

Kathy Cox, State Superintendent of Schools

April 18, 2006

Dear Superintendent:

The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) requests that you please include district English and science faculty in an online survey assessing the implementation of selected Georgia Performance Standards (GPS) that are assessed on the English and science Georgia High School Graduation Tests (GHS GT). Pertinent details, which will involve your high school principal(s) and teaching staff, are provided below. Subsequent information will be provided to principals who will forward specific directions and other information to teachers. This survey is time sensitive and requires a high participation rate so the prompt attention of you and your district staff 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 English 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 as well as contribute to the validity of the use of the tests.

Key points about the survey:

- *Who should take the survey?* – It is intended for high school teachers who teach the English 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. **The survey site is www.drcsurveys.com/GHSGTSurvey.**
- *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 for the principal(s) and teachers:

- By April 21, 2006 principal(s) should communicate the survey administration window to all appropriate staff. The survey opens on April 25, 2006 and closes May 19, 2006.
- By April 25, 2006 principal(s) should remind teachers to take the survey. Teachers will be able to take the survey between the dates noted immediately above. About a week after the opening of the window, a very limited number of paper surveys will be available for teachers who do not wish to complete the survey online. Specific directions will be provided for the principals and teachers for both online and paper versions.
- By May 4, 2006 principal(s) should 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 principals with the necessary reminder notes

Thank you in advance for your time and involvement!

Ida Love, Ph.D., Deputy State Superintendent of Schools

If you have questions please visit the survey website: www.drcsurveys.com/GHSGTSurvey. This contains survey FAQs.