TESTING 101 FOR PARENTS & FAMILIES

ENGAGING PARENTS AND FAMILIES TO SUPPORT STUDENT GROWTH AND ACHIEVEMENT

A BRIDGE INITIATIVE & PHILOSOPHY STRATEGY

DEKALB COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT MARCH 2014

MR. MICHAEL THURMOND, SUPERINTENDENT



- **1.** To ensure parents are aware of critical information related to standardized tests
- 2. To provide parents ideas and resources they may use to help students prepare to be successful
- **3.** To engage parents in their role which helps students demonstrate growth and achievement
- 4. To share with parents how DeKalb is preparing students to demonstrate growth and achievement



GRADES 3-8 TESTING INFORMATION

UNDERSTANDING THE CRCT



- CRCT is the acronym for Criterion-Referenced Competency Test
- The CRCT is the standardized test administered to students in grades 3-8
- The CRCT-M is the CRCT Modified (Reduced number of problems but same grade-level content)
- The CRCT has five subtest as follows:
 - Reading
 - English/Language Arts
 - Mathematics
 - Science
 - Social Studies



- The CRCT measures whether a student is meeting or exceeding grade-level content standards
- Each test measures content standards in specific domain areas
- Each domain area is weighted



Content Weights for the Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests (CRCT)

for the 2013-2014 School Year

The chart below shows the approximate weights for domains on the CRCT subject assessments. Due to rounding the percents may be not always sum to exactly 100%. All CRCT assess the state-mandated curriculum. The CRCT Content Descriptions provide more details as to the specific skills and knowledge that a student is required to demonstrate on the tests. These documents may be found at http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Pages/CRCT-Content-Descriptions.aspx

	Approximate Percent of Test					
Grade	3	4	5	6	7	8
READING						
Literary Comprehension	45%	40%	40%	40%	40%	40%
Reading for Information	35%					
Information and Media Literacy		40%	40%	45%	45%	45%
Reading Skills and Vocabulary Acquisition	20%	20%	20%	15%	15%	15%
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS						
Grammar and Sentence Construction	60%	40%	40%	40%	30%	30%
Research and Writing Process	40%	60%	60%	60%	70%	70%
MATHEMATICS						
Number and Operations	50%	52%	55%	28%	23%	20%
Measurement and Data Analysis	30%	26%	20%			
Geometry and Measurement				19%		
Geometry	10%	12%	15%		23%	27%
Algebra	10%	10%	10%	35%	34%	41%
Data Analysis and Probability				18%	20%	12%
SCIENCE						
Earth Science	34%	40%	30%			
Life Science	33%	30%	40%			
Physical Science	33%	30%	30%			
Geology				40%		
Hydrology and Meteorology				40%		
Astronomy				20%		
Cells and Genetics					35%	
Interdependence of Life					50%	
Evolution					15%	
Structure of Matter						30%
Force and Motion						30%
Energy and Its Transformation						40%
SOCIAL STUDIES						
History	30%	50%	50%	29%	20%	47%
Geography	20%	15%	15%	31%	35%	12%
Government/Civics	30%	20%	20%	15%	20%	25%
Economics	20%	15%	15%	25%	25%	16%

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The CRCT is scored on the following scale:

O-799 (Not Meeting Standards)
800-849 (Meeting Standards)
850-900 (Exceeding Standards)

0-799	800-849	850-900
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Not Meeting	Meeting	Exceeding
Standards	Standards	Standards



- The Georgia Promotion, Placement, and Retention law (O.C.G.A., Section 20-2-282 through 20-2-285) and State Board of Education Rule 160-4-2-.11 mandate the following:
- 3rd Grade students must pass reading to be promoted to 4th Grade
- 5th Grade students must pass reading and math to be promoted to 6th Grade
- 8th Grade students must pass reading and math to be promoted to 9th Grade



- Directions are read aloud
- Each subject test has two timed sections
- Each section is 45-70 minutes
- A short break of about 10 minutes is required between each section



HOW MANY QUESTIONS ARE ON EACH TEST?

Subject	CRCT	CRCT-M
Reading	50	40
English Language Arts	60	50
Mathematics	70	60
Science	70	No CRCT-M
Social Studies	70	No CRCT-M





WHAT ARE DEKALB'S TEST DATES?

CRCT

Administration

April 22-May 1

Remediation

May 2-19

Retest

May 20-22

EOCT

Administration

May 5-12

Remediation

As needed

Retest

Summer 2014





HOW ARE THE CRCT RESULTS REPORTED?

- Student Score Label (placed on student cum folder)
- Individual Student Report
- Performance Level 1 Roster
- Class Report
- Performance Summary Report (Class, School, District)
- Summary Report of All Student Populations
- Parents may obtain student reports from the school



GRADES 9-12 TESTING INFORMATION

UNDERSTANDING THE EOCT





WHAT IS THE EOCT?

