



General Information

327 Georgia Schools Awarded for Outstanding Achievement

On January 7, 2010, State Superintendent of Schools Kathy Cox and the Governor's Office of Student Achievement (GOSA) Executive Director Kathleen Mathers announced that 327 Georgia public schools are being recognized for improvement and achievement during the 2008-2009 school year. The schools are being recognized under Georgia's Single Statewide Accountability System (SSAS), which awards schools based on their performance on state curriculum exams and Adequate Yearly Progress status.

"Congratulations to the principals, teachers, parents and students at these 327 schools," said State Superintendent of Schools Kathy Cox. "Even in these very difficult economic times the schools we are awarding continue to have a no excuses attitude and are more focused than ever on the goal of providing a world-class education to every student."

The awards are being announced as part of the release of the 2008-2009 K-12 Public Schools Scoreboard and Report Card. The recognized schools will receive a congratulatory letter and a banner announcing the accomplishment.

"I am pleased to recognize these schools that are working hard to get great results," said Kathleen Mathers, Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Student Achievement

(GOSA). "Congratulations to the students at these schools for achieving at impressive levels and to the staff for their commitment to helping children learn."

The schools are awarded on four levels – Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze – in two categories (see full criteria on pg. 2):

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2010

GSO Feedback

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

Telephone: (404) 463-1280

Fax: (404) 657-5183

Email: GSOwebmaster@doe.k12.ga.us

- Greatest gains: Schools that showed the greatest improvement in scores on the Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests (CRCT) or the Georgia High School Graduation Tests (GHSGT).
- Highest performance: Schools that demonstrated the highest achievement on the CRCT or GHSGT.



The Report Card, which features the SSAS awards, was developed by GOSA and provides bottom-line data for Georgia's pre-schools, K-12 schools, colleges and universities, technical colleges, and educator licensing and accreditation. It includes school, system, and state level reports organized into seven major sections: Accountability, Georgia Tests, National Tests, Indicators, Student and School Demographics, Personnel and Fiscal, and Comparisons.

To learn more about GOSA, please visit www.gaosa.org.

List of Schools

- [Greatest Gain in Percentage of Students Meeting and Exceeding Standards](#)
- [Highest Percentage of Students Meeting and Exceeding Standards](#)

Free Online ExPreSS - Exam Preparation for Science and Social Studies

Beginning February 1, 2010, a free [Online ExPreSS Tutorial Program](#) will be offered by the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) for high school students and certificate of attendance recipients who were unsuccessful on or who have not yet taken the Science and/or Social Studies Georgia High School Graduation Tests (GHSGT). The Online ExPreSS modules are self-paced and are based on the instructional plans created for the summer ExPreSS Program.

Students will create their own registration account using their GTID (Georgia Testing Identifier) number. Detailed instructions for creating this account and locating their GTID number will be provided by February 1, 2010, on the [ExPreSS Website](#). For additional information about Online ExPreSS, contact Pat Blenke at ablenke@doe.k12.ga.us or 404-656-4201 or Pam Smith at pamsmith@doe.k12.ga.us or 404-463-4141.



Top Ten Issues to Watch



The Georgia Partnership for [Excellence in Education \(GPEE\)](#) prepares a yearly report that focuses on how trends and developments can impact education in Georgia. This year's publication is titled [Top Ten Issues to Watch in 2010](#) and it gauges educational policy, legislative and programmatic issues that may affect the coming school year. According to their mission statement, the GPEE will, "Inform and influence Georgia leaders through research and non-partisan advocacy to impact education policies and practices for the improvement of student achievement." Here is the list of educational issues from the [2010 detailed report](#):

1. Budget, Budget, Budget: The Grim Reality
2. Georgia's Race to the Top
3. Standards & Assessments: The Foundation for Student Success
4. A Data System to Support Instruction
5. Great Teachers & Leaders: What Our Students Need Most
6. Turning Around Georgia's Lowest-Achieving Schools
7. College Access for All
8. The Expanding Charter School Frontier
9. Filing Suit: Education Litigation in Georgia
10. Understanding Rural Georgia

> [Download the Top Ten Issues to Watch in 2010](#)

Integrating Technology into your Curriculum

Is one of your New Year's resolutions to integrate more technology into your curriculum? Then let GeorgiaStandards.Org help you with that goal. GSO has a page dedicated to [Teacher Tools for Integrating Technology](#). On that page, you will find many links to technology-rich tools from sites that can be used by educators in creating teaching and learning activities for a standards-based classroom. Notice the link to [4Teachers.org](#), a site that offers teachers the tech help they need through many online tools and resources. [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 stu-

dents 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?

