

ELA REPORTER

YOUR PROFESSIONAL RESOURCE FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS AND LITERACY

Welcome to our inaugural newsletter!

We at the Georgia Department of Education English Language Arts and Literacy department are excited to welcome you to the first issue of our informational monthly newsletter, a tool we believe will facilitate the productive sharing of ideas and resources across the state.

As educators throughout the nation are aware, there are a number of exciting changes on the horizon and as always, English language arts and literacy professionals will be instrumental in implementing these changes. We at the DOE are eager to meet the challenge of providing responsive, relevant, and effective customer service to all of the ELA professionals in the state of Georgia as they meet the challenges of the twenty-first century classroom.

We look forward to getting to know you as we exchange information and ideas. The newsletter is intended to be an interactive communications tool

and will routinely include items of interest on which we would value your input. To respond to an inquiry or to send us suggestions or requests, please direct an email to:

ELAinput@doe.k12.ga.us

(Note: hyperlinks in the newsletter are not "hot"; please copy and paste the URL where necessary)

Tell your friends! Join our mailing list by sending an email to the appropriate address:

- Join-ela-k-5@list.doe.k12.ga.us
- Join-ela-6-8@list.doe.k12.ga.us
- Join-ela-9-12@list.doe.k12.ga.us
- Join-ela-resa@list.doe.k12.ga.us
- Join-ela-admin@list.doe.k12.ga.us
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New Resources Online!



How Can We Help?

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DOE ELA HOMEPAGE:
http://public.doe.k12.ga.us/ci_services.aspx?PageReq=CIServEnglish



Common Core Georgia Performance Standards CCGPS

Since 2004, Georgia has been proud to guide its instruction in English Language Arts via the Georgia Performance Standards (GPS). Because our performance standards have consistently ranked among the most well-crafted in the country, they were instrumental in the mapping of the long-awaited set of state standards—now adopted by 45 US states, the District of Columbia, and the US Virgin Islands.

It is not difficult to see the obvious benefits of a common set of performance standards for our nation's children.

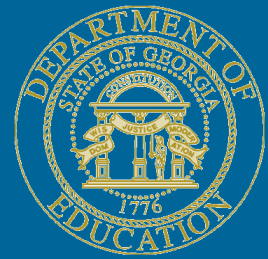
- ◆ **Preparation:** The standards are college- and career-ready.
- ◆ **Competition:** The standards are internationally benchmarked, ensuring our students are globally competitive.
- ◆ **Equity:** Expectations are consistent for all and are not dependent on a student's zip code.
- ◆ **Clarity:** The standards are focused, coherent, and clear.
- ◆ **Collaboration:** The standards create a foundation to work collaboratively across states and districts.

What action do you need to take now? For the 2011-2012 academic year,

continue with your planned curriculum. Through our website, newsletters, and professional development opportunities, we will be providing ample education on the CCGPS well in advance of implementation. Over the next few months you will be provided with sample unit frameworks, informational webinars, live-streaming televised professional development, guidance handbooks, and much, much more. For a thorough introduction to the CCGPS for ELA and Literacy, a good starting place is the K-12 Educator Resource recently published by our department:

<https://www.georgiastandards.org/Common-Core/Documents/K-12%20Educator%20Resource%20ELA%20CCGPS.pdf>

Georgia
 Department
 of Education



Dr. John D. Barge,
 Superintendent

*"Making Education Work
 for All Georgians"*

Inside this issue:

Welcome! Contact Information 1

Common Core Georgia
 Performance Standards
 Implementation News 1

Professional Development 2
 Spotlight on Literacy

Tech Corner 3

Happening in ELA 3

DOE Resources 4

FAQs 4
 Let Us Hear From You...

Implementing Common Core GPS English Language Arts and Literacy
Georgia's Next Steps

Superintendent Barge and staff will present an overview of the COMMON CORE GEORGIA PERFORMANCE STANDARDS September 21, 2011, from 3:00 – 4:00pm Live-streaming (gpb.org/education/common-core)



"Once a training course or a workshop is developed it can be reused multiple times and that's where the cost savings come from."

