

April 30, 2021

Dear Parents,

The Georgia Milestones is designed to provide information about how well students are mastering the state adopted content standards in the core content areas of English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. Importantly, Georgia Milestones is designed to provide students with critical information about their own achievement and their readiness for their next level of learning—be it the next grade, the next course, or the next endeavor (college or career). On the days listed below, high school students enrolled in Algebra, American Literature, United States History, and Biology in the Murray County School System will be taking the Georgia Milestones End of Course Assessment.

Day	Dates	Test	
Monday	May 10th	American Literature Section 1	
Tuesday	May 11th	Biology Section	
Wednesday	May 12th	American Literature Section 2 & 3	
Thursday	May 13th	EOC make-ups	
Friday	May 14th	Algebra I Section	
Monday	May 17th	United States History	

What can I do to help my child?

Students who are prepared, calm, and rested perform better on tests. Here are some of the many ways to help your student approach Georgia Milestones in a relaxed, positive way:

- Encourage your student to employ good study and test-taking skills. These skills include following directions carefully, avoiding careless errors, and reviewing work.
- Explain the purpose of the tests. The assessments give students an opportunity to show what they have learned in school. They also give teachers information that helps them plan instruction.
- Point out that some items may be more difficult than others.
- Be certain your student gets plenty of sleep and has a healthy breakfast and lunch. Taking tests is hard work for many students and can require a lot of energy.
- Be certain your student is at school on time. Rushing and worrying about being late could affect performance on the tests.
- Remember to ask your student about the testing at the end of each day.

What if my child is a virtual student and I have concerns about Covid?

The U.S. Department of Education has not waived or exempted assessments for any students – whether they are currently learning in-person or virtually – for the 2020-2021 school year. All districts must offer the opportunity to test all students for all required assessments (Georgia Milestones, GAA, ACCESS for ELLs). Georgia’s assessments cannot be administered remotely.

The U.S. Department of Education did state that “we do not believe that if there are places where students are unable to attend school safely in person because of the pandemic that they should be brought into school buildings for the sole purpose of taking a test.” Accordingly, Superintendent Woods has directed that, if virtual students decline to attend school in-person solely to participate in testing due to health and safety concerns, they should not be required to do so.

Murray County Schools