



General Information

Georgia Teachers Receive National Recognition and BIG Money



On [November 6, 2007](#) two Georgia teachers were named 2007 Milken National Educators of the Year by State Superintendent

of Schools Kathy Cox. [The Milken Family Foundation National Educator Awards](#) program provides public recognition and a \$25,000 reward to elementary and secondary school teachers, principals and other education professionals who are furthering excellence in education. The recipients of this prestigious award were Wendy McCarron a math teacher at Northview High School in Fulton County and Jill Ryerson a 7th Grade English teacher at North Whitfield Middle School in Whitfield County. "These two teachers represent everything that is good about the education profession. They are innovative, resourceful, caring and completely student-focused," said Superintendent Cox. "I am so grateful to the Milken Family Foundation for [recognizing our great](#)

[teachers](#) each year in a very real and tangible way." Ms. McCarron and Ms. Ryerson will attend an annual conference of award-winners in Los Angeles. [More information](#) >>

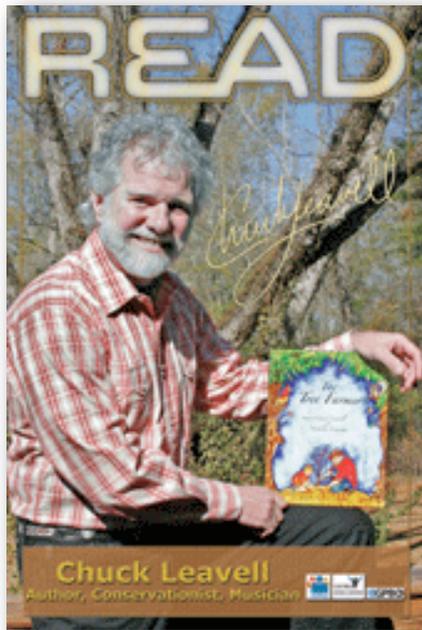
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December
2007

How do I Sign-up for a GSO Portal Account?

Educators keep hearing all the buzz about the [GeorgiaStandards.Org \(GSO\)](#) Portal, so inquiring Georgia teachers want to know how to sign-up? With GSO Portal access, teachers can look up information on the GPS, including standards and aligned instructional resources, not to mention the ability for teachers to develop a GPS aligned unit of instruction in a personal office space. By downloading the [GSO Portal Account User's Guide](#), teachers receive step by step instructions on what to do. Included in this user's guide are instructions for new, established or reassigned teachers. There are sections in the guide to assist non-classroom school employees and university personnel as well. The GSO Portal Account User's Guide also includes thorough directions on logging into the GSO Portal for the first time. Teachers should log in to Portal at least once every 90 days to avoid suspension or termination of their account.



Chuck Leavell Now Showing on Georgia Read More

As we enter the month of December, many of us in Georgia are making a concerted effort to conserve water because of the level four drought declared by the state. Along with water conservation, there are other natural resources that we need to remind students to preserve, such as trees. This makes it a great reason to watch [Chuck Leavell read The Tree Farmer](#), a book he has written along with Nicholas Cravotta. This beautifully illustrated and poetic story aims to educate children about the environment and our roles as environmental stewards. Just like other Georgia Read More featured books, there is a [vocabulary list](#) that goes along with The Tree Farmer story. Watch this month's featured [Georgia Read More video](#) with your students to plant the ideals of stewardship and renewable resources. Your class can also check out the other videos playing on the [Georgia Read More Program Videos](#) page.

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.

NEW! 8th Grade Technology Literacy Assessment Option Offered Through GaDOE!

The GaDOE, in response to requests from local schools and LEAs, has developed an OPTIONAL 8th grade Technology Literacy assessment. This assessment is one more choice for schools to consider when addressing the NCLB requirement to report 8th grade tech literacy. The Georgia Virtual School and the Office of Technology Services, Title II-D, for the GaDOE have collaborated to create three 60 question assessments addressing the technology standard requirements. Beginning December 3, 2007, these assessments will be accessible through the [Office of Standards, Instruction, and Assessment's Online Assessment System \(OAS\)](#). For more information on this optional technology assessment, visit the [8th grade Technology Literacy Update](#).