-William R. Thomas, Director of Educational Technology Southern Regional Education Board

Grade Level	Fall Webinar Dates/Times (***New information will be presented in each webinar session.)						GPB Dates/Times	
	Date	Time	Date	Time	Date	Time	Date	Time
Kindergarten	October 3, 2011	3:15pm-4:15pm	October 24, 2011	3:15pm-4:15pm	November 14, 2011	3:15pm-4:15pm	January 25, 2012	10am-12pm
1 st Grade	October 3, 2011	3:15pm-4:15pm	October 24, 2011	3:15pm-4:15pm	November 14, 2011	3:15pm-4:15pm	March 14, 2012	2pm-4pm
2 nd Grade	October 3, 2011	3:15pm-4:15pm	October 24, 2011	3:15pm-4:15pm	November 14, 2011	3:15pm-4:15pm	January 31, 2012	10pm-12pm
3 rd Grade	October 4, 2011	3:15pm-4:15pm	October 25, 2011	3:15pm-4:15pm	November 15, 2011	3:15pm-4:15pm	February 29, 2012	2pm-4pm
4 th Grade	October 4, 2011	3:15pm-4:15pm	October 25, 2011	3:15pm-4:15pm	November 15, 2011	3:15pm-4:15pm	February 1, 2012	10am-12pm
5 th Grade	October 4, 2011	3:15pm-4:15pm	October 25, 2011	3:15pm-4:15pm	November 15, 2011	3:15pm-4:15pm	February 15, 2012	2pm-4pm
6 th Grade	October 5, 2011	3:30pm-4:30pm	October 26, 2011	3:30pm-4:30pm	November 16, 2011	3:30pm-4:30pm	February 29, 2012	10am-12pm
7 th Grade	October 5, 2011	3:30pm-4:30pm	October 26, 2011	3:30pm-4:30pm	November 16, 2011	3:30pm-4:30pm	January 31, 2012	2pm-4pm
8 th Grade	October 5, 2011	3:30pm-4:30pm	October 26, 2011	3:30pm-4:30pm	November 16, 2011	3:30pm-4:30pm	March 14, 2012	10am-12pm
9 th Grade	October 6, 2011	3:30pm-4:30pm	October 27, 2011	3:30pm-4:30pm	November 17, 2011	3:30pm-4:30pm	February 15, 2012	10am-12pm
10 th Grade	October 6, 2011	3:30pm-4:30pm	October 27, 2011	3:30pm-4:30pm	November 17, 2011	3:30pm-4:30pm	February 15, 2012	10am-12pm
11 th Grade	October 6, 2011	3:30pm-4:30pm	October 27, 2011	3:30pm-4:30pm	November 17, 2011	3:30pm-4:30pm	February 1, 2012	2pm-4pm
12 th Grade	October 6, 2011	3:30pm-4:30pm	October 27, 2011	3:30pm-4:30pm	November 17, 2011	3:30pm-4:30pm	February 1, 2012	2pm-4pm

ELA Literacy in Technical Subjects	Fall Webinar Dates/Times		GPB Dates/Times Gr. 6-8	GPB Dates/Times Gr. 9-12
ELA (grades 6-12)	(See above)	(See above)	May 1, 2012 10am-12pm	May 1, 2012 2pm-4pm
Social Studies/History (grades 6-12)	Oct. 17 @ 3:30	Nov. 9 @3:30	May 2, 2012 2pm-4pm	May 2, 2012 10am-12pm
Science (grades 6-12)	Oct. 18 @ 3:30	Nov. 9 @3:30	May 8, 2012 10am-12pm	May 8, 2012 2pm-4pm
Technical Subjects (grades 6-12)	Oct. 18 @ 3:30	Nov. 9 @3:30	May 9, 2012 2pm-4pm	May 9, 2012 10am-12pm

"The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn."
~Alvin Toffler

About Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities

Georgia's educators will be presented with multiple opportunities over the following months to become fully acquainted with the Common Core Georgia Performance Standards. Your ELA staff at the Georgia DOE will be delivering introductory webinars by grade level beginning October 2 and running through the third week in November. Each grade level will receive three webinar training sessions, each of which will build on the last and will present important information unique to that session. In January, a

more robust, diigital "face-to-face" training will commence via Georgia Public Broadcasting in the form of a live-streaming broadcast that will also have an interactive concurrent webinar component. These sessions will be archived upon completion and will be posted at

<http://www.gpb.org/education/common-core>

In addition to the webinars and live-streaming professional development opportunities, it is important that inter-

ested parties take advantage of the CCGPS documentation that is being posted on the DOE website. A comprehensive K-12 Educator Resource is available on GeorgiaStandards.Org that provides a strong foundation for implementation of the CCGPS. Additional Teacher Guidance documents will be provided over the coming weeks that provide academic vocabulary, skills/concepts, and instructional strategies for each standard as well as a side-by-side comparison of GPS and CCGPS with instructional advice for transitional standards.

What are the Common Core Standards for Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects?

