

Georgia Milestones Assessment System End of Grade 2015-16 Results

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Thomas B. Lockamy, Jr., Ed.D. Superintendent
M. Ann Levett, Ed.D., Deputy Superintendent and Chief Academic
Officer

Teaching & Learning

It's important to remember that knowledge and understanding within each content area is multifaceted; students must know content but also:

- understand the thinking and reasoning that undergird each content area; and
- draw conclusions and make connections across information and concepts rather than recite discrete facts and skills.

Georgia Milestones Assessment System

- Georgia Milestones Assessment System (GMAS) is designed to provide information about how well students are mastering the state-adopted content standards in the core content areas of language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.
- The new testing system is designed to be one consistent program across grades 3-12, rather than a series of individual tests.

The Achievement Levels

- **Beginning Learners**
- **Developing Learners**
- **Proficient Learners**
- **Distinguished Learners**

Achievement Levels

Beginning Learners do not yet demonstrate proficiency in the knowledge and skills necessary at this grade level/course of learning, as specified in Georgia’s content standards. The students **need substantial academic support** to be prepared for the next grade level or course and to be on track for college and career readiness.

Achievement Levels

Developing Learners demonstrate partial proficiency in the knowledge and skills necessary at this grade level/course of learning, as specified by in Georgia's content standards. The students **need additional academic support** to ensure success in the next grade level or course and to be on track for college and career readiness.

Achievement Levels

Proficient Learners demonstrate proficiency in the knowledge and skills necessary at this grade level/course of learning, as specified in Georgia's content standards. The students **are prepared** for the next grade level or course and are on track for college and career readiness.

Achievement Levels

Distinguished Learners demonstrate advanced proficiency in the knowledge and skills necessary at this grade level/course of learning, as specified in Georgia's content standards. The students **are well prepared** for the next grade level or course and are well prepared for college and career readiness.

Key Points: SY 2015-16 GMAS End of Grade

Key Points: SY 2015-16 GMAS Overall

- In grades 3-8, student performance remains stronger in ELA and math than in science and social studies.
- Students demonstrated the most improvement in math.
- Middle grade students demonstrated the greatest improvement across the four content areas, particularly students in grade 7.
- Middle grade students also demonstrated the strongest performance in median national percentile rank
- (NPR) scores, with one or more grade levels performing at or above the national average in all four content areas.

Key Points: SY 2015-16 GMAS End of Course

English / Language Arts

- Students in grades 6 and 8 made progress in both Developing and Proficiency rates, and 8th graders met the district's Proficiency target for SY 2015-16.
- Among students in grades 3-5, between 61% - 67% performed at the Developing level or higher, with 27% - 30% achieving the Proficient or Distinguished level. The median national percentile rank (NPR) ranged from 29 in grade 3 to 33 in grade 5.
- Sixty-seven percent (67%) of schools serving students in grades 3-5 met or exceeded their SY 2015-16 Proficiency target in one or more elementary grade level, including Bloomingdale, Gadsden, Gould, Heard, Hodge, JG Smith, Low, Marshpoint, Pooler, Pulaski, Shuman, Southwest, Spencer, West Chatham, White Bluff, Ellis, Garrison, Georgetown, Godley Station, Hesse, CEMCO, and Tybee Maritime.

Key Points: SY 2015-16 GMAS End of Course

English / Language Arts

- Between 62% - 75% of middle grades students scored at or above the Developing level, with 28% - 34% achieving the Proficient or Distinguished level. Eighth grade students demonstrated the strongest performance in both Developing and Proficiency rates, and earned a median NPR of 57.
- Seventy-six percent (76%) of schools serving students in grades 6-8 met or exceeded their SY 2015-16 Proficiency target in at least one middle grade level, including all K8 schools with an applicable target, along with Coastal, Mercer, Southwest, STEM, West Chatham, and Savannah Classical. (Note that Rice Creek does not have an applicable target as the school was not in existence in SY 2014-15).
- JG Smith, Marshpoint, Pooler, Southwest Elementary, Spencer, Garrison, Georgetown, Godley Station, Hesse, CEMCO, Tybee Maritime, and Savannah Classical each achieved double-digit Proficiency gains in one or more grade levels.

