Georgia Public Broadcasting launched a new digital education channel on October 1, 2008. This new channel, **GPB Knowledge**, will be available throughout the state of Georgia and will replace the existing satellite delivery method (formerly PeachStar Satellite Programming.) Much of the content is available through GPB Education Streaming and the GPB Digital Library On-Demand, as well as on their new channel, **GPB Knowledge**. Educators have the same recording rights as before.

To receive GPB Education programs, educators have the option of:
• live viewing of **GPB Knowledge** (on television)
• downloading from GPB Education Streaming to their computers for later viewing
• storing on portable devices for more convenient viewing (i.e., flash drives or burning to CDs)

Schools will receive **GPB Knowledge** via:
• cable - Contact your local cable provider for channel location.
• commercial satellite
• digital receiver - Tune to 8.3 for our new digital channel, GPB Knowledge.

A converter box may be purchased wherever electronics are sold and costs between $40 and $80. A converter box will convert analog televisions - these are TVs with "rabbit ear" antennas - to digital so you and your students may enjoy digital broadcasting. In the event that your area does not have access to broadcast television and you'd like to watch **GPB Knowledge**, the channel may be accessed on your computer by using a USBTV tuner and antenna.

GPB Education Streaming will continue to provide On-Demand delivery of over 5,000 full-length videos with segments and educator resources. Visit www.gpb.org/education for more information and a complete list of all GPB Education programs.
On Friday December 5, 2008 I attended the Teen Conference held at Macon State College. After registration and a short welcome, participants attended two breakout sessions, each about one hour long. Participants had a choice of attending two of six sessions:

- **Book Talk Programs for High Risk Teens** presented by Christy Dyson (Flint River Regional Library System)
- **Building Community Partnerships for Your Library** presented by Michelle Bennett (Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System)
- **Georgia Peach Book Award for Teen Readers** presented by Amy Golemme, chair, and committee members
- **Online Summer Reading Programs** presented by Brijin Boddy (Chattahoochee Valley Libraries’ Teen Department)
- **Starting a Teen Advisory Board** presented by Martha Powers (Ohoopee Regional Library System)
- **Teen Summer Reading with the Collaborative Summer Library Program** presented by Christopher Warren (Gwinnett County Public Library)

As a high school media specialist/librarian, I found that the sessions offered much. I attended Brijin Boddy’s session first. The online summer reading program has many possibilities for school libraries to reach out to teens. Some collaboration and cooperation between a school library and a public library branch could lead to a great program to get teens reading. Partners in Education could be one funding source explored to provide cool prizes for teens such as MP3 players and iPods. The web site for the teen program was developed specifically to attract teens. Teens create an account and login to submit each of 5 book reviews. The book reviews are structured with 10 questions Brijin developed as a way for the participating teens to show that they read the book. All those who complete the 5 reviews are entered into a drawing that is held at a culminating party.

I also attended Martha Powers’ session on the teen advisory board (TAB). We do have student representation on our media committee, but the TAB would be an excellent way to encourage more student participation in the media program. Teens would be able to make library material recommendations (teens know what teens like to read!), create bulletin boards, and develop and run special events throughout the school year. The TAB could be structured so the teens would gain valuable experience that could become part of their résumé.

Michele Gorman delivered the keynote address after a fabulous lunch. Michele Gorman is the Teen Services Coordinator for the Public Library of Charlotte & Mecklenburg County in Charlotte NC. She has authored *Getting Graphic! Comics for Kids, Getting Graphic! Using Graphic Novels to Promote Literacy with PreTeens and Teens, and Connecting Young Adults and Libraries: A How To Do It Manual* 3rd edition. She is currently working on the 4th edition which is due out in June 2009. Michele also writes the “Teenage Riot” column for *School Library Journal* and the “Getting Graphic” column for *Library Media Connections*.

In the keynote, Michele encouraged everyone to “think like a teenager, not an adult!”. Unlike storytimes and other programs for younger children, teen services is not just a numbers game, but also a matter of making connections with teens. Michele then spoke at length about brain research on the teenage brain in particular. Michele mentioned the book *Primal Teen* by B. Straugh and the 40 Developmental Assets for Adolescents (age 12-18) from the Search Institute as good resources to help understand teens.
Several months ago middle schools in the Northwest Georgia area received a beautiful poster from the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) featuring Native Americans.

The GDOT is writing an article for a national publication and would love to include pictures of Georgia children interacting with the poster. Do you have some pictures of your students with the poster? Can you take a picture or two and send them to me?

Archeologist Eric Duff of GDOT needs the pictures by mid-January if you are able to help.