- EOCT is the acronym for End of Course Test
- The EOCT is the test administered to students in specific high school courses

• The EOCTs are as follows:

9th Grade Literature and Composition

- American Literature and Composition
- Coordinate Algebra
- Mathematics II
- Analytic Geometry (Began Winter 2013)
- Physical Science
- Biology
- US History
- Economics/Business/Free Enterprise



- The EOCT for each course measures whether a student is meeting or exceeding course content standards
- Each test measures content standards in specific domain areas
- Each domain area is <u>weighted</u>
- Each test is 90-120 minutes and timed
- The EOCT counts 15% if enrolled in HS prior to July 2011 or 20% if enrolled in high school after July 2011
- Students must earn a scale score of 400 or grade converted score of 70 to pass the EOCT



End-of-Course Tests (EOCT) Content Weights for the 2013-2014 School Year

The chart below shows the approximate weights for domains on each EOCT. All EOCT are aligned to the state mandated curriculum. The EOCT Content Descriptions provide more details as to the specific skills and knowledge that a student is required to demonstrate on the tests and are located at http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Assessment/Pages/EOCT.aspx.

End-of Course Test	Domain	Approximate Percent of Test
	Reading (Literary and Informational)	35%
Ninth Grade Literature and Composition	Speaking and Listening	25%
	Writing	20%
-	Language	20%
	Reading (Literary and Informational)	40%
American Literature and	Speaking and Listening	20%
Composition	Writing	20%
-	Language	20%
	Algebra and Functions (includes Number and Quantity)	60%
Coordinate Algebra	Algebra Connections to Geometry	25%
-	Algebra Connections to Statistics and Probability	15%
	Geometry	60%
	Expressions, Equations, and Functions	18%
Analytic Geometry	Number and Quantity	11%
	Statistics and Probability	11%
Mathematics II: Geometry/Algebra II/Statistics	Algebra (includes Number and Operations)	39%
	Geometry	35%
	Data Analysis and Probability	26%
	Geometry	70%
Geometry	Algebra	15%
	Data Analysis and Probability	15%
	Cells	17.5%
	Organisms	17.5%
Biology	Genetics	25%
	Ecology	25%
	Evolution	15%
Physical Science	Chemistry: Atomic and Nuclear Theory and the Periodic Table	25%
	Chemistry: Chemical Reactions and Properties of Matter	25%
	Physics: Energy, Force, and Motion	25%
	Physics: Waves, Electricity, and Magnetism	25%

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EOCT Content Weights: 2013-14

End-of Course Test	Domain	Approximate Percent of Test
	Colonization through the Constitution	19%
	New Republic through Reconstruction	19%
U.S. History	Industrialization, Reform, and Imperialism	16%
	Establishment as a World Power	24%
	Modern Era	22%
Economics/Business/ Free Enterprise	Fundamental Economic Concepts	20.5%
	Microeconomic Concepts	22%
	Macroeconomic Concepts	20.5%
	International Economics	18%
	Personal Finance Economics	19%

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The EOCT is scored on the following scale:

200-399 (Not Meeting Standards)

400-449 (Meeting Standards)

450-600/650/750(Exceeding Standards)

200-399 or	400-449 or	450–600/650/750 or
0-69	70-89	90-100
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Not Meeting	Meeting	Exceeding
Standards	Standards	Standards



EOCT PERFORMANCE INDICATORS



Performance Indicators

Raw scores (number correct) of items are converted to scale scores, which make it possible to standardize the reporting for all forms of the Georgia End of Course Tests (EOCT) for a given subject area. Each time a test is administered, a new form of that test has been equated with previously administered forms to adjust for differences in difficulty, and the scores on the different forms share the same reporting scale.

The EOCT scores are reported on a scale that can range from 200 to above 450 for GPS-based tests. The minimum and maximum scale scores for the different subject areas differ because the subject area tests vary in length and their relative difficulty. As the table shows, the cut score that indicates a student is **meeting** the EOCT standard is 400 for GPS-based tests. The cut score that indicates a student is **exceeding** standard is 450 for GPS-based tests.

A statewide committee of Georgia educators, using a procedure approved by the State Board of Education, determined the cut scores for meeting the standard and exceeding the standard for each test. The performance level classification for each student is determined by the scale score

		Performance Level 1: Does Not Meet Expectations		Performance Level 2: Meets Expectations		Performance Level 3: Exceeds Expectations	
	Scale Score	Grade Conversion	Scale Score	Grade Conversion	Scale Score	Grade Conversion	
Grade 9 Lit.	200 to 399	0 to 69	400 to 449	70 to 89	450 to 600	90 to 100	
American Lit.	200 to 399	0 to 69	400 to 449	70 to 89	450 to 600	90 to 100	
Biology	200 to 399	0 to 69	400 to 449	70 to 89	450 to 650	90 to 100	
Physical Science	200 to 399	0 to 69	400 to 449	70 to 89	450 to 750	90 to 100	
US History	200 to 399	0 to 69	400 to 449	70 to 89	450 to 650	90 to 100	
Economics	200 to 399	0 to 69	400 to 449	70 to 89	450 to 650	90 to 100	
Mathematics I	200 to 399	0 to 69	400 to 449	70 to 89	450 to 600	90 to 100	
Mathematics II	200 to 399	0 to 69	400 to 449	70 to 89	450 to 600	90 to 100	

associated with the total number of questions a student gets correct on an EOCT.

In addition to a scale score for each test, a grade conversion scale, ranging from 0 to 100, also describes student performance on an EOCT. The grade conversion scale is helpful because it can be more readily incorporated into course grades than can scale scores.

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13 Georgia EOCT Interpretive Guide for Score Reports





HOW ARE THE EOCT RESULTS REPORTED?