Key Points: SY 2015-16 GMAS End of Course

Math

- The percentage of students at Developing or above improved at all grade levels, and Proficiency rates rose in grades 3, 4, 6, 7, and 8. Students in grades 3, 6, and 7 met or exceeded the district's SY 2015-16 Proficiency target.
- Between 67% - 76% of students in grades 3-5 scored at or above the Developing level, with 26%-31% achieving the Proficient or Distinguished level. The median national percentile rank ranged from 42 in grades 3 and 5, to 48 in grade 4.
- Between 65% - 66% of middle grades students performed at the Developing level or higher, and about one in four students reached the Proficient or Distinguished level. Sixth graders earned a median NPR of 47, while 7th and 8th graders met or exceeded the national average with median NPRs of 50 and 60, respectively.

Key Points: SY 2015-16 GMAS End of Course

Science

- Students in grades 5 and 7 met or exceeded the district's SY 2015-16 Proficiency target.
- Among students in elementary grades, 56% - 63% scored at or above the Developing level, with Proficiency rates ranging from 19% - 26%. Median NPRs ranged from 32 in grade 4 to 42 in grade 3.
- ☐ More than 60% of schools serving elementary grades students met their SY 2015-16 Proficiency target in at least one grade level, including Bloomingdale, Gould, Haven, Howard, JG Smith, Low, Marshpoint, Pooler, Pulaski, Shuman, Southwest, Spencer, White Bluff, Windsor Forest, Ellis, Garrison, Georgetown, Godley Station, Hesse, CEMCO, and Tybee Maritime.

Key Points: SY 2015-16 GMAS End of Grade

Science

- About half of middle grades students scored at or above the Developing level, with 17% - 24% achieving the Proficient or Distinguished level of performance. Median NPRs were generally consistent with the national average, reaching 50 in grade 6; 42 in grade 7; and 51 in grade 8.
- Seventy-six percent (76%) of schools serving middle grades students met or exceeded their SY 2015-16 Proficiency target in one or more grade levels, including East Broad, Ellis, Garrison, Georgetown, Godley Station, Hesse, Coastal, DeRenne, Southwest Middle, STEM, West Chatham Middle, Oglethorpe, and Savannah Classical.
- Schools achieving Proficiency gains of 10 points or more in at least one grade level include Bloomingdale, Marshpoint, Garrison, Georgetown, Godley Station, Hesse, STEM, CEMCO, Savannah Classical, and Tybee Maritime.

Social Studies

- Students in all middle grade levels improved their Developing rates, and 7th graders surpassed the district's SY 2015-16 Proficiency target with a gain of 4 points compared to last year.
- Between 58% - 64% of students in grades 3-5 scored at or above the Developing level, with 18%-21% achieving the Proficient or Distinguished level. Median NPRs ranged from 35 in grade 4 to 44 in grade 5.

Social Studies

- Over 70% of schools serving elementary grades met or exceeded their SY 2016-17 Proficiency target in one or more grade levels, including Bloomingdale, Brock, Butler, Gould, Heard, Howard, JG Smith, Low, Pooler, Pulaski, Shuman, Southwest, Spencer, West Chatham, Windsor Forest, East Broad, Ellis, Garrison, Georgetown, Godley Station, Hesse, CEMCO, Savannah Classical, and Tybee Maritime.

Social Studies

- Among students in grades 6-8, between 55% - 62% performed at the Developing level or higher, with 16% - 23% scoring at or above Proficient. Median NPRs ranged from 46 in grade 6 to 53 in grade 7.
- Over 80% of schools serving students in middle grades met their SY 2015-16 Proficiency targets in at least one grade level, including all K8 schools with applicable targets, as well as Coastal, DeRenne, Mercer, Southwest Middle, STEM, West Chatham, and Oglethorpe.
- Schools earning double-digit Proficiency gains in one or more grade levels include Bloomingdale, Pulaski, Ellis, Garrison, Georgetown, Godley Station, Coastal, and STEM, CEMCO and, Tybee Maritime.

Overall

It is critical to understand that the GMAS data provide ***baseline information for a more rigorous set of measures designed to make Georgia's students more competitive nationwide.*** The GMAS is designed to provide accurate information about what students know and can do so that we may provide the academic support necessary to help students succeed at the next grade level and beyond.

Other Notes

SY 2015-16 marks the **second year** in which the GMAS tests were administered, and the first year in which middle grades students taking high school GMAS End of Course tests in the areas of math and science were exempted from the math and science portions of the End of Grade tests. End of Course scores for participating 8th graders are included in the 8th grade EOG math and science results for 2016, while scores for 2015 were based on EOG results only. ***For this reason, 8th grade math and science EOG change data should be interpreted with caution, particularly given that an EOC administered in middle school reflects a higher level of rigor than the corresponding content area EOG.***