Thanks to Doug Johnson and Linworth Publishing for permission to reprint Doug’s article “No Principal Left Behind” from his Head for the Edge column, March 2003.

Doug has 10 tips for the school Library Media Specialist to help inform and educate your school administrator about good school libraries and the positive impact they can have on students. You will find one tip each month in this newsletter.

Tip #6:

Be seen outside the library. If your principal sees you on committees, attending school events and even in the teacher’s lounge, not only can you chat informally about library matters, but you send a powerful non-verbal message as well: I am full member of the school staff.
Every year the Georgia Poetry Society (GPS) holds a Youth Contest for young poetry writers. There is no entry fee and there is no requirement to buy the anthology. This contest is geared toward encouraging young poets, and it is fully funded by the society members. The winners will receive cash prizes and a free copy of the anthology in which they will be published.

If you would also like to encourage young poets, please consider spreading the word and helping the students in your school to enter this contest. The deadline is January 31st, 2009. Below are the contest rules and a link to download the entry form.

Best Regards,
Keith Badowski
President, Georgia Poetry Society

PRIZES FOR YOUTH POETRY

The Margery Carlson Prize is awarded annually by the Georgia Poetry Society for poetic achievement by students in grades 1-5. The Marel Brown Prize is a two-tier contest with prizes awarded annually by the Georgia Poetry Society for poetic achievement by students grades 6-8 and grades 9-12.

ELIGIBILITY: Any student in grades 1-12 enrolled in a Georgia public or private school or homeschooled at a permanent Georgia address.
FEES: There are no entry fees for this contest.
LENGTH OF POEM: maximum of 32 lines.
Only one entry per student.
Maximum of four poems per school.

SUBJECT: Any subject in good taste, any poetic form. Poem must be student's original and unpublished work. Teachers should ensure that works are not plagiarized.

PRIZES (1st/2nd/3rd):
$15/ $10/ $5 (Grades 1-5)
$20/ $15/ $10 ( Grades 6-8)
$25/ $20/ $15 (Grades 9-12)
Prize-winners also receive a copy of the issue of *The Reach of Song* that contains winning youth poems.

RESTRICTIONS: Poems must be accompanied by entry form (a printable copy of the form is available on the GPS website at http://www.georgiapoetriesociety.org).

(continued on next page)
HOW TO ENTER POEMS FOR Youth Poetry:

To guide submissions, please adhere to these format considerations:

- Type or word-process on standard 8.5x11 white paper. Grades 1-5 may submit hand-written entries. Please ensure legibility.
- Do not include illustrations.
- Select a standard font such as Times-Roman rather than some unconventional font (such as script fonts or Gothic). Use fonts no larger than 14-point.
- One poem per page. Poems must be in English.
- Submit two copies of the poem, one without author identification. The copy with identification should be taped, pasted or stapled to the entry form. Keep a copy of the poem submitted as they cannot be returned.
- Send all manuscripts from the same school in one envelope with school name and grade level on the envelope exterior. No entries accepted from individual students unless home-schooled. Winners will be posted on the Society website at the completion of competition.
- Entry form must accompany each poem and must be complete. Form must be signed both by the student submitter and the sponsoring teacher.
- No emailed or disk entries accepted. Entries should be mailed to: Georgia Poetry Society, P.O Box 2184, Columbus, Georgia 31902 (Note: the Georgia Poetry Society mailing address usually follows the President. When a new President of the society is elected the mailing address may change. It is recommended that entrants check the website to verify the current mailing address as of the time of submission.)

**DEADLINE:** All entries must be postmarked no later than January 31 or next business day if January 31 falls on a holiday or weekend.

**JUDGES:** The Georgia Poetry Society will select qualified judges who receive the copies without author identification for judging.

Winners are announced at the April meeting of the Society. Winners are invited, but are not required, to appear with parents and/or teachers to receive their awards. The Georgia Poetry Society reserves the right to publish prize-winning poems in its annual anthology, The Reach of Song. Until published, rights rest with the Society. After publication, or a decision not to publish, rights revert to the author.

**GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY**

P.O. Box 2184
Columbus, GA 31902
(706) 221-4370
Email: georgiapoetrysociety@yahoo.com
URL: http://www.georgiapoetrysociety.org/

**CONTACTS:**

Keith Badowski, President
PO Box 751
Columbus, Georgia 31902
Keithbadowski@bellsouth.net

Dr. Robert Simon, Contest Chair
rob1701b@aol.com

Linda Ames, Editor, Newsletter Editor
4816 Saint Francis Avenue
Columbus, Georgia 31904
linaka31904grace@knology.net

Freddie O'Connor Riley, Webmaster
Combak1@wmconnect.com Combak1@wmconnect.com

Media Matters
Columbus State University will be hosting Dr. Jamie McKenzie for a full-day workshop on January 14th from 9 am - 4 pm. This hands-on workshop will concentrate on "Designing Digital Lessons" and "Strategies for Blending Demanding Questions in Daily Lessons." Participants will be utilizing Classroom Performance Systems to incorporate the lessons from this seminar into effective formative assessments.