- Preliminary On-Demand Reports (Online)
- Preliminary Class Rosters
- **Class Roster Reports**
- Individual Student Reports
- Student Report Labels
- Summary Reports (Class, School, District & Subgroups)
- **Content Area Summary Reports**
- Parents may obtain student reports from the school



THE GEORGIA STUDENT GROWTH MODEL (GSGM) REPORT

UNDERSTANDING GROWTH AND ACHIEVEMENT





A NEW REPORT FOR GROWTH AND ACHIEVEMENT

Georgia Student Growth Model (GSGM) Report

- Reports the Student Growth Percentile (SGP)—A measure of which describes how a student grows relative to his/her academically-similar peers
- The SGP ranges from 1 to 99 and is grouped as low, medium, or high
- Reflects both growth and achievement for current year
- Provides projections and growth targets for next year
- Parent should obtain the GSGM Report from their child's school



Student Student, Sample Birthdate 06/2003 GTID 1234567890

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Grade 4 System Friendly County 999 School Central Elementary School 9999

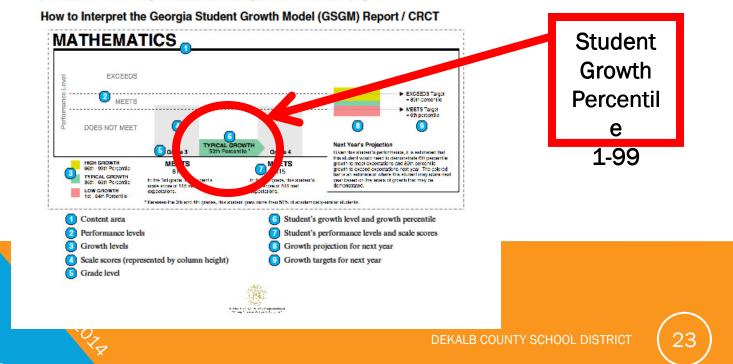
Georgia Student Growth Model (GSGM) Report CRCT / 2012-2013

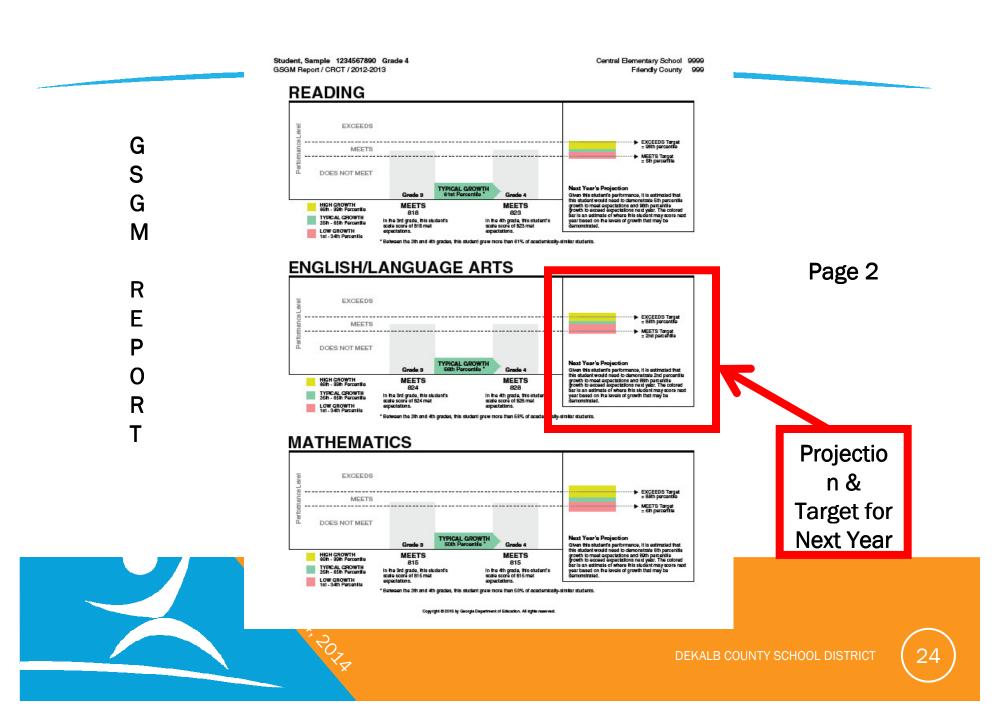
This Georgia Student Growth Model Report (GSGM) provides information on your student's academic progress during the 2012-2013 school year. However, instead of describing growth in terms of the number of scale score points gained or lost, this model provides you with Student Growth Percentiles (SGPs). Percentiles are not percentage correct scores, nor do they tell you anything about your student's achievement level. An SGP describes how much your student grew relative to academically-similar students – or other students across Georgia with the same achievement score history.

