

Kathy Cox, State Superintendent of Schools

TO: Georgia High School Principals
FROM: Sharron Hunt, Testing Director
RE: Georgia High School Graduation Tests Standards Implementation Survey
DATE: April 20, 2006

The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) requests that you please include English and science faculty in an online survey assessing the implementation of selected Georgia Performance Standards (GPS) that are assessed on the English Language Arts and Science Georgia High School Graduation Tests (GHS GT). **As such, the survey focuses on the teaching of the curriculum and not on the tests or the test questions.** Pertinent details are provided below. The administration of this survey is being conducted by Data Recognition Corporation (DRC), the current vendor for the GHS GT program. It is time sensitive and requires a high participation rate so your prompt attention is requested.

Schools in Georgia implemented the state adopted 9-12 English and science GPS in 2005-2006. Consequently, Georgia English and science educators aligned standards from the GPS to those QCC standards assessed on the GHS GT, and dually aligned tests are being developed for use in ELA and science in 2006 and 2007.

The GaDOE is interested in teachers' feedback about the alignment of classroom instruction with the GPS assessed on the GHS GT. This input will provide critical information that will help the GaDOE better understand the strengths and challenges of this implementation effort.

Key points about the survey:

- *Who should take the survey?* – It is intended for high school teachers who teach the ELA and science GPS in their courses. The survey is voluntary but we request that it be completed by all invitees.
- *How is the survey administered?* – The survey is meant to be taken online. This will be easy for educators and it will also capture responses more quickly. **The survey site is www.drconveys.com/GHS GTSurvey.** We will send a limited number of paper surveys about a week after the online survey opens for those who do not wish to complete it online.
- *Are survey responses confidential?* – Yes. Honest responses are critical to obtaining valid data. Results will only be compiled for, and reported by, groups. We will not ask for names.

Administration outline:

1. By April 21, 2006 communicate the survey administration window to all appropriate staff. The survey opens on April 25, 2006 and closes May 19, 2006.
2. At the beginning of the survey window, April 25, 2006, remind teachers to take the survey. You will be provided with a set of directions for this purpose. Teachers will also be provided with a set of directions for taking the online survey. You are asked to please distribute these to your teachers at the beginning of the survey window.
3. Approximately one week after the beginning of the survey period a very limited number of paper surveys will be provided for those teachers who do not wish to complete it online. Please note that it is not possible to use a photocopy of the surveys – teachers must use the original surveys provided. Once teachers have completed the paper version of the survey, they are to return them in the prepaid envelope provided.
4. By May 4, 2006 send a reminder note to teachers to complete the survey and by May 15, 2006 send a second reminder note to teachers to complete the survey. We will provide you with the necessary reminder notes to send to teachers.

If you have questions please visit the survey website, www.drconveys.com/GHS GTSurvey. This contains survey FAQs.