Environmental Education in Georgia

In the upper-left corner of [GeorgiaStandards.Org](#) you will find a Portlet titled GPS Website Finder with helpful links to support the implementation of the Georgia Performance Standards. The [Partners in Education link](#) showcases collaborations between the Georgia Department of Education and agencies in Georgia to provide quality instructional materials to educators. [EE in Georgia](#) is a clearinghouse for environmental education that includes lesson plans, news, events, and facts about Georgia's environment. Begin by taking a [quiz](#) with your students to test their knowledge of the environment, select your difficulty level to see what your students know. [Contents and awards](#) based on the environment are also posted on [EE in Georgia](#), which is worth a look for teachers and students. If you hurry you can make the deadline for the [You be the Chemist Lesson Plan Contest](#) (12/21/2007) to win \$1,000 or enter the [Nature Conservancy Photo Contest](#) (12/31/2007) and have your winning photo featured on [nature.org](#). Last but not least, teachers can make a [request for free EE teacher materials](#). Upon request, The Georgia River of Words Teacher's Guide and Art and Poetry Journal are sent to you, which both have an environmental focus on water.

GeorgiaStandards.Org Data Points

Year-To-Date (As of 1/2007)

Visitors to GeorgiaStandards.Org
1,360,369

Unique Visitors
555,208

Page views for all visitors
7,302,471

Average Time on Site
5 minutes 10 seconds

Number of Units that are
Approved and Searchable in GSO
922

Number of Georgia Educators
trained on GSO
6,581

Active Portal Users with
GSO Builder Privileges
8,738

Number of GSO Teacher Groups
785

Number of GSO Training Videos
179

GSO to GO is Going Green!

Since this issue of the monthly resources is going green, we would also like to feature the science standard [S3L2](#) to all third grade teachers. This GPS has students recognizing the effects that pollution and humans have on the environment. These units (U), learning activities (LA) and teaching activities (TA) have been developed by Georgia teachers that may help you teach [S3L2](#):

- > [Composting with Class!](#) (U)
- > [Habitats of Georgia](#) (U)
- > [Interdependence of Man-Pollution and Conservation Framework](#) (U)
- > [Under the Sea in 3-D!](#) (U)
- > [Compost in a Milk Carton](#) (LA)
- > [Animals and Plants in Coral Reef](#) (TA)
- > [Compost Observation](#) (TA)
- > [Coral Reef PowerPoint Presentation](#) (TA)
- > [Pollution and the Coral Reef](#) (TA)

Fourth grade teachers also have some good choices with science standard [S4L1](#). Selections from the GPS developed units include [Discovering Ecosystems](#) and [Ecosystems Framework](#). Then there's the fourth grade learning activity titled [Cycles of Matter and Composting](#) that is a hands-on activity that students are sure to enjoy.



Download Writing Assessment Resources

The [Office of Standards, Instruction and Assessment](#) prides itself on producing well-designed assessments aligned to the state curriculum. In fact, it has many writing rubrics that are available to teachers for download. These Microsoft Word formatted [writing rubrics](#) are available to educators in the elementary, middle and high school levels. K-5 teachers may select from a plethora of informational, narrative or persuasive writing rubrics. The Georgia High School Writing Test (GHSWT), Georgia Grade 8 and Georgia Grade 5 Writing Assessments are based on the following four Domains:

- Ideas
- Organization
- Style
- Conventions

The [Georgia Writing Assessments Weighting of Domains](#) is an important PDF you can download to understand how the score ratings on the writing assessments are determined by the Georgia Department of Education Testing Division.