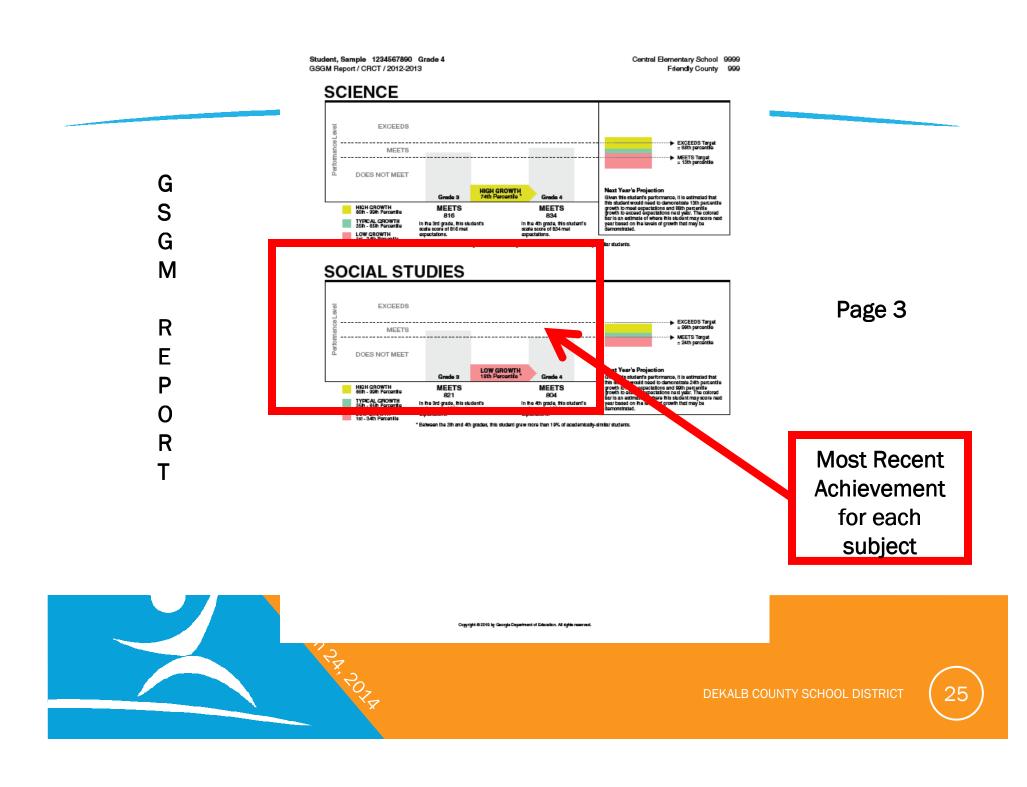
SGPs range from 1 (lowest growth) to 99 (highest growth). For example, a 5th-grade reading SGP of 60 would mean that the student grew more than 60% of 5th-grade students with a similar history of reading achievement. Conversely, 40% grew more than this student. In other words, SGPs take into consideration where your student started when describing how much growth he or she demonstrated. With SGPs, students of all achievement levels – low and high – have the opportunity to demonstrate all levels of growth – low and high.

The interpretive guide below will assist you in understanding what all of the numbers, bars, colors, and arrows mean. On the next two pages, you will find growth reports for your student by content area. The back page includes additional information on understanding and interpreting SGPs. We hope this student growth report provides you with a new, insightful way of understanding your student's academic progress.

Page 1







Understanding Your Student's Academic Growth

Test scores provide important information about your student's level of achievement – including how well your student has mastered the state's content standards. However, achievement by itself is only half of the story. While achievement can tell us whether or not your student has met expectations for a grade, it does not tell us how much progress your student has made from the previous year. For example, Anna may have fallen short of grade level proficiency for two consecutive years but may have made considerable progress. Even though she hasn't met expectations yet, high growth may get her there. Similarly, Jack may score at a very high level for two consecutive years but failed to make considerable progress. Even though he is highachieving, he could make even more progress.

It is important to remember that SGPs are just one way to look at student performance. It is also necessary to consider all aspects of student performance – such as standardized test scores, classroom performance, and teacher observations – along with SGPs when having conversations about the best way to support or accelerate your student's academic performance.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What are scale scores and performance levels?

Scale scores provide a measure of achievement that allows for comparisons across students or administrations within the same grade and content area. The scores are grouped into three performance levels – Does Not Meet, Meets, Exceeds – which indicate whether or not a student met the state's test performance standards for that grade and content area.

What is a student growth percentile (SGP)?

A student growth percentile (SGP) describes how much a student grew relative to academically-similar students - or other students across Georgia with the same achievement score history.

What are growth levels?

SGPs range from 1 (lowest growth) to 99 (highest growth) and are grouped into three growth levels – low, typical, and high. A student who demonstrates low growth generally will struggle to maintain his/her current level of achievement and could possibly lose ground. A student who demonstrates typical growth generally will maintain or moderately improve academically. A student who demonstrates high growth generally will make greater improvements academically.

What do the growth projections and targets tell me?

Growth projections estimate where a student may score on next year's assessment for all possible levels of growth (low, typical, and high) that may be demonstrated next year. Growth targets (expressed as an SGP) estimate the level of growth a student needs to demonstrate to meet or exceeds on next year's assessment.

What is the difference between achievement and growth?

Achievement is a snapshot look at whether your student did not meet, met, or exceeded the state's expectations for that grade and content area. Growth looks at how much your student has progressed from one year to the next – whether or not he or she met the state's achievement expectations. Students of all achievement levels can demonstrate all levels of growth. For example, a student who did not meet expectations on the assessment could still have demonstrated high growth. This could mean that he or she is on track to meet expectations in the future. Alternatively, a student who exceeded expectations on the assessment could have demonstrated low growth. That would mean that for this high-achieving student, his/her academic peers demonstrated higher growth.

Is this an apples-to-apples comparison?

Yes, a student's SGP is relative to other students across the state of Georgia with the same achievement history. In other words, low-achieving students are compared to low-achieving students and high-achieving students are compared to highachieving students. This means that students of all achievement levels can demonstrate all levels of growth.

What do I do with this information?

