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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Students Continue to Improve on Georgia Milestones**

HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – Scores from the 2019 Georgia Milestones Assessment System (GMAS) were released by the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) on July 26, 2019. Houston County’s students improved in 18 of 24 content areas and performed at or above the state average on 22 of the 24 assessments. Houston’s elementary and middle school students outperformed the state in all 22 content areas of End of Grade assessments, for every grade in every subject and every reading level.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Mark Scott said, “We are proud that our students continue to outperform the state and make gains at the highest levels of achievement. Our teachers’ hard work, complemented by the support of administrators and parents, pays dividends in the form of student progress.”

Students in grades 3-8 take Georgia Milestones End of Grade (EOG) Assessments. Students in grades 9-12 take Georgia Milestones End of Course (EOC) Assessments. GMAS results are used to calculate the College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI), Georgia’s accountability system. The Milestones tests are rigorous and aim to better prepare students for college and career and to provide a more realistic picture of academic progress.

GMAS measures student learning on four levels of achievement: 1. Beginning, 2. Developing, 3. Proficient and 4. Distinguished. The achievement levels help teachers pinpoint where students are in relation to their peers across the state, giving teachers the data they need to develop individualized strategies to help students continue to improve and be more successful.

To test students in grades 3-12 across 38 schools in 2018-2019, the district administered 54,157 state mandated Milestone assessments. This was an increase of 329 assessments over the previous year.

Parents received their child’s preliminary scores in May. This fall they will receive a detailed score report showing how their child’s performance compares to the system and state.

System and state scores follow.

2019 EOG System and State						
Grade	System/ State	Reading	ELA	Math	Science	SS
		Grade Level or Above	% at Levels 2, 3, 4	% at Levels 2, 3, 4	% at Levels 2, 3, 4	% at Levels 2, 3, 4
Grade 3	System	79%	78%	88%	-	-
	State	73%	71%	83%	-	-
Grade 4	System	69%	81%	88%	-	-
	State	64%	75%	83%	-	-
Grade 5	System	80%	83%	82%	75%	82%
	State	73%	76%	75%	70%	77%
Grade 6	System	63%	76%	84%	-	-
	State	61%	74%	78%	-	-
Grade 7	System	78%	77%	83%	-	-
	State	75%	72%	79%	-	-
Grade 8	System	78%	85%	86%*	79%*	83%
	State	74%	80%	78%*	69%*	79%

\*Includes students who took Algebra I and Physical Science in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. These students take the appropriate End of Course Assessment in lieu of an End of Grade Assessment.

2019 EOC System and State					
System/ State	9th Gr. Reading	Am. Lit. Reading	9th Gr. Lit. & Composition	Am. Lit. & Composition	Biology
	Grade Level or Above		% at Levels 2, 3 and 4		
System	87%	75%	92%	80%	74%
State	83%	75%	87%	81%	71%
System/ State	Econ/Business/ Free Enterprise	Physical Science	U. S. History	Geometry	Algebra 1
	% at Levels 2, 3 and 4				
System	72%	79%	79%	81%	82%
State	74%	74%	78%	71%	73%

A description of the four performance levels follows.

- **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.
- **Developing Learners** demonstrate partial proficiency in the knowledge and skills necessary at this grade level/course of learning, as specified by 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.

- **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.
- **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.

Georgia law requires a comprehensive summative assessment program in grades 3-12, with EOG assessments in English/language arts and math for grades 3-8 and EOG assessments in science and social studies for grades 5 and 8. EOC assessments are required in designated core subjects for grades 9-12: 9th grade Literature and Composition, American Literature and Composition, Algebra I or Coordinate Algebra, Geometry or Analytic Geometry, Biology, Physical Science, U.S. History and Economics.

Read the GaDOE news release [here](#). For more information, visit the [Georgia Milestones Assessment System website](#).

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