), which is located on the historic campus of the University of Georgia in Athens. Learn more about the tentative agenda, conference events or Georgia Children's Book Awards Program by visiting the [Children's Literature conference](#) page.

Celebrating January

January in Georgia History



THE NEW GEORGIA ENCYCLOPEDIA

The [New Georgia Encyclopedia \(NGE\)](#) is a major project of the [Georgia Humanities Council](#). NGE has partnered with the [University of Georgia Press](#), the [University System of Georgia/GALILEO](#), the [Office of the Governor](#) and the [Georgia Department of Technical and Adult Education](#). As a result of these strong alliances, the New Georgia Encyclopedia is available to everyone with Internet access. [January in Georgia History](#) is a month full of significant events. One important event of Georgia history was the [Yazoo Land Fraud](#), which involved a generation of struggle with the state's public lands. Eighth grade social studies teachers can address standard [SS8H5b](#) when teaching about the [Yazoo Land Fraud](#). After decades of heated debate and conflict over slavery, January was also the month that [Georgia seceded from the Union](#) in 1861. This NGE article on Secession covers the [SS8H6a](#) social studies standard for eighth grade teachers that allow students to analyze the impact of the Civil War and Reconstruction on Georgia. Read these and [other great January articles](#) from the [New Georgia Encyclopedia](#) which includes [Gainesville](#), [Jekyll Island](#), [Martin Luther King Jr.](#), [Coretta Scott King](#) and the [Civil Rights Movement](#).

Multi-Cultural Holidays in January

[Kidlink.Org](#) is a website that was built on [teamwork and collaboration](#) by contributors from North America and Europe. This site is a place for kids to network with other kids in an international setting. Since 1994, [KidLink.Org](#) has been building a [Multi-Cultural Calendar](#). The [calendar](#) has links to recipes for holiday foods, historical background, significance of the holidays and the special ways in which these days are observed. Take a look at what holidays are being celebrated around the world during the [month of January](#). You can also select holidays by [month](#), [holiday](#) or [country](#)."

January EDSITEment Calendar of Special Events

[EDSITEment](#) is featuring some great links to lesson plans and website resources in their [January 2008 calendar](#). For instance, [Phillis Wheatly](#) was the first black female poet to publish a book in America. Ms. Wheatly was born January 1, 1753 in West Africa. On January 7, 1610, Galileo discovers Jupiter's first three satellites. The [Galileo and the Inevitability of Ideas lesson plan](#) can be used by teachers to introduce how Galileo exercised intellectual freedom to overcome superstitious beliefs. Teachers can use the [Art and Life in Africa Online: Zulu Information website](#) to discuss the Zulu war that commenced against the ruling British colonists in South Africa on January 11, 1879. Civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. was born on January 15, 1929. Teachers can access the following lesson plans from EDSITEment; [Let Freedom](#)

[Ring: The Life and Legacy of Martin Luther King](#) and [Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Power of Nonviolence](#). On January 30, 1882 Franklin D. Roosevelt was born. Teachers can focus on the 32nd US president with "[The Proper Application of Overwhelming Force](#)": [The United States in World War II](#) and [Worth a Thousand Words: Depression-Era Photographs lesson plans](#). These are just a few dates mentioned from the [EDSITEment January calendar](#), so be sure to visit this [month's calendar](#) to look over all the special events and birthdays.

Download Two Educational Games



First a [loaded calendar with educational links](#) and now downloadable educational video games? That's right, TeacherVision has a [few educational games](#) that you can download to a PC or Mac computer. Math Baseball ([Mac](#) or [PC](#)) is an educational game that you can download that allows students to practice arithmetic skills using single, double or triple digits. You can even select the math problems to be presented with a variable (algebra style). The other download is Planet Zug ([Mac](#) or [PC](#)). This game is a galactic vocabulary encounter with a hostile alien planet. If your students get all the alien vocabulary questions correct they can return back to Earth! Both of these computer games are from [FunBrain.com](#). [FunBrain.com](#) is an online education site for students in K-8 and teachers. You can check out their choices that feature many online [numbers and words games](#).

Jump into January with More Links and Downloads

Education World features their January coloring calendar in [web-based](#), [printable](#) or [editable](#) versions. Education World also has a [New Year Celebrations Around the World activity](#) that ties reading, science and social studies together. [Winter](#), [Martin Luther King, Jr.](#) and [Super Bowl](#) are editable January holiday work sheets that your students will enjoy. Over at ABCTeach, it highlights a number of [links for January](#) as well. Your students can fill their writing journals by picking from a number of [winter writing prompts](#) or they can complete this [Winter Word Search](#).



Celebrating January

Celebrate Letter Writing Week



[TeacherVision](#) is an educational site with lots of lesson plans and printables. TeacherVision also has a nice [January calendar](#) with holidays, seasonal events and celebrations. For instance, January 6-12 is Letter Writing Week. TeacherVision has compiled a [meaningful list of writing activities](#) that your students can do, here are some examples:

[Anti-Smoking Letter Writing Campaign](#) (Grades 3-5)

Students will explore arguments against smoking and write letters encouraging a friend not to smoke.

[Write a Letter to Jesse Owens](#) (Grades 6-12)

Assuming the role of a fellow athlete, Nazi supporter or African-American, students will write a letter to Jesse Owens describing their political views and their feelings about his accomplishments at the 1936 Olympic Games.

[Write a Letter to the President](#) (Grades 3-12)

Students will write a letter to the president with details of their ideas for goals to be met during his/her administration.

[Letter for Great Mail Race](#) (Grades 4-5)

Students practice writing and word processing a letter to be used in The Great Mail Race.

>> [More Letter Writing Activities from TeacherVision](#)



Other GaDOE News

New GSO Content

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

January 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

1952 Twin Towers East
205 Jesse Hill Jr. Drive SE
Atlanta, GA 30334

Tel. (404) 463-1280

Fax (404) 657-518



Kathy Cox
State Superintendent
of Schools