Previously, CRCT scores alone could only tell you whether or not your student met expectations. Now, with SGPs, you have additional information on how much progress your student made. Your student's SGPs and growth levels tell you how much he or she grew relative to academically-similar students. The growth targets for next year can help you determine if additional supports – beyond the standard classroom environment – may be necessary to help your student meet expectations. The best course of action is to work with your student's teacher(s) about the best way to support or accelerate your student's academic performance.

Visit gsgm.gadoe.org for more information on understanding and interpreting this student growth report. Here you will find detailed explanations, videos, and interactive tools to help you explore all of the exciting information that the GSGM provides.

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HOW SHOULD STUDENTS PREPARE FOR SUCCESS?

DEMONSTRATING GROWTH AND ACHIEVEMENT



LEARNING AND READING EVERY DAY

- Attend class daily and learn the standards everyday
 - Click to learn about the <u>Common Core State Standards</u>
 - Click to read about Georgia Standards
- Read daily on your Lexile level to improve your reading
- Ask higher order questions such as why and how
- Summarize what you read and learn
- Apply what you learn
- Practice the test taking strategies



- **1.** Write on the test
- **2.** Read the directions carefully
- **3.** Narrow answer choices through elimination
- 4. Avoid extraneous or irrelevant, unnecessary, or unrelated detail(s)
- **5.** Choose the best answer and don't leave any blanks



UTILIZE INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES

TO SUPPORT GROWTH AND ACHIEVEMENT



LEXILE RESOURCES

Lexile Framework for × 🗲 🔶 🖸 🕒 https://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Assessment/Pages/Lexile-Framework.aspx 52 Georgia Department of Education > Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment > Assessment Research, Development and Administration > Lexile Framework for Reading Accountability Lexile Framework for Reading Assessment Research, **Development and** Administration What is the Lexile Framework? Career, Technical and Agricultural Education The Lexile® Framework is an educational tool that links text complexity and readers ability on a common scale metric known as the Lexile. The Georgia Curriculum and Instruction Department of Education has worked with MetaMetrics, the developers of the Lexile Framework, for several years to establish the relationship of state-wide Read about School Psychological Services assessments and the Lexile scale. Students who take the reading CRCT or CRCT-M or the EOCT in English Language Arts now receive Lexile measures Special Education Services Georgia's along with their CRCT or EOCT scale score. These Lexile measures can be used and Supports to match readers with texts targeting the student's reading ability; such **Summer Reading** Student Support Teams targeting reading material is essential for growth in reading ability and helps to monitor student progress towards reading. State Schools Challenge MetaMetrics has revised the Lexile map to reflect the text complexity that students should reach by the end of high school in order to be college and career ready. The map provides a graphic representation of texts and titles matched to appropriate levels of reading ability. Georgia's Lexile Map 11 x 17 rgia's Lexile Map 8.5 x 11 Georgia's Summer Reading Challenge Lexiles & Common Core Standards Georgia's rigorous content standards promote that students should be ready for college and career upon exiting high school. The most important factor for readiness is a student's ability to read and understand texts of steadily increasing complexity as they progress through school. The Lexile® Framework provides valuable insights into student readiness by 6:47 PM 3/21/2014 31 DEKALB COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

LEXILE RESOURCES

Grades	CCSS Lexile Text Range		
1	190L - 530L		
2 - 3	420L - 820L		
4 - 5	740L - 1010L		
6 – 8	925L - 1185L		
9 - 10	1050L - 1335L		
11 - 12	1185L - 1385L		

Please see your school's Librarian for more Lexile information.

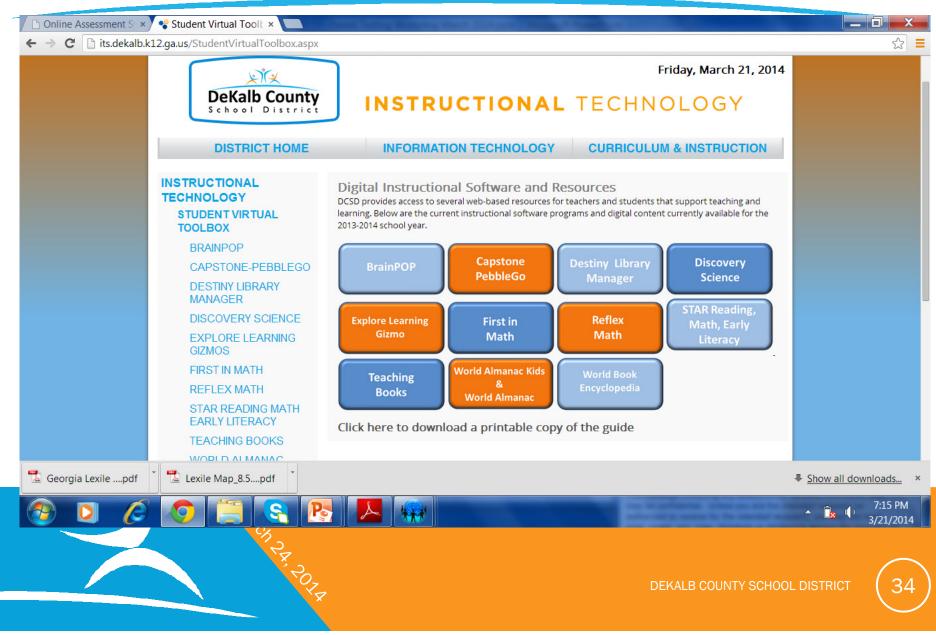


- Instructional Resources
- DeKalb's Virtual Toolbox
- **The <u>CRCT Practice of Study Guides</u>**
- The EOCT Practice or Study Guides
- Georgia Online Assessment System
- USAtestprep for all high school students