Hundreds of E-Learning Tools at your Service

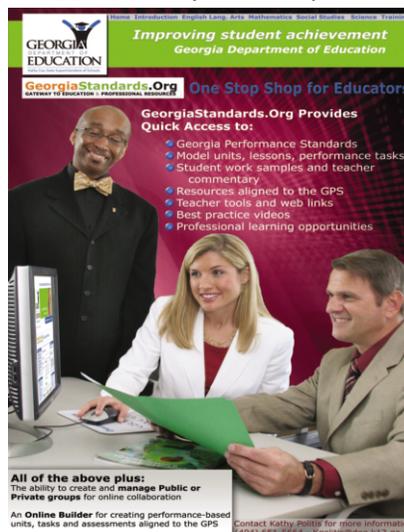
Having a hard time keeping up with the flurry of websites and technologies that keep emerging on the World Wide Web? Where and how can you start a blog, wiki or podcast? Should these technologies be impacting your classroom and curriculum?

GeorgiaStandards.Org has you covered. On the left-side of the GSO homepage under the Teacher Tools Portlet, you will notice a link to [The Centre for Learning and Performance Technologies](#). This site comes to the rescue by making sense of e-learning trends, technologies and tools that can be useful to teachers. Hundreds of

learning tools have been indexed on a growing directory ranging from traditional to E-Learning collaboration tools. All the technology tool categories have been separated by free or commercial, a feature that many teachers can appreciate. Want to start listening to a podcast? Or better yet, how about creating or delivering your own podcasts? Take a look at all the [free podcasting](#) tools to get you going. [The Centre for Learning and Performance Technologies](#) site also has an [E-Learning Handbook](#) that is divided into a number of parts. Each part has several topics that link to examples, resources and reading lists. A [great primer](#) for those teachers that want to learn more about online trends that are impacting education such as [RSS Readers](#), [Blogs](#), [Wikis](#), [Podcasts](#) and [more!](#)

GSO Posters

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



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Continuing Education

ETTCs Offer Professional Learning and Consulting



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. If you live in the northwest corner of Georgia, your ETTC would be the [Dalton State College Educational Technology Training Center](#). They offer comprehensive curriculum, administrative, and technology support training and services for P-16 educators, administrative staff, support personnel, and technology support specialists. [Dalton State College Educational Technology Training Center](#) has many [course offerings](#) targeting teachers such as Cool Tools for Educators and Interactive Whiteboard Courses. The [Dalton ETTC](#) also has a [wonderful video featuring Gladden Middle](#), a school in the Dalton service area, sharing their success on technology integration into their school. You can find the Dalton State College Educational Technology Training Center in addition to the other 12 ETTCs serving the state on the [Georgia Department of Education website](#).

Teacher Programs by the Michael C. Carlos Museum

The [Michael C. Carlos Museum](#) is an educational partner of the Department of Education. The museum offers a memorable experience by exploring the world's art and cultures through tours, outreach programs, online exhibits and professional development. An [Evening for Educators](#) is scheduled for February 8, 2008. Enjoy beverages and hors d'oeuvres while curators Peter Lacovara and Jessica Stephenson introduce Lost Kingdoms of the Nile: Nubian Treasures from the Museum of Fine Arts Boston. While at the museum, teachers can tour the galleries and see more than 200 works of ivory, gold, silver, stone and ceramics representing one of the most remarkable civilizations of ancient Africa. RSVP by January 25 by calling 404-727-2363. The museum also holds [Workshops for Teachers](#) that are aligned to the Georgia Performance Standards. To register, contact Julie Green by [email](#) or by phone at 404-727-2363. Unless otherwise noted, cost for workshops is \$10 for Museum members; \$15 for non-members.

