



State Audit Plan* for School Year 2009-2010

* Subject to change pending demonstrated needs

GOSA Academic Auditing

The Governor's Office of Student Achievement (GOSA) serves as the reporting and accountability agency for education in Georgia. As such, it is charged by law (O.C.G.A. §20-14-25) with inspecting academic records of schools to ensure that education institutions are faithful to performance accountability requirements.

In 2008, GOSA launched its academic auditing program, an additional component to its service of reporting student progress and completion within Georgia's public schools. 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 school initiatives in improving achievement. Valid data are crucial for improvement planning, education policy development, and determining the performance status of schools under the Federal *No Child Left Behind Act*.

What is an academic audit?

An academic audit is an evaluation of a school or Local Education Agency (LEA) designed to accomplish two primary objectives:

1. Ascertain the validity or reliability of the data the school or LEA collects and reports, directly or indirectly, to the Governor's Office of Student Achievement (GOSA); and
2. Assess a school's or LEA's internal controls process related to data collection and test administration.

Why is an audit necessary?

As the state's reporter of the education data that defines the performance of Georgia's public schools, it is critical that GOSA be assured of the accuracy of the data reported by schools and LEAs and allowed to explore the effectiveness of education initiatives in improving student achievement.

Priority Audit Efforts

GOSA will conduct audits throughout the year as part of its ongoing efforts to ensure that educational data accurately define the performance of Georgia's public schools. The ongoing audit priorities are:

Audit Type	Approximate Time Frame
Comprehensive CRCT Analysis, Grades 1-8	September – November, 2009
Qualitative CRCT Analysis Follow-Up, Grades 1-8	November, 2009 – February, 2010
GHS GT Senior Comparative Analysis	January – September, 2010
Student Enrollment /Withdrawal Data Analysis	November, 2009 – June, 2010
Ongoing, random audits of LEA compliance with state policies and procedures	Ongoing

To ensure the validity and reliability of the state assessments (CRCT, GHS GT, and possibly EOCT), OSA will work with field experts to conduct multiple analyses to help determine whether or not any standardized test has been compromised. Such analyses may look at student response similarities or suspicious erasures. Once an audit has been completed, GOSA will share its findings and recommendations with the appropriate state-level education board (if applicable) as well as the affected school and local board of education. It will also make a detailed report publicly available on its website.