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Dr. John D. Barge, State School Superintendent

June 14, 2011

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** System Test Coordinators  
System Curriculum Directors

**FROM:** Melissa Fincher, Associate Superintendent

**SUBJECT:** Georgia High School Graduation Test (GHSGT) Update – Discontinuation of Quality Core Curriculum (QCC) Forms in English/Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies

As the state begins the process of phasing-out the GHSGT, as approved by the State Board of Education in April 2011, the Georgia Department of Education will discontinue the administration of test forms solely aligned to the Quality Core Curriculum (QCC) in the content areas of English/Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies. The July 2011 administration will mark the last time the QCC forms in these three content areas will be administered.

Effective with the Fall 2011 administration QCC forms will no longer be offered. Students who originally tested using the QCC forms in English/Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies should be tested using the transitional form of the GHSGT (Form T).

As you will recall, the transitional GHSGT forms are developed based on a carefully constructed blueprint built to ensure students have had an opportunity to learn the content and skills assessed regardless of the curriculum under which they were instructed (whether it was the QCC or the Georgia Performance Standards (GPS)). In other words, the transitional forms are dually aligned to both the QCC and the GPS. Importantly, these forms are scored and reported on the QCC scale and are statistically equated (of equivalent difficulty) to the QCC forms.

We are confident that no student will be placed at a disadvantage for the following reasons: (a) the transitional forms are aligned to the QCC; (b) the transitional forms are statistically equated to the QCC forms; and (c) remediation opportunities are likely based on the GPS (as the QCC is no longer used as the basis of instruction in our state).

Please note that QCC forms will continue to be available for the Mathematics GHSGT for those students who received mathematics instruction based on the QCC.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

cc: System Superintendents  
Dr. John D. Barge, State School Superintendent  
Dr. Mike Buck, Chief Academic Officer  
Dr. Martha Reichrath, Deputy Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment  
*"Making Education Work for All Georgians"*