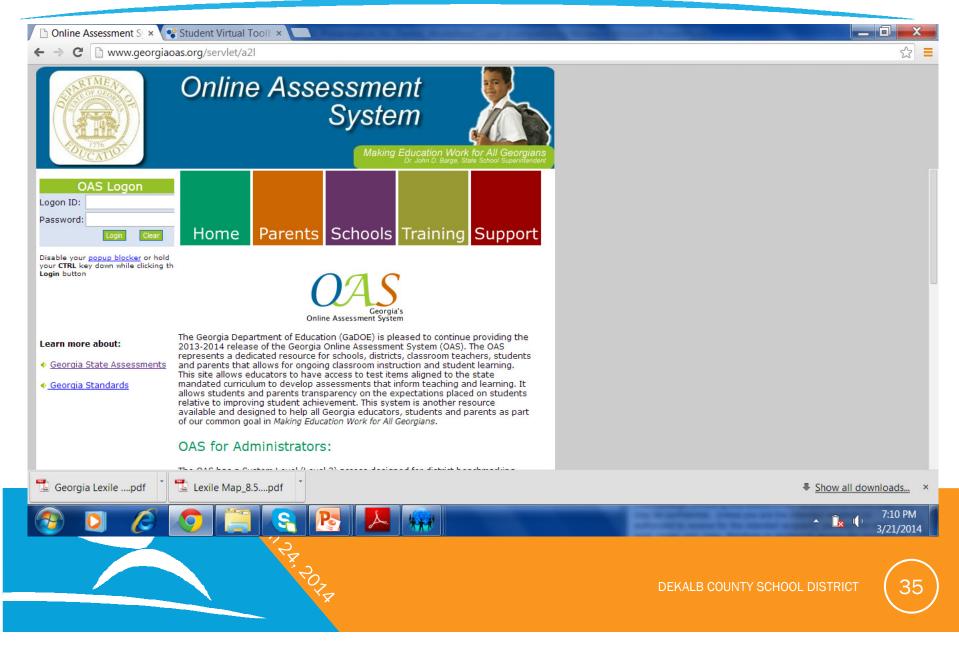
Obtain username and password from teacher



DEKALB'S STUDENT VIRTUAL TOOLBOX



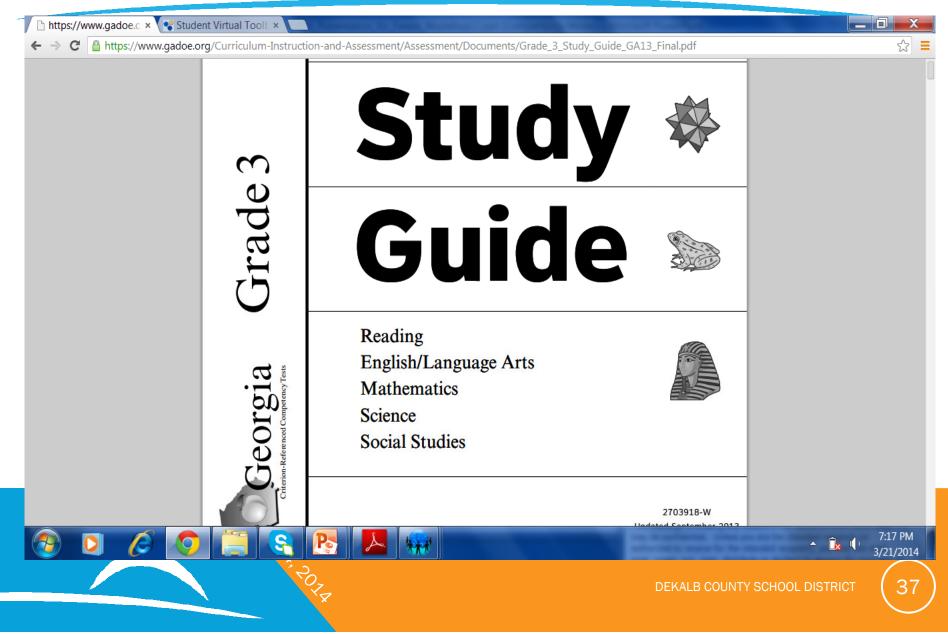
ONLINE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM



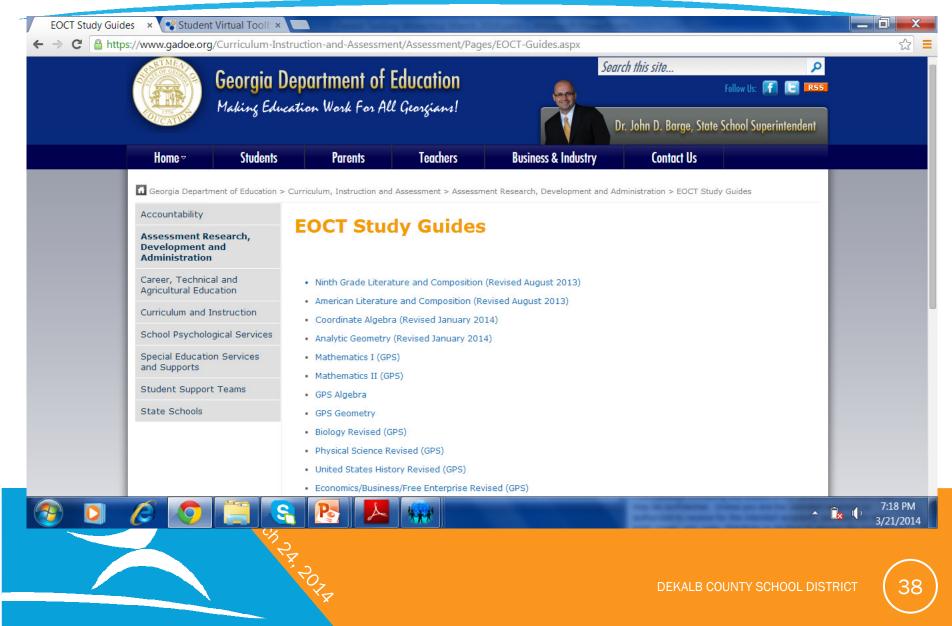
CRCT STUDY GUIDES



CRCT STUDY GUIDES



EOCT STUDY GUIDES



EOCT STUDY GUIDES

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THE FOCUS IN DEKALB

TO ENSURE GROWTH AND ACHIEVEMENT





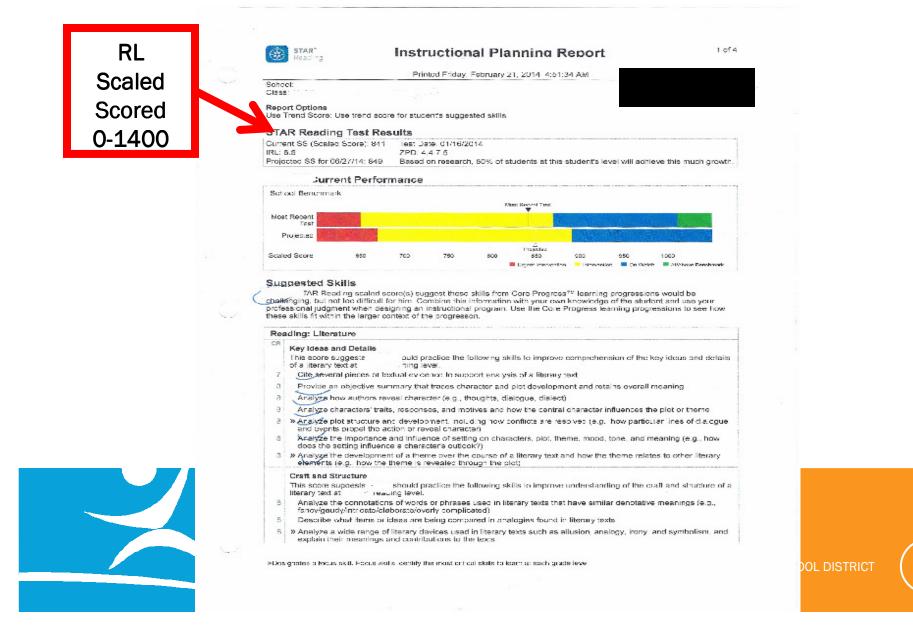
- **Teaching the grade-level content**
- Assessing students in reading and math
- Targeting and remediating deficits in reading and math
 - >Morning, During, and After School Tutorials
 - Saturday School
 - Early Intervention Program (EIP)
 - Remedial Education Program (REP)
- Teaching and reviewing test taking strategies
- Following all testing security and integrity protocols



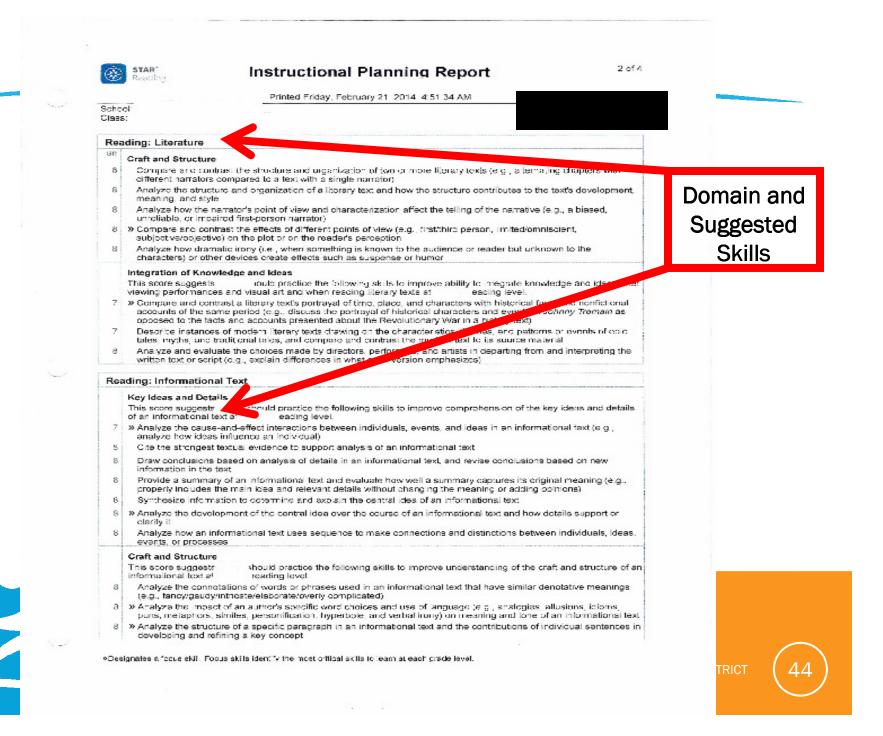
- There are two reports (reading and math)
- Identifies the student's grade, instructional level, scaled score for reading and math
- Identifies domain and suggested skills that should be remediated
- The report should be used to determine the instructional focus during targeted tutorials
- The report is available at the school upon request



