

# GSO to GO

NEWS FOR  
NOVEMBER  
2007



## General Information

### GA DOE Divisions Band Together to Support Student Achievement

[GeorgiaStandards.Org \(GSO\)](#) recently posted a press release on the [Georgia Standards News page](#) that outlines various programs from the [Georgia Department of Education](#) supporting student achievement. [Georgia Virtual School](#) will be offering students free Advanced Placement (AP) practice

exams to prepare for AP testing in the spring. Students can enroll free of charge for the AP practice exam starting in March 2008. In addition, there will be an eighth grade technology literacy assessment that will be available to all Georgia school systems through the [OAS system](#) on December 1, 2007. For additional information regarding these programs that are all focused on student achievement, visit [DOE Initiatives to Support Student Achievement](#).

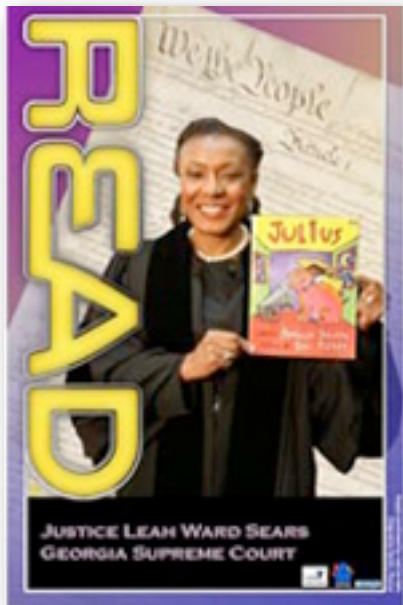
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### Are School Systems Required to Follow GPS Curriculum?

Yes, all Georgia school systems are required to cover, at a minimum, the material in the [Georgia Performance Standards](#). Schools districts have the freedom to supplement the GPS with additional topics they expect teachers to cover. Students will be tested on their mastery of the GPS material through the state's standardized tests, the Criterion-Referenced Competency Test (CRCT) and the Georgia High School Graduation Test (GHSGT). As a reminder, teachers always have 24/7 access to the GPS which means they are always a click away from a plethora of curriculum resources for the subject areas they teach. Such is the case for ELA teachers who can use the [English Language Arts Standards](#), view the [ELA Introductory Video](#) or access [lesson plans and matrices](#). Math teachers can utilize [Mathematics Standards, Frameworks](#) and by downloading iTunes (free for Mac and Windows) sixth and seventh grade teachers can get [video-based training of the GPS curriculum](#). Science teachers can also access [Science Standards, Science Frameworks](#) and take a glance at the overview of the [Science Program](#). Social Studies teachers can peruse the [Social Studies Standards and Frameworks](#) or review helpful information on the [Social Studies Program](#).



## Chief Justice of Georgia Supreme Court Featured on Georgia Read More

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.

For November, the book *Julius* is read by [Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears](#) of the Georgia Supreme Court. The author of *Julius* is [Angela Johnson](#) and the pictures are drawn by [Dav Pilkey](#). A small group of students is gathered around [Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears](#) in the Georgia Supreme Court and are mesmerized as they listen to her read a delightful story about pig. As with most of Georgia Read More featured books, there is a [vocabulary list](#) that accompanies *Julius*. The verdict is in...students are sure to go hog wild about [this month's featured Georgia Read More video](#), so make the time for them to watch it. You can also see what else is playing at the [Georgia Read More Program Videos](#) page.

## New Online Learning Initiatives for Schools and Teachers



The [Georgia Department of Education](#) has recently implemented two new learning initiatives: a Credit Recovery program and a Middle School Math Remediation Course. Both initiatives make use of online courses that were developed by, and are made available through the [Georgia Virtual School](#). Both are being provided free of charge to Georgia students and teachers by the [Georgia Department of Education](#).

### Credit Recovery program

- The Credit Recovery program provides Georgia students a way to earn academic credit towards graduation for a course in which the student was previously unsuccessful. A credit recovery course focuses on helping the student master competency of the content standards for the course. Credit recovery programs help students stay in school and graduate on time.
- Credit Recovery courses for Algebra I and Physical Science are now available. Other Credit Recovery courses are due to be released in January 2008. More information about the Credit Recovery program is available on the [Georgia Virtual School website](#).

