
2018 Georgia Milestones Assessment Audit

Analysis, Results, and Recommendations

Governor's Office of Student Achievement

Prepared for State Board of Education Rules Committee

February 20-21, 2019

Presentation Overview

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Academic Auditing Overview

- O.C.G.A § 20-14-35 calls for the Governor’s Office of Student Achievement (GOSA) to inspect academic records of schools to ensure that education institutions are faithful to performance accountability requirements.
- O.C.G.A § 20-14-36 calls for GOSA to recommend and the State Board of Education adopt written procedures for audits.
- Since 2009, GOSA has conducted an annual audit to ensure that assessments are administered with fidelity. The results of this analysis are presented to the SBOE.

Milestones Assessment Audit Overview

- GOSA contracts with the state testing vendor (currently Data Recognition Corporation) to conduct analyses of Georgia Milestones assessments in all grade levels and subject areas.
- Until 2016, GOSA focused exclusively on an erasure analysis of wrong-to-right answer changes.
- In 2016, GOSA expanded the Milestones analysis to also include:
 - Answer change analysis for tests administered online, and
 - Unusual response pattern analysis for English and Mathematics EOGs in grades 4-8.
- The results of the Milestones analyses are used to flag potential schools for on-site test monitoring. The results do not indicate that cheating necessarily occurred.

Milestones Assessment Audit Overview

- In 2018, the Milestones analysis will include:
 - Answer Change Analysis for End-of-Grade assessments (EOGs) in grades 3-8 and End-of-Course assessments (EOCs)
 - Unusual Response Pattern Analysis for English and Mathematics EOGs in grades 4-8 and EOCs
 - **Gain Score Analysis for English and Mathematics EOGs in grades 4-8 and EOCs**
 - **Response Time Analysis for EOGs in grades 3-8 and EOCs**
- The results of the Milestones analyses flag potential schools for on-site test monitoring. The results do not indicate that cheating necessarily occurred.

Answer Change Analysis

This analysis identifies schools with a large number of answer choice changes where a wrong answer was replaced with the correct one.

Flagging Criteria

- Five percent or more of classrooms in a school have a wrong-to-right standard score that is:
 - greater than or equal to 4.0 for EOGs
 - greater than or equal to 5.0 for EOCs
- One classroom in a school has a wrong-to-right standard score greater than or equal to 7.0 for EOGs or EOCs.

Unusual Response Pattern Analysis

This analysis identifies student groups with both large score fluctuations across years as well as unexpected patterns in student answers.

Only calculated for English/Language Arts and Mathematics assessments, starting in Grade 4.

Flagging Criteria

- Two or more testing groups in a school were in the 95th percentile or greater for unusual responses.

Gain Score Analysis Overview

This analysis identifies schools that have large increases in classroom performance relative to the change in test performance of the entire state across years.

Only calculated for English/Language Arts and Mathematics, starting in Grade 4.

Flagging Criteria

- One or more classrooms showed an outlier score of 10 or greater.

Response Time Analysis Overview

This analysis identifies schools with a large number of extremely short or long test durations relative to the state average test duration.

Flagging Criteria

- Thirty percent or more of classrooms in a school have a test duration standard score that is:
 - greater than or equal to 4.0 or less than or equal to -4.0 for EOGs
 - greater than or equal to 5.0 or less than or equal to -5.0 for EOCs
- One classroom in a school has a test duration standard score that is greater than or equal to 7.0 or less than or equal to -7.0 for EOGs or EOCs.

Audit Selection Methodology

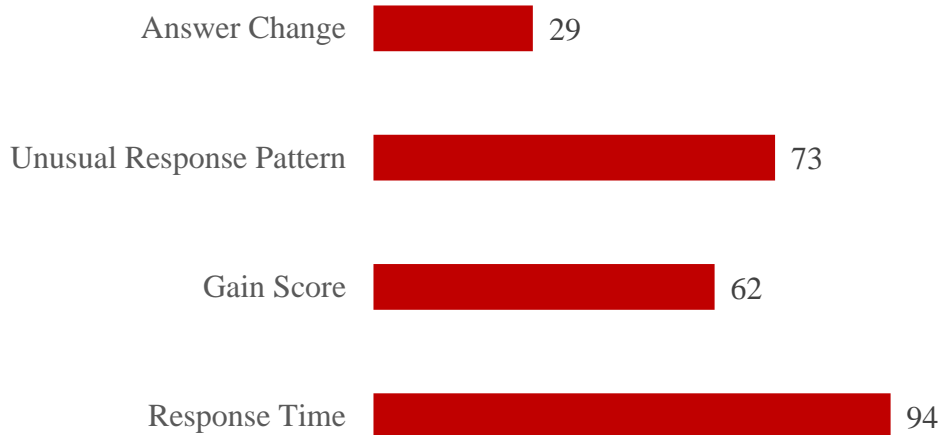
1. Schools receive flags for each of the four analyses.
2. GOSA identifies any school receiving two or more flags for the assessment audit.
3. LEAs with flagged schools complete an inquiry form for each flagged school.
 - After reviewing inquiry forms, GOSA will identify schools for test monitoring according to the number of flags and inquiry form responses regarding the 2017-2018 administration.
 - GOSA will test monitor state charter schools that have opened in the last two academic years (2017-2018 & 2018-2019).

Flagged Schools



122 Schools Flagged

Distribution of Flags



Most common combination:
Unusual Response Pattern & Response Time

Number of Flags



Recommendations to the SBOE

GOSA will:

1. Provide audited LEAs with an opportunity to review and comment on their data and test administration procedures through an inquiry form.
2. Recommend that flagged schools rotate teachers for the Spring 2019 Georgia Milestones test administration.
3. Assign state monitors to observe and inspect identified schools requiring further inquiry for the Spring 2019 Georgia Milestones test administration.
4. Conduct on-site audits as necessary.

Questions?

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