



**For Immediate Release
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GOSA releases 2012 Winter and 2013 Spring EOCT Analysis Results

Atlanta – The Governor’s Office of Student Achievement (GOSA) today released the results of the winter 2012 and spring 2013 End-of-Course Test (EOCT) erasure analysis. Again, GOSA has partnered with NCS Pearson, Inc., the state’s testing vendor in charge of developing and scoring EOCT exams to conduct a comprehensive examination of all answer documents for core high school classes. The analysis focused on the number of wrong answers that had been changed to right answers on an individual student answer sheets in the following subjects: Mathematics I, Mathematics II, GPS Algebra, GPS Geometry, CCGPS Coordinate Algebra, United States History, Economics, Biology, Physical Science, Ninth Grade Literature and Composition, and American Literature and Composition. Each answer sheet was scanned to identify total erasures and total wrong-to-right changes. Classrooms across the state were flagged in which the number of wrong-to-right changes were three standard deviations (SDs) or more above the state average.

“The End-of-Course Test erasure analysis affords districts the opportunity to evaluate test security procedures and policies at the high school level,” said Martha Ann Todd, Executive Director. “GOSA will continue to employ forensic analyses in K-12 state assessment programs to ensure the validity and reliability of the data and to support districts in the implementation of best practices for testing.”

In the second year of the analysis, for both the winter 2012 and spring 2013 tests, approximately 0 to 1 wrong answers were erased and replaced with the correct answer. On the winter 2012 examination, 95% of the flagged schools either had less than 10% of the classrooms flagged, or fewer than 5 of their classrooms flagged for wrong-to-right changes. In addition, the spring 2013 administration, 86% of flagged schools had either less than 10% of their classrooms flagged, or fewer than 5 of their classrooms flagged.

“In the second year of our analysis of the EOCT, we are quite pleased with what the EOCT erasure data has revealed. While there are a few classrooms of concern that require further investigation, the majority of EOCT classrooms throughout the state are of no concern, “ said GOSA’s Academic Auditor, Dave Greenstein.

Recommendations on which the State Board of Education will vote include requiring local superintendents to conduct internal investigations in schools on the “Concern” lists, determining the causes of testing irregularities, and placing state monitors at randomly selected schools to observe protocols during the next test administration.

The EOCT is a standardized assessment administered to students enrolled in high school core content course. It is designed to measure how well students ascertain the knowledge and skills within Georgia’s performance/content standards outlined in the CCGPS/GPS (Common Core Georgia Performance Standards/Georgia Performance Standards). Additionally, the EOCT provides diagnostic information to help students identify strengths and areas of need in learning. In addition, other important decisions for individual students and for schools are based on EOCT data. Therefore, it is critical that reported scores are an accurate representation of students’ knowledge and skills.

The Governor’s Office of Student Achievement serves as the reporting and accountability agency for education in Georgia. As such, GOSA is charged by law with inspecting academic records of schools to ensure that education institutions are faithful to performance accountability requirements. Through an academic audit, GOSA reviews student assessment data and other school records reported to the State to confirm accuracy and explore the effectiveness of local initiatives in improving achievement.

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