2009-2010 Young Georgia Authors Competition



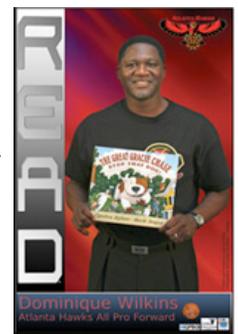
The Young Georgia Authors Competition 2009-2010 information is posted on the [ELA program page](#) of the Georgia Department of Education website. Scroll towards the bottom of the page, and you will see links to the following documents:

- [2009-10 Official Rules Booklet](#)
- [Winners of 2008-09 School Year](#)
- [Young Georgia Authors Winning Entries 2009](#)

The deadline for entries this year's Young Georgia Authors Competition is March 10, 2010. The [ELA program office](#) looks forward to your participation.

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.



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](#)
- [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. Visit the [Arcademic Game Descriptions page](#) for the latest online learning games from AcademicSkillBuilders.com.

Multi-Player Games



Jetski Addition | [Game Info](#)

The Labors of Herakles: Outreach Program

If you can't see Herakles at the Carlos, he will come to your classroom. Reserve one of a dozen outreach programs where students use costumes and props to act out the myths. Meet the ferocious lion of Nemea, killer birds, Amazon women, and Atlas who held up the world. Open this [informative PDF](#) for more about the Permanent Collections, Upcoming Exhibitions, Tour Programs, Outreach Programs, Programs for Teachers and Podcasts at the Michael C. Carlos Museum.



Continuing Education

41st Annual Conference on Children's Literature

Athens, Georgia is hosting the 41st Annual Conference on Children's Literature from March 19 - 20, 2010. 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](#).



Ancient World Adventures at the Michael C. Carlos Museum

It's Greek to Me! at the Michael C. Carlos Museum: a special set of adventures for 3rd graders and all students of the ancient World

The Michael C. Carlos Museum, an educational partner of the Department of Education, offers small group, expeditionary tours providing a vivid entry to the study of world cultures through art.

Majority Rules, developed by 3rd grade teachers for third graders, is an interactive tour aligned with the Georgia Performance Standards. It introduces students to 5th-century Athens during the construction of the Parthenon and the development of the roots of democracy. The stories on ancient Greek vases depict scenes from the classics of Greek literature from the Trojan War to Odysseus' voyage; the stories that convey the ideal of excellence and honor. On the tour students dress in a chiton and learn what it meant to be a Greek citizen; they wear the olive wreath of the victorious Olympic athlete, and barter with blow-up versions of coins from the collection. Visit [Student programs](#) for the Greek Passport booklet for students, vocabulary, and a follow-up lesson plan. Then check out the Greek section of Odyssey Online, the [special interactive website](#) for students.



GPS Glossary

Concept Map

A concept map is a document that outlines the concepts, essential questions, vocabulary, instructional tools and assessments for each unit.

Carlos Conversations

No one did monsters better than the ancient Greeks. *Monsters!* is a lively, [10 minute discussion](#) beginning with Odysseus and the Cyclops and touching on Medusa, centaurs and sirens, with Emory University faculty discussing the reason behind the monsters.

Events at the Avenue Research Library on African American Culture and History

January 10, 2010 – February 28, 2010
Cary-McPheeters Gallery
1st Floor Historical Exhibit
Fighting Against the Odds: The Tuskegee Airmen and the Segregated Skies of World War II

February 6, 2010
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Save Our African American Treasures

February 13, 2010
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Authors' and Writers' Lounge, 3rd Floor Community Forum
Double V: World War II and the Right to Fight

February 19, 2010 (Middle School)
February 26, 2010 (High School)
Heritage Center Education Auditorium, 4th Floor
Sankofa History Challenge: African American History Quiz Bowl

February 20, 2010
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Authors' and Writers' Lounge, 3rd Floor
Author's Discussion and Book Signing



Celebrating February

communicate

Feb. 1

Born 1902 - Langston Hughes, African-American poet
[The Poet's Voice: Langston Hughes and You](#)

Feb. 9

1995 - [Bernard Harris](#) first Black astronaut to take spacewalk, dedicates event to achievements of all African Americans

Feb. 23

Born 1864 - WEB Du Bois, civil rights writer
[African-American Soldiers in World War I: The 92nd and 93rd Divisions](#)

collaborate

For Georgia facts, visit [The New Georgia Encyclopedia](#).