### Middle School Math Remediation Course

- The now available Middle School Math Remediation Course is designed to meet the needs of students transferring into a Georgia Middle School from out-of-state as well as for Georgia students who are not at the mastery level in 8th grade math.
- The Middle School Math Remediation Course is a resource that teachers may use to assist students with acquiring the math skills they need before entering high school. The course covers math standards for 6th, 7th, and 8th grades.
- Interested schools and teachers should send an [email](#) to requesting access. Be sure to include your school name and district in the email request.

## GeorgiaStandards.Org Data Points

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

Visitors to GeorgiaStandards.Org  
1,252,748

Unique Visitors  
519,550

Page views for all visitors  
6,803,657

Average Time on Site  
5 minutes 11 seconds

Number of Units that are  
Approved and Searchable in GSO  
754

Number of Georgia Educators trained on  
GSO  
6,075

Portal Users with GSO Builder Privileges  
10,520

Number of GSO Teacher Groups  
778

Number of GSO Training Videos  
171

## Engage Students' Mathematical Understandings with Virtual Manipulatives

[GeorgiaStandards.Org](#) recently added another Teacher Tool to its ongoing list of recommended web-based destinations for K-12 teachers trying to incorporate extra activities and projects that will stimulate critical thinking and in-depth learning with their students. [The National Library of Virtual Manipulatives \(NLVM\)](#) is a National Science Foundation supported project that has developed a library of uniquely interactive, web-based virtual manipulatives and concept tutorials. The [NLVM website](#) is based on sound research which notes that learning and understanding mathematics, at every level, requires student engagement. As a result, there is a need for good computer-based mathematical manipulatives and interactive learning tools. The [NLVM](#) is a resource from which teachers may freely draw to enrich their mathematics classrooms.



## GPB Education Streaming World War II Veteran Stories on the WWW



Every month the [GPB Education website](#) has many resources that teachers in Georgia can utilize for their curriculum. And November is no exception, especially if you are teaching about World War II. GPB is currently highlighting the [World War II Veterans Oral History Project](#) which is a stream of specials clips that tell stories with footage from the Home Front, Europe and the Pacific. Watching these clips with your students can generate excellent classroom discussions about World War II particularly if you are covering the following Georgia Performance Standards:

- World History: [SSWH17](#), [SSWH18](#)
- United States History: [SSUSH19](#)
- Grade 8: [SS8H10](#)
- Grade 7: [SS7H2](#)
- Grade 6: [SS6H5](#)
- Grade 5: [SS5H6](#)

## National Science Center Posts Comprehensive Planning Guide

The [National Science Center's Fort Discovery](#) in Augusta, GA recently posted their annual [Educator Planning Guide](#). The [2007-2008 PDF document](#) is a complete source for teachers who may want to plan a field trip to the science center, check-out science resources or even glance at what national science standards are aligned to lab course offerings. Fort Discovery has over 250 hands-on science, math and technology

exhibits. And if that wasn't incentive to visit this 128,000 square-foot facility, Georgia schools



that make advance reservations are admitted FREE to Fort Discovery. For contact information or scheduling regarding school group visits, you can call 1-706-821-0221 or 1-800-325-5445 ext. 0221. Email inquiries can be sent to [mscheduling@nscdiscovery.org](mailto:mscheduling@nscdiscovery.org).

## 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.

## 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  
[kpolit@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:kpolit@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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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  
[tvlachak@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:tvlachak@doe.k12.ga.us)