Prior attempts to teach secondary literacy have focused on the strategy of reading and writing across the curriculum. In this design, educators laid out course content first, then attempted to layer literacy strategies on top of content, all too often in a haphazard way.

Common Core makes literacy an integral part of curriculum in social studies, history, science, and technical subjects by providing a set of guiding

standards for its integration. The Literacy standards begin in Grade 6 and continue through Grade 12, and include only Reading standards (10) and Writing Standards (10); Language standards (grammar, conventions, and vocabulary) and Speaking and Listening standards are not included in cross-content literacy.

One tool that many schools in Georgia will use to implement the Literacy standards is the "Learning Design

Collaborative," or LDC, developed and piloted by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The LDC provides a set of module components in the form of a template that allows teachers to easily construct meaningful literacy instruction in a variety of content areas. Over time successful modules will be shared within the DOE's digital resource bank so that rigorous, proven material for literacy integration will be available for use by all of Georgia's educators at the click of a mouse.



"Unlike mathematics, secondary literacy is not a discipline. It is 'homeless' in that it belongs to everyone and no one. Literacy is used in secondary classrooms, but it is not taught."

-Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Tech Talk

Meet Angela Baker, our English Language Arts Technology Specialist. Before her incarnation as a techie, Angie taught middle school language arts. Each month she will be sharing tips on instructional technology and DOE digital resources. She will also be answering your questions. To send an inquiry to Angie, direct your email to: ELAinput@doe.k12.ga.us

Welcome to the first edition of Tech Talk! I look forward to sharing some of my favorite resources with you as well as providing assistance to end-users in navigating the resources available to you on the DOE website.

If you are a frequent visitor to our site, you may have noticed some positive changes of late. For ELA users, your most often used pages will probably be the English Language Arts and Literacy homepage, the Common Core information link, the assessment resources, and the GSD, or Georgia Standards. Org link. Let me tell you a little about these pages. To go to our DOE home page, use the following URL:

<http://www.doe.k12.ga.us/>

On this page you will find clear icons linking you to the Common Core Georgia Performance Standards Information page as well as GSD. To find the ELA page from here, click on "Curriculum" at the top of the page. From that page, click on "Curriculum and Instruction" in the first section ("Divisions"). Underneath the "Express" link you will see "English Language Arts." Our direct URL is:

http://public.doe.k12.ga.us/ci_services.aspx?PageReq=CIServEnglish

On any of these pages you can click on "Georgia Standards. Org" to go to the GSD site. Beyond the grade-level standards often accessed there, take a moment to explore the new tab at the top of the page entitled "Common Core GPS." Following the ELA link at the left on that page you will discover all of the latest resources for CCGPS that are particularly relevant to you as an ELA professional. Over the coming weeks I hope to walk you through our sites as well as entertain your questions and implement your suggestions for how we might better serve your digital needs. There is a treasure trove of resources on the DOE website—podcasts, instructional videos, student work samples—some easier to find than others! I hope each month to open a new door of discovery for our readers!

In addition to our own resources, however, there are hundreds of wonderful sites out there that I would like to recommend to you. One of my very favorite sites is

<http://www.writingfix.com>.

I am not sure how I lived without it as a teacher! It has everything: reading, writing, graphic organizers, and interactive web "things." One of my favorite lessons was from the text *Dog Breath*

by Dav Pilky. If this is a text you use, give it a try!

<http://writingfix.com/PictureBookPrompts/Dogbreath1.htm>

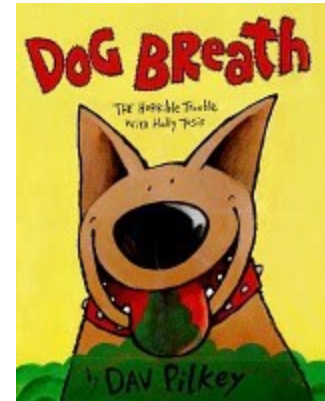
What I really enjoyed about Writing Fix was that I could adapt the lesson to fit ALL my sixth graders: Special Ed, Regular Ed, and Gifted! Nearly all of the lessons can be adapted for a wide-variety of grade levels. I also love the editing post-its for the Six Traits of Writing. These can be used with virtually any writing assignment.

<http://writingfix.com/ClassroomTools/PostIts.htm>

The site also provides an interactive brain-storming activity (NETS-S3.a) for students having difficulty beginning a story. No need to take the whole class to the lab. Students can spend about five minutes looking for ideas on a classroom computer, or have some fun and giggle with the outrageous options as an entire class! Put the link on your teacher blog or webpage, and the student can access the site easily at home.