[GeorgiaStandards.Org](#) is the Thinkfinity State Education Partner in Georgia. GSO provides [Thinkfinity professional development](#) for educators and trainers.

connect

Downloads

- > [February 2010 Calendar Word Template \(DOC\)](#)
- > [2010 Presidents' Day Jimmy Carter Celebration \(PDF\)](#)

Links

- > [GSO Contact Information](#)
- > [Connect with GSO on Twitter](#)
- > [GPS by Grade Level, K-8](#)

February Writing Prompt

Many African Americans have made valuable contributions to the world. Have students write a persuasive essay to the United States Postal Service, convincing them to create a new stamp depicting a famous African American. Eduplace also offers the following [February activities](#) for grade levels K - 8.

February in Georgia History

The [New Georgia Encyclopedia \(NGE\)](#) notes February 1733 as a very significant date in our state's history. Georgia became a colony through the perseverance of an individual who also carried the roles of social reformer and military leader. Do your students know the founder of Georgia? This [visionary](#) also initiated the city plans for the city of Savannah. In studying Colonial Georgia, eighth grade social studies teachers can reference [SS8H2 of the Georgia Performance Standards](#). [NGE's February in Georgia History](#) also features the [Battle of Kettle Creek](#), the completion of [Georgia's first Constitution](#) and the [South's oldest college football rivalry](#). Challenge your students to research the [New Georgia Encyclopedia](#) to find out who was the [first African-American congressman](#) to speak on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives. Teachers can access many more [NGE articles for February](#) that are about history, politics, entertainment and more.



February EDSITement Calendar of Special Events



The February calendar from [EDSITement](#) is a collection of peer-reviewed websites and lesson plans covering this month's holidays and special events. February is [African American History Month](#) and [EDSITement](#) highlights many activities and lessons focused around this celebration. Some of the EDSITement's African American History lesson plans include:

- [The Poet's Voice: Langston Hughes and You](#)
- [Attitudes Toward Emancipation](#)
- [Dr. King's Dream](#)
- [From Courage to Freedom: Frederick Douglass's 1845 Autobiography](#)
- [Perspectives on the Slave Narrative](#)
- [Harlem 1900-1940](#)
- [African-American Soldiers in World War I: The 92nd and 93rd Divisions](#)

African-American Research At The AARL

Celebrate African studies all year long with the exceptional programs and events at the [Auburn Avenue Research Library \(AARL\)](#). This special library is located in Atlanta ([directions](#)) and is part of the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System. This is the first library in the Southeast to house specialized reference and archival collections for the study and research of African cultures. [Tours of the AARL facility](#) are available by appointment. You can also check out [upcoming events](#) for important venues and activities. The AARL also allows you to log on to some excellent [online databases](#) to research African-American culture and history.



Presidents' Day Celebration



Presidents' Day is coming up soon! Would you like your class to learn more about Presidents' Day and our former Presidents of the United States of America? Then receive free resources by registering for the Presidents' Day Celebration at jimmycarter.info. In addition, a special project is underway for students to write a "Happy Presidents' Day" letter to former President Jimmy Carter. The letters will be on display for the public at Plains High School Museum during the month of February. President Carter always enjoys stopping by to see the exhibit! For more details, [click here](#).

Fly into February with more Fun Links

Education World has some [Groundhog Day holiday links](#) that you can use with your class. They also have some links straight from the heart for [Valentine's Day](#). ELA teachers in grades K-8 can have students assemble [Candy Heart Stories](#) as a great writing activity. And what a [great opportunity to learn](#) about veins, arteries, capillaries and what else...the heart! Go with the flow and point your browser to PBS where you can visualize a [six step animation breakdown](#) of what the heart does day in and day out. Paging students...paging all students, in 19 steps they can [perform a virtual heart transplant operation](#). Education World also has plenty to do with your students for [Presidents' Day](#).



Meet the GSO Staff

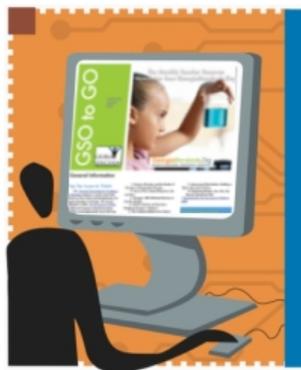
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Subscribing to GSO to GO



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 with your full name and email address.

follow us on
twitter

<http://twitter.com/GaStandardsOrg>

Recent GSO Tweets

Hey math teachers, let your students practice fractions with Dig It and Drop Zone! from Calculation Nation: <http://bit.ly/6AowSj>

PBS Launches Online Resources for Finance and Economics K-12 Teachers: <http://bit.ly/7MUVG3>
Access, Analyze, Act: <http://bit.ly/5fWEoU>

Number of GSO Tweets since 3/23/2009:
164

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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