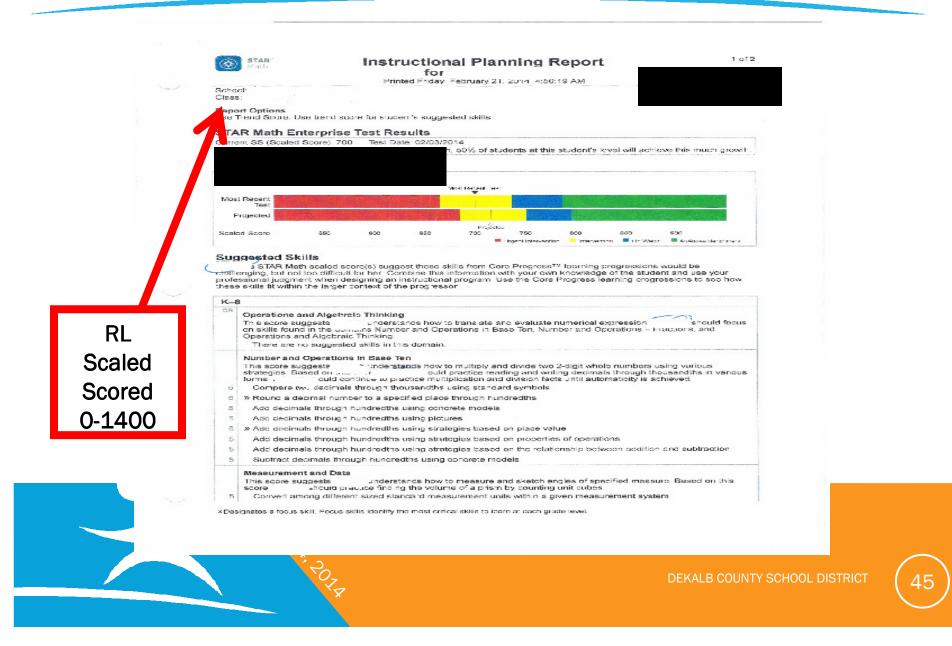
READING INSTRUCTIONAL PLANNING REPORT

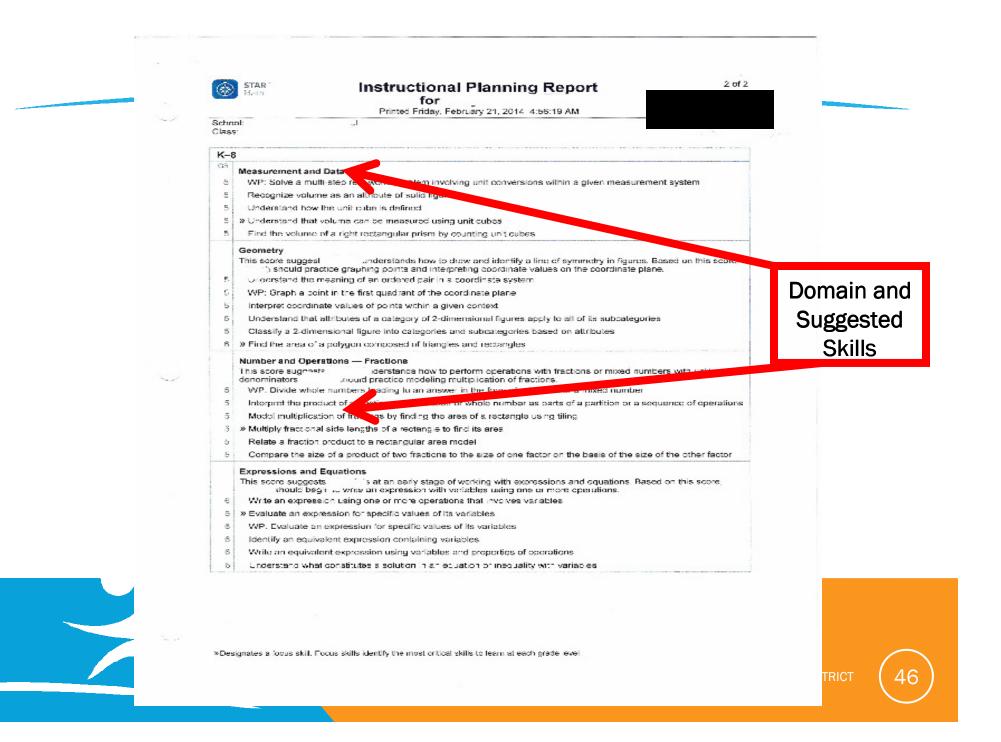


43



MATH INSTRUCTIONAL PLANNING REPORT





- Ensure a good night's sleep
- Remain calm, re-assuring, and positive
- Maintain the daily routine
- Tell students how much you believe in them
- Remind students of the importance of the test(s)
- Ensure a nutritious meal every morning
- Ensure students dress comfortably
- Ensure students attend school every day
- Ensure students arrive on time