In addition to the lesson on Writing Fix, check out the link to GA Read More! (NETS-S3.b) Students can watch Bill Elliott read this stinky little tale!

http://public.doe.k12.ga.us/site_as_library.aspx?PageReq=ITReadMore



"If we teach today as we taught yesterday, we rob our children of tomorrow."
- John Dewey

MEET OUR SUPERINTENDENT...



In his 20 years in education, Dr. John Barge has served as a high school English teacher, middle school Spanish teacher, assistant principal, and principal. He also served as the State Director of Career, Technical, and Agriculture Education for the Georgia Department of Education.

Dr. Barge and his wife Loraine, long-time Floyd County residents, have been married for 19 years. They have a 14 year-old daughter who attends public school in Floyd County.

Happening in ELA



Recommended Reading!

[ACT Deems More Students College-Ready, Education Week](#)

But 75% of students still aren't ready.

[Teaching Cultural Literacy is a Matter of Social Justice, Core Knowledge Blog](#)

The battle for core knowledge for all students continues.

[We Can't Predict the Future; We Can Teach the Essential, Fordham's Education Gaffly](#)

"Regardless of what is the hip new medium, we do our students a grave disservice by pretending that pithy diatribes or observational blog posts are on the same level as more thoughtful, well-developed arguments, grounded in evidence derived from texts, with clear theses that come from something other than their personal feelings."

GEORGIA DOE ELA RESOURCES

Where to go:



What you'll find:

A message from Pamela H. Smith, the Director of Curriculum and Instruction for the GaDOE, about Common Core. Here you can read about the CCGPS—why we adopted the standards and how we are implementing the standards.

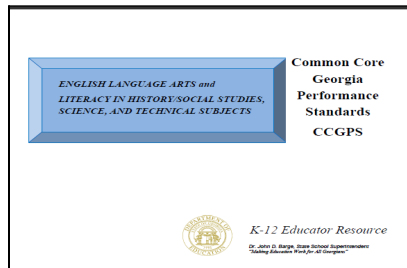
Where to go:



What you'll find:

The "GSD" site has a wealth of resources! To check out some brand-new material on CCGPS click on the new tab at

the top of the page for CCGPS. Click the ELA link to find



this newly posted document: K-12 Educator Resource. Inside you will find an extensive introduction to the CCGPS, the College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards, a glossary and appendices of CCGPS resource documents on language progression and text complexity, and a full user-friendly version of the standards themselves, including the CCGPS for Literacy in Social Studies, History, Science, and Technical Subjects.

Visit our ELA homepage at:

http://public.doe.k12.ga.us/ci_services.aspx

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"She never lets us forget she was an English major."

FAQs

- ◆ The Common Core Georgia Performance Standards will be implemented in Georgia's classrooms beginning in the Fall of 2012.
- ◆ Educators will receive over 20 hours of Professional Development from the GaDOE before the end of this academic year (2011-2012) in anticipation of the roll-out.
- ◆ GaDOE staff is available to present an overview, provide materials, and answer your questions in face-to-face staff training sessions—let us know how we can serve you!
- ◆ The Common Core Performance Standards have been adopted by 45 states and territories.
- ◆ Georgia's performance standards were among the most well-crafted in the nation and align closely with the new and more rigorous CCGPS, allowing for a seamless transition for Georgia's educators.
- ◆ The Common Core State Standards Initiative has been endorsed by some of the most knowledgeable professionals and successful organizations in the United States and internationally.

Organizations Endorsing Common Core

- ◆ Achieve
- ◆ Alliance for Excellent Education
- ◆ American Federation of Teachers
- ◆ Association of American Colleges and Universities
- ◆ Business Roundtable
- ◆ Coalition for Student Achievement
- ◆ Core Knowledge Foundation
- ◆ International Reading Association
- ◆ National Association of State Boards of Education
- ◆ National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education

TEACHER TIPS FOR PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- ◆ **Always be willing to revise** your strategies based on feedback from students, colleagues, and other trusted partners. Change can be difficult but rewarding!
- ◆ **Keep a professional portfolio.** Use a high-quality binder or portfolio to display your resume, a short summary of your teaching philosophy, successful activities you've used with students, lesson plans, and favorite projects. Each year, add any formal evaluations. Also include a copy of your certification.
- ◆ **Stay updated.** Find support from professional organizations and journals and review the latest educational policies such as Reading First.
- ◆ **Embrace technology.** Merge old teaching strategies with up-to-date reinforcements such as computers, digital cameras, and online educational tools - our tech tutor helps you integrate them into the classroom.