# Best Practices - Columbia County Middle Schools



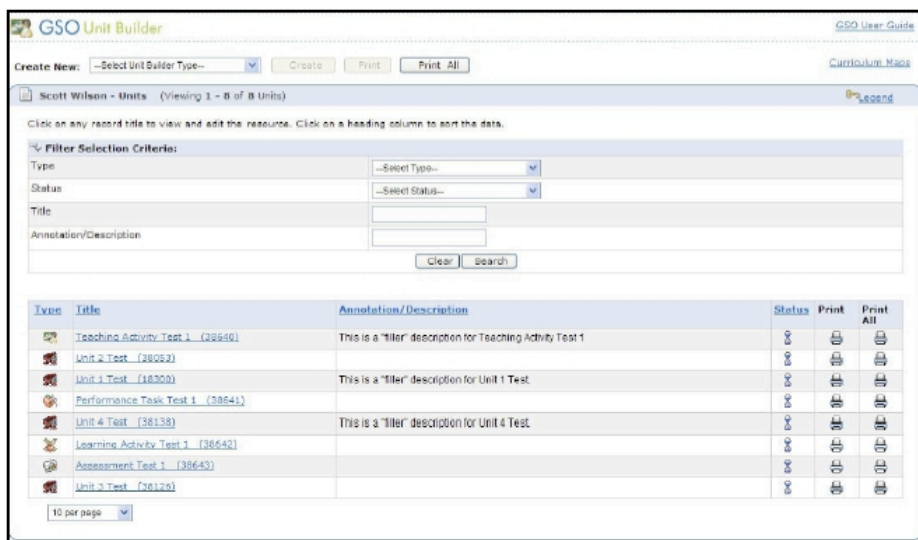
## Implementing GPS using GeorgiaStandards.Org Portal Tools

Most teachers and school systems are immersed in the challenge of implementing the new GPS. During the course of communicating with individual teachers and school officials, the staff of [GeorgiaStandards.Org](http://GeorgiaStandards.Org) has encountered some wonderful examples of the planning and creating processes involved with this implementation. We would like to share these Best Practice examples with our 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](mailto:info@georgiastandards.org) so that we can contact you to get the details.

Our first example is shared with us by Mike Lindsey, [Director of Student Learning 6-8](#), with [Columbia County Middle Schools](#).

Prior to utilizing [GeorgiaStandards.Org](http://GeorgiaStandards.Org), the Columbia County Middle Schools worked for quite a while to understand how a backwards-design model should be implemented. Most teachers had a firm grasp of this teaching model before embarking on the development of GPS aligned units.

In an initial meeting of a small group of teachers representing the four core areas, a discussion concluded with a decision as to what new curriculum map content should be made available on the [Columbia County Schools' website](#). The participants wanted to create more than the "typical map." To start, they decided to construct a curriculum map for each of the core areas with hyperlinks to the basic framework of the unit ... including only the alignment to standards, enduring understanding, and essential questions. The group also formed a plan on how the [GeorgiaStandards.Org](http://GeorgiaStandards.Org) Portal tools would be used to augment instruction during the coming year.



The next step in the plan was extremely important as it ensured that collegial planning was scheduled during "protected planning times." It was decided that planning must remain uninterrupted by the usual school diversions, such as SST, parent conferences, pictures, etc. Teachers planned this time to work collaboratively with colleagues who teach the same course at the same grade level. During this time, teachers worked to complete basic unit information, such as identifying the knowledge and skills necessary to answer essential questions and designing both performance-based and traditional assessments.

All middle school teachers were set up in the [GeorgiaStandards.Org Portal](http://GeorgiaStandards.Org) as members of private groups. Teachers worked to stay only one unit ahead of their class and developed units

that included hyperlinked activities, PowerPoints, URLs, and other resources. All units were produced during the collegial planning, and after completion and review are shared among all members of the private user group All seven middle schools benefit from the accomplishments of the scheduled planning periods and using the [GSO Portal Tools](http://GSO Portal Tools), as teachers are now able to work together and share across the county, as well as "cherry pick" parts of the unit plan that works for them.

In the future a group will meet to "tweak" units into "super units" based upon empirical and anecdotal data. Gains in student achievement are expected as a result of this positive teacher experience and practice of sharing. Columbia County is convinced that this practice will help all teachers become their very best.

It is important to point out that the administration and the DOE was supportive of this process. The GSO Portal tools are provided free of charge and training is available upon request. Contact [Kathy Politis](mailto:kathy.politis@doe.ga.gov) to setup your training initiative.