GeorgiaStandards.Org Available for Free Training

Did you know that [GSO](#) has trainers that travel all over Georgia to teach teachers, administrators and parents on how [GSO](#) is the ultimate resource for the Georgia Performance Standards? Did we mention this was free? GSO Training sessions can range from a one hour [GSO site](#) overview to a full day hands-on training on the Portal, a password-protected teacher workspace. In a recent GSO workshop during the fall, educators had the opportunity to sound-off about the training. One participant felt it was now effortless to collaborate with other Georgia educators using the Portal by stating, "I'm in a small county, I am happy to see that I can work in groups with other teachers in the state." Another teacher noted, "I was excited to see that teacher commentaries with student samples are being added continually as SIA makes them available." GSO's goal is to provide every Georgia teacher with skills and strategies that enhance and improve student achievement. [Contact GSO](#) today and we will work with you to tailor a free training experience that meets your school's needs and time restrictions.



GSO would also like to share Best Practice examples with Georgia teachers to illustrate different ways of successfully implementing the Georgia Performance Standards within a Georgia school or classroom. If you have a "successful implementation" that you would like to share – please send us an [email](#) so that we can contact you to get the details.



Principal Issiah Ross Jr. recently hosted a Technology Integration night for parents at Macon County Middle School in Montezuma, Georgia. Lynda Byrne from GeorgiaStandards.Org was on hand to explain GSO's role in supporting faculty and parents with GPS aligned resources. Students and parents also had an opportunity to show how their school is using technology to improve teaching and learning.

Celebrating December

communicate

1

Rosa Parks was arrested, which led to the Montgomery Bus Boycott (1955).

5

President Polk confirmed that gold was discovered in California (1848).

7

Pearl Harbor was attacked by Japan (1941).

collaborate

12

Washington D.C. becomes the capitol of the United States in 1800.

18

The 13th Amendment was ratified to abolish slavery.

20

In 1773, the Boston Evening Post wrote an article about the events that occurred in the Boston Harbor better known as The Boston Tea Party.

connect

Downloads

- > [December Coloring Calendar](#)
- > [December word search puzzle](#)

Links

- > [Winter Online Crossword Puzzle](#)
- > [Virtual Snowman](#)
- > [Dress-up a Snowman](#)
- > [Chanukah Connect the Dots](#)
- > [Interactive Weather Maker](#)

Themes

- > [December Holidays Across Cultures](#)
- > [Christmas Around the World](#)
- > [December Holidays Archive](#)

December in Georgia History



THE NEW GEORGIA ENCYCLOPEDIA

Every article and image on the [New Georgia Encyclopedia \(NGE\)](#) features an aspect of Georgia. The [NGE](#) has many notable events and influential Georgians you can peruse with your students that are highlighted on [December in Georgia History](#). Challenge your students to use the [NGE](#) to find out what city General William T. Sherman offered President Abraham Lincoln as a Christmas present in 1864. [The Sherman's March to the Sea](#) article may come in handy for your students as they research Sherman. While your students are collaborating with other students to find the answer on the [NGE](#) site, you know you are covering the following GPS on General William T. Sherman:

- > [SSUSH9c](#) - United States History
- > [SS5H1c](#) - Fifth Grade
- > [SS8H6b](#) - Eighth Grade

Social studies teachers may want to expand on General William T. Sherman and The Civil War by using [Civil War Reenactments](#) a GPS-aligned unit that is hosted on [GeorgiaStandards.Org](#).

December EDSITEment Calendar of Holidays and Special Events

As we close out the year, [EDSITEment](#) has posted an abundance of educational links with its [December 2007](#) calendar. On the [EDSITEment](#) calendar, it codes daily links by website feature (W) or lesson plan (LP).

