



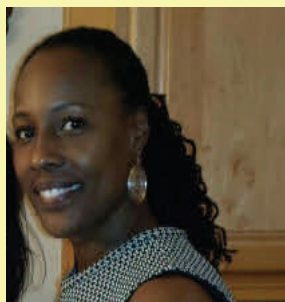
Georgia Department of Education

Educating Georgia's Future

# ELA Updates

August/September 2015

## NEW MEMBER OF ELA STAFF



We are pleased to welcome Dr. Cassandra Matthews as the newest addition to the ELA staff. Dr. Matthews, the new ELA/K-5 Literacy program specialist, previously worked in Gwinnet

County as an Instructional Coach. Prior to that, she spent 12 years as a classroom teacher, new teacher mentor, and Reading Specialist at Nesbit Elementary School in Gwinnett County. Dr. Matthews also worked as a third grade teacher at Scotts Branch Elementary School in Baltimore County, Maryland and as a second grade teacher at Greenwood Elementary School in Newport News, Virginia.

Dr. Matthews holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Hampton University, a Masters degree from Walden University, in Reading and Literacy, and a Specialist and Ph.D. in Early Childhood Education from Georgia State University.

Outside of work, Cassandra enjoys seeking out new local restaurants and traveling. She also enjoys spending time with her family, reading, and mentoring young women.

## A NOTE ABOUT ELA RESOURCES

The newly revised Teacher Guidance Documents have been posted on the [georgiastandards.org](http://georgiastandards.org) website: [www.georgiastandards.org](http://www.georgiastandards.org) Here is a direct link to the K—5 page on GSO: <https://www.georgiastandards.org/Georgia-Standards/Pages/ELA-K-5.aspx>



Click on the grade band that you need. Then you will see the blue box populated with those grade levels on the right-hand side.

Click on the + sign by the grade level, and a drop-down list of resources will appear. The first bullet will house the standards, and the second bullet will be the Teacher Guidance documents.

## GPB TEACHER VIDEOS COMING SOON



*Georgia Classrooms, Live!*

will launch this fall featuring Georgia classrooms representing grades K—12. Stay tuned.

The videos will be posted on [georgiastandards.org](http://georgiastandards.org).

# ELA Updates

## GET GEORGIA READING



THE GET GEORGIA READING CAMPAIGN IS AN UNPRECEDENTED, POPULATION-FOCUSED COLLABORATION OF MORE THAN 100 PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PARTNERS.

In partnership with other state agencies that partner in the Get Georgia Reading Campaign, GaDOE sent books to all Georgia Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten students using remaining Race to the Top funds. These books are for children to read at school and at home. Families can use the link printed on the inside cover to access more information and opt-in to a texting service about how to support children's literacy development.



In support of the Get Georgia Reading Campaign, the following example book-related activity is provided by the Georgia Department of Education to accompany *Mud!* by Wendy Cheyette Lewison.

**Book Title:** *Mud!*  
**Author:** Wendy Cheyette Lewison **Illustrator:** Bill Biese

**Read Aloud**  
Reading the story aloud, you may want to ask a few questions before beginning the group activity.

- Why do you think mud was so so many places?
- Name some other actions that the characters could do in the mud.
- Have you ever played in mud? What is it like?

**Small or Whole Group Activity**

1. Lay paper over workspace for easy clean-up.
2. Students work in pairs or small groups to mix the water and soil/dirt.
3. Students take turns making hand and finger prints on either individual pieces of paper or large sheets of butcher paper for a group display.
4. Assist students in writing or drawing about how to make mud prints.

Guided talk during this activity is important for students' language development. Use describing words about the water and soil/dirt. Discuss what is needed to make the mud thicker or thinner. Consider talking about where the students find mud in and around the school and their community. Encourage students to describe how the water, dry soil/dirt, and mud feels, looks, or smells to them.

**Materials Needed**

- bucket or large hollow board paper
- colored construction paper
- crayons
- plastic water
- light
- containers
- sentence or paper strips
- soil/dirt
- water
- use fingerprint as personal mud

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Link for all book titles and suggested activities:

<https://www.georgiastandards.org/Georgia-Standards/Pages/Get-Georgia-Reading-Pre-K-and-Kindergarten-Reading-Books.aspx>

## ARE YOU A TEACHER LEADER?

Become a fierce advocate for your students and fellow teachers in the building:

- ◆ Build a **Common Language**
- ◆ **Collaborate** across subjects for **Literacy**
- ◆ Design **Research-based Instruction**
- ◆ **Personalize** (Differentiate) Instruction
- ◆ Foster **Debate and Discussion** among students, fellow teachers

## CONTACT THE ELA STAFF

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ELA Program Page:

<http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Curriculum-and-Instruction/Pages/English-Language-Arts-Program.aspx>

ELA Resources on georgiastandards.org:

<https://www.georgiastandards.org/Georgia-Standards/Pages/ELA.aspx>