# Continuing Education

## Social Studies Videos Exemplify GPS Teaching Concepts



[Web-based videos on conceptual teaching](#) for social studies teachers are now available on [GeorgiaStandards.Org](#). Geared for social studies teachers implementing GPS into their curriculum, this outstanding video series includes a description of conceptual teaching and classroom clips explaining the use of concepts to students. Strategies in connecting themes are described along with how to pre-assess students. The critical components of enduring understanding, relating themes to student experiences and applying themes are thoroughly covered in the videos. Social Studies teachers can [click here](#) to watch the conceptual teaching series.

## GA DOE and ETTCs Provide Science Learning Opportunities

The [Georgia Department of Education](#) and [Georgia's Educational Technology Training Centers \(ETTC\)](#) have collaborated to provide a series of professional learning opportunities for science teachers to support and enhance the science frameworks. These professional learning opportunities will provide support resources and innovative ways to integrate technology into the tasks developed as part of the science frameworks. The emphasis of these professional learning opportunities will be to provide content resources for the 8th grade Physical Science frameworks and the use of the digital microscopes (QX5). Teachers will receive:

- Access to content and web resources
- Technology tools for teaching science concepts
- Information on how to obtain technology equipment from their regional ETTC to support classroom instruction
- PLU credits

Please contact the ETTC nearest you to register for the science module training. A [website](#) is available that provides dates of the training and a link to each ETTC.



Educational Technology Training Centers (ETTCs) are located throughout Georgia. 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.

>> Find a [training center near you](#).

## GaETC Celebrates 20 Years!

The Georgia Educational Technology Conference (GaETC) will be held on November 14 - 16, 2007 at the Georgia International Convention Center. Join the thousands of educators who will travel to Atlanta to celebrate GaETC's 20th year of supporting the integration of technology into the classroom. Over 200 presentations and 200 vendors will be in attendance to showcase the latest trends and products in educational technology. Here is the most current information regarding [lodging and shuttles](#) and the [conference schedule](#) that can be accessed from the GaETC website. A helpful list with [directions](#), [maps](#) and [Atlanta links](#) are also provided on the website. PLU credit may apply: refer to this [page](#) or contact your school district for more information.



## Publish it on GSO

Doing something great in your classroom? Then publish that unit or teaching activity on the [GeorgiaStandards.Org portal](#). This is an excellent way to share your best practices with other Georgia teachers.



## GPS Resource Training Need Help?

The [GeorgiaStandards.Org team](#) can show you how to work smarter, not harder. Collaborate and connect with teachers in your school, district, county, or even statewide. Electronic sharing will save you that "walk down the hall."

For more information, contact [GSO](#).



# Celebrating November

## communicate

1

In 1986, the First National War Monument for Native Americans was dedicated.

11

November 11, 1918 marks the day that the United States entered World War I.

14

Herman Melville publishes Moby Dick.

## collaborate

22

President Kennedy was assassinated in 1963.

## connect

### Downloads

- > [November Calendar](#)
- > [Thanksgiving Holiday worksheet](#)

### Links

- > [Native Americans Online Quiz](#)
- > [Interactive Beadwork Designer](#)
- > [Food Safety Quiz for Kids](#)

### Themes

- > [Thanksgiving Writing Prompt](#)
- > [K-8 activities](#)

## November in Georgia History



The [New Georgia Encyclopedia \(NGE\)](#) features some interesting events that occurred [this month in Georgia](#). Using NGE, teachers can have students research the name of the ship that carried [James Edward Oglethorpe](#), one Georgia's first colonists, from England in November of 1732. By teaching about Oglethorpe, second ([SS2H1](#)) and eighth ([SS8H2](#)) grade teachers are covering two essential social studies performance standards. Additional web-resources that have been hand-picked by the DOE are available to teachers by using [GSO Search](#) and selecting the Re-