December 1, 1955 is the day Rosa Parks was arrested, which led to the Montgomery Bus Boycott. Teachers can draw attention to this important historical event by using the [Ordinary People, Ordinary Places: The Civil Rights Movement](#) lesson plan with their students. Fifth grade teachers would address [SS5H8b](#) and can use [The Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s](#) teaching activity that spans the course of one week. President Polk confirmed that gold was discovered in California on December 5, 1848, which you guessed it

started to the [Gold Rush!](#) And December 7, 1941 is a date the United States will never forget; it is the day that Pearl Harbor was attacked by Japan. [EDSITEment](#) provides links to the following three Pearl Harbor lesson plans:

- > [The Road to Pearl Harbor](#)
- > [Turning the Tide in the Pacific, 1941-1943](#)
- > [Victory in the Pacific, 1943-1945](#)

On December 12, 1800, Washington D.C. becomes the capitol of the United States. You can link to [From the White House of Yesterday to the White House of Today](#) as an appropriate lesson plan to teach about the house at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. Then on December 20, 1773 The Boston Evening Post wrote an article about the events that occurred in the Boston Harbor better known as The Boston Tea Party. [EDSITEment](#) poses some interesting questions in [The Boston Tea Party: Costume Optional?](#) lesson plan. December 18, 1865 marks the day the U.S. Constitution was ratified to include the 13th Amendment that abolished slavery. Why was the Emancipation Proclamation by Abraham Lincoln so important? [The Emancipation Proclamation: Freedom's First Steps](#) lesson plan can be utilized by teachers to teach about Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation policy and the impact it had on the United States.

Celebrating December

A Month of Celebration for Everyone



There are many holidays that occur in the month of December. This may be a wonderful opportunity to teach your students about the different celebrations that occur all over the world. Education World just posted a great article that emphasizes [December Holidays Across Cultures](#). They offer [ten lessons](#) about the various December Holidays and additional lesson plans with [Christmas Around the World](#). You can also teach your students through these links about [Kwanzaa](#), [Hanukkah](#) and [Ramadan](#). Education World also is featuring holiday crafts and gift-making ideas with their [December Holidays Archive](#). And just for good measure, Education World searched the World Wide Web for you with these additional [Holiday Classroom Resources](#). And not to be outdone, TeacherVision.com has compiled a great [collection of December themes, lesson plans, activities and quizzes](#).

Learn a Foreign Language Month



Hola, Bonjour and Yasou! That is hello in Spanish, French and Greek. And you know what that means? It is time to learn another language! For this monthly observance you

might want to check out [Livemocha](#) a new website that that allows members to learn a language socially. [Livemocha](#) is language-learning community that has many interactive lessons and lets you to track your progress as you reach your goals. Start learning a new language by [enrolling in a course](#). Currently you can select from the following languages of English, German, Spanish, French, Hindi or Mandarin Chinese. Even though Livemocha is a new website, it has received [many praises](#) already. You can also visit their [Press page](#) to watch a 5 minute video that thoroughly explains Livemocha method of learning a language.

Some of the members of the [GeorgiaStandards.Org team](#) frequent the [Coffee Break Spanish website](#) for their daily language lessons. If you have iTunes installed on your computer or own an iPod, you can listen or subscribe to their Spanish lessons podcast; [Learn Spanish with the Coffee Break Spanish](#) via the Radio Lingua Network. When we last counted, the Radio Lingua Network had 70 Spanish podcasts that were available for FREE! Kathy Politis the GSO Program Manager exclaimed, "It is the only way I keep up with my Spanish. If I continue with my podcasts, my dream trip to Spain will become a reality sooner than I thought!"

Other Dynamite December Links and Downloads

There are many festive web-based resources that are available for teachers in December. Elementary teachers will enjoy Education World's [December Coloring Calendar \(PDF\)](#) or the [editable version \(Word\)](#). Education World also has a [December word search puzzle](#) along with an [answer key](#) or challenge your students with a [Winter Online Crossword Puzzle](#). Teachers can also set-up some great holiday computer-based centers with [Virtual Snowman](#), [Dress-up a Snowman](#), [Chanukah Connect the Dots](#) or [Interactive Weather Maker](#).



Other GaDOE News

New GSO Content

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

December 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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