



# Assessments and Tests:

Providing information on student learning, and guiding teaching

Paulding County Elementary Schools

Parent Information

Hutchens Elementary

“Comprehension, Lexiles, SRI, Oh My!”

# Testing and Assessment in Elementary School

- Allows students to show **what** they have learned
- Allows students to show **how much** they have learned (progress made)
- Allows parents to know how well their child is learning
- Allows teachers to see how well **they** are doing
- Results are used to design instruction and plans for supporting the student

# Testing and Assessment

- A process or event designed to measure abilities, skills, or knowledge
- Determines “mastery level”, or where the student is in achievement of meeting learning goals
- Used to create goals for learning and strategies for teaching
- Helps to determine readiness for next set of concepts

# In Elementary Grades

Tests and assessments include those provided by the teacher, the county, and the state

**Teacher** Projects Reports Unit/Chapter Tests Presentations

**County** Universal Math Screener Universal Reading Screener

**State** Georgia Milestones ACCESS Georgia  
Alternative Assessment GKIDS

<http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Assessment/Pages/default.aspx>

# Teacher Created Tests and Assessments

- Include “**formal**” and “**informal**” evaluations of student learning
- **Formal** tests are usually taken at the end of a unit, term, or year
  - usually used to indicate how well a student has “mastered” standards that were taught, and may be used to determine a grade, or statement of achievement
  - used to determine if re-teaching needs to be provided

# Teacher Created Tests and Assessments

- **Informal assessments are used by the teacher in order to gain understanding of student progress in moving toward mastery of a standard and are used to communicate progress to the student and to parents**
  - Includes activities such as in-class “non-graded” assignments, discussions, one-on-one conversation with the student, etc.
  - Results often show what a student may specifically need to learn in order to successfully move toward mastery of a standard
  - Provides information on how parents may be able to help their child
  - Helps the teacher to plan for and provide specific instructional strategies to help the student achieve success

# District Assessments:

## K-5 Reading & Math Fluency Assessments

**Each nine weeks, students in grades Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade participate in a Reading Fluency and Math Fluency assessment.**

- Used to measure progress, identify areas in needs of improvement, and to plan for instruction
- Provides information for teachers and parents on areas where students have mastered learning and where they may need additional support
- Provides information to plan for “next-steps” so that the student will experience continuous growth

**Teachers will share specific information about student results during Parent-Teacher Conferences in October.**

# Georgia Milestones (Elementary)

- Designed to measure how well students have learned the skills and knowledge described in the curriculum in the areas of English language arts and mathematics in grades 3, 4, & 5
- Science and social studies – only 5<sup>th</sup> grade this year (2016-2017)
- Taken at the end of the school year
- Provide information on academic achievement at student, class, school, system, and state levels
- Used to diagnose individual student strengths and weaknesses as related to the instruction of the state adopted curriculum, and to gauge the quality of education throughout Georgia.

# Tests Required by the State

2 types of questions on Georgia Milestones

**Criterion-referenced items in the Georgia Milestones** such as the Georgia Milestones, are designed to measure how well students acquire, learn, and accomplish the knowledge and skills set forth in a specific curriculum or unit of instruction. The Georgia Milestones, is specifically intended to test Georgia's performance and content standards outlined in the CCGPS/GPS.

**Norm-referenced items in the Georgia Milestones** measure instructional standards commonly taught throughout the entire United States of America. Additionally norm-referenced items highlight differences between and among students across an achievement continuum.

# Georgia Milestones

## Features

- “Open-ended constructed response” in English-language arts and math—students write answers
- A writing component
- Transition to on-line testing

# What is an open-ended constructed response?

- open-ended, short answer questions
- students “construct” their own responses to answer these questions (as opposed to multiple-choice format)
- answers to questions could be a few words or a few sentences, depending on what is being asked
- may require more than recall of facts--students may have to apply their own knowledge to certain situations, analyze information or solve problems

# Georgia Milestones

- Further details about the Georgia Milestones will be shared at Family Fun Fitness Night in January
- Resources will be shared with parents, to help prepare your child for success on the Georgia Milestones
- Support in understanding test results will be offered when student reports are available

# Writing Assessments

## **Paulding County School District students participate in a writing assessment every nine weeks**

- serves to provide information on student progress, and allows for teachers to plan effective instruction in writing
- district provides a “writing prompt” that is the same for each grade
- The state no longer gives a writing assessment; writing assessment is “built-in” to the English Language Arts Georgia Milestone

# GKIDS

- The Georgia Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (GKIDS) is a year-long, performance-based assessment
- The goal is to provide teachers with information about the level of instructional support needed by individual students in kindergarten and those entering first grade
- The test is a process, and is the report card

# How Testing Results are Used

- State

- Observes and monitors the status of education in schools, counties and the state as a whole; based on results, the Georgia Department of Education designs learning and teaching expectations and provides support for continual improvement

- County

- Observes and monitors the effectiveness of instruction in schools and classrooms in order to provide professional learning and guidance in support of continual improvement

- School

- Observes and monitors the effectiveness of instruction in classrooms in order to provide professional learning and guidance in support of continual improvement

# How Testing Results are Used

- Teacher
  - Observes and monitors progress of students in moving toward mastery of learning goals and provides effective instruction to ensure quality learning opportunities for each student
- Parent
  - Understands what is expected of their child and where their child is in relation to achieving those expectations; seeks to be involved in supporting their child's achievement
- Student
  - Understands what the learning expectations are and where they are in relation to attaining mastery; works toward achieving expected learning outcomes

Education is what remains after one has forgotten what one has learned in school.

Albert Einstein

The object of education is to prepare the young to educate themselves throughout their lives.

Robert Maynard Hutchins