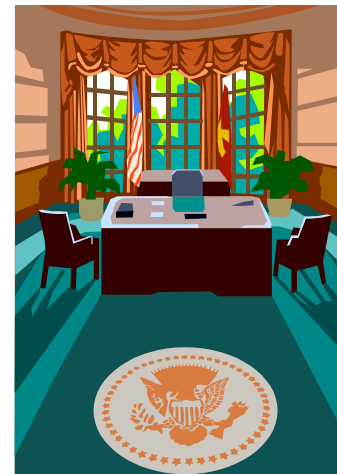
sources radio button and then entering "Oglethorpe" as the query. One of the results links to an [excellent site on James Oglethorpe](#) containing images, a timeline and biography. Another result has students comparing and contrasting their lives to James Oglethorpe's by [constructing a timeline](#). The GSO resource results do not stop there. In fact, you can have students reenact [Oglethorpe's proposal](#) to the British Parliament by having them prepare and present proposals to the class. Are your students still wondering about James Oglethorpe? Then have them compare information between resource books and websites by using [Who is James Oglethorpe?](#)

## November EDSITement Calendar of Holidays and Special Events

[November 2007](#) is up and going on [EDSITement](#). And in the spirit of the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday, this calendar is stuffed with links to activities, ideas and websites that can be utilized for instruction.

[EDSITement](#) features daily links by website feature (W) or lesson plan (LP). On November 1, 1986 the First National War Monument for Native Americans was dedicated. Teachers at the elementary level can use the [Not 'Indians,' Many Tribes: Native American Diversity](#) lesson plan to develop better awareness between the terms "Indians" and "Native Americans." November 11, 1918 marks the day that the United States entered

World War I. Here is a great lesson plan that US History and Civics teachers may want to use titled [United States Entry into World War I: A Documentary Chronology](#). ELA teachers may want to start reading Moby Dick with their classes on November 14, since it was the day [Herman Melville](#) published (1851) this literary classic. We are about one year away from the 2008 presidential election, so why not refer to these two lesson plans on Abraham Lincoln's re-election on November 6, 1860; [Abraham Lincoln, the 1860 Election, and the Future of the American Union and Slavery](#) and [Abraham Lincoln and Wartime Politics](#). And November 22, 1963 is the day that President Kennedy was assassinated. [The American President website](#) provides in-depth information on John Fitzgerald Kennedy that includes essays on JFK, audio of presidential speeches and transcripts of secret White House recordings.



# Celebrating November

## Geography Awareness Week



Since 1987, the third week in November has been promoted by many organizations as Geography Awareness Week (GAW). One of your first stops for this event should be to [Google for Educators](#), where a page has been set-up with interactive quizzes and details on multimedia content in Google Earth that includes daily themes to be used for GAW. Be aware that some of the content on this page set-up by Google will require you to [install the Google Earth program](#) on your computer. For instructions on how to get going with Google Earth, you can download the [Google Earth User guide](#). The [National Air and Space Museum](#) also is celebrating GAW with its annual events and activities, such as the [Geography From Space Contest](#) at the National Mall Building from November 14-16. Your students can't make it in person? Then have them enter the Geography From Space Contest online version where a prize will awarded to a lucky student.

## International Drum Month



It doesn't matter if you are using a pot, pan or a bongo – just get the beat going because November is International Drum Month. [Learning.com](#) has some great [K-8 links](#) that are aligned with

state and national standards for technology and subject content areas. Get a drum lesson or a good drum tip by visiting [411 Drums](#). Another great link to [beginner drum lesson video tutorials](#) is presented by [freedrumlessons.com](#).

## Other Nifty November Links and Downloads

Elementary teachers will want to print the [November Calendar](#) and [Thanksgiving Holiday worksheet](#) Word formatted editable documents for November from [Education World](#). Education World offers more resources through [a month of fun](#) that links to interactive puzzles, learning games and crafts. Students may want to test their knowledge of America's first residents with the [Native Americans Online Quiz](#) or if your class is planning loomwork or a lane stitch project, then the [Interactive Beadwork Designer](#) is a great online activity for them. Do your students think they are ready to help with food preparation for the big Thanksgiving holiday? Then have them take the [Food Safety Quiz for Kids](#). And here is a [writing prompt for Thanksgiving](#) and a list of great [K-8 activities](#) from the [Education Place](#).



## The GSO Team Thanks You!

The GeorgiaStandards.Org team wishes all Georgia educators a safe and happy Thanksgiving holiday. We appreciate the daily impact that you make on students!

## Other GaDOE News

### New GSO Content

[Click here](#) to view the new content that was added to GeorgiaStandards.Org in October 2007.

### November 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