Dr. Jamie McKenzie is an international speaker with a focus on questioning, thinking skills, information literacies and the smart use of new technologies. His work takes him from Singapore to Sweden and inspires teachers to challenge students at a high level of rigor.

Dr. McKenzie is the Editor of "From Now On - The Educational Technology Journal", a publication with some 8,000 subscribers, a third of which are from outside North America. He also publishes "The Question Mark," a journal devoted to effective questioning and thinking.

Jamie has published and spoken extensively on teaching and learning strategies designed to transform classrooms to support student centered, engaged learning.

You can learn more about this workshop at:  http://fno.org/atlanta.html#5

You can also register at:
http://cqtl.colstate.edu/offerings/instructional/default.asp#mckenzie

Seating is limited, so register early!

Larry Moore, EdD
Center for Quality Teaching and Learning
3100 Gentian Blvd
Columbus State University
Columbus, GA 31907
http://ettc.colstate.edu
706-568-5063
Leadership Unplugged: A CNN Experience is a 21st Century Leaders summer program for a diverse group of 100 Georgia high school juniors and seniors that focuses on media, current events, and expanding worldviews, with the help of the worldwide leader in news, CNN.

The 2009 session will take place from June 21 - June 26, on the Georgia Institute of Technology campus. Students currently enrolled as high school sophomores and juniors are eligible. The application deadline is January 31, 2009.

Please see our website for details: http://www.21stcenturyleaders.org/cnn/index.asp

We would appreciate your help in sharing this information to staff members who could best identify students for this program. Link to flyer for distribution: http://www.21stcenturyleaders.org/documents/LUflyer09.pdf

Thank you!

Prissy Stewart (former DeKalb County Library Media Specialist)
Program Manager
Leadership Unplugged: A CNN Experience
prissy@21stcenturyleaders.org21st Century Leaders
126 New Street, Suite A
Decatur, Georgia 30030
Office: 404.373.7441
Fax: 404.373.7442
www.21stcenturyleaders.org

Have you read the GLMA blog?

SAT Online

Have you helped a student register in SAT Online lately?

If you need assistance contact:

Georgia McSwain at
gmcsain@doe.k12.ga.us

(See the December Media Matters for more details.)
Mark your calendar!

40th Annual Children's Literature Conference

Registration for the 40th Annual Children’s Literature Conference, to be held in Athens GA, on March 6-7, 2009 at the Georgia Center for Continuing Education, is now available.

This year's conference features
- **Caralyn and Mark Buehner**, winner of the 2008 Children's Picture Storybook Award for *Superdog: The Heart of a Hero*;
- **Bryan Collier**, winner of the Caldecott Honor Medal for *Rosa* (2006) and *Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.* (2002);
- **Paul Janeczko**, author of *A Poke in the I: A Collection of Concrete Poems, Birds on Wire*, and *Wing Nuts*;
- **Gail Carson Levine**, winner of the Newbery Honor Medal for *Ella Enchanted* (1998);

Four ways to register:

**Online** at: [http://www.georgiacenter.uga.edu/conferences/2009/Mar/06/child_lit.phtml](http://www.georgiacenter.uga.edu/conferences/2009/Mar/06/child_lit.phtml)

**By Mail**: 40th Annual Conference on Children's Literature- (#57131) Georgia Center for Continuing Education Conference Center and Hotel, The University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia, 30602-3603

**By Phone**: 706-542-2134 or 800-884-1381

**By Fax**: 706-542-6596 or 800-884-1419

You can also register through accessing the GCBA website at: [http://www.coe.uga.edu/gcba/conference/attend.html](http://www.coe.uga.edu/gcba/conference/attend.html)

Thank you for joining us and please bring a friend.
The Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Developmental Disabilities Division (DDD) presented the fifth biennial Dolly Gray Children's Literature Award to K.A. Nuzum, author of *A Small White Scar*, at the Opening Session of the CEC-DDD 11th International Conference on October 9th, 2008. The Dolly Gray Award recognizes high quality fictional children's books with positive portrayals of individuals with developmental disabilities.

*An adapted version of this book will be available on the GaDOE Access to the GPS Resource Board for teachers of students who have significant cognitive disabilities. Teachers must own a copy of the actual book to request the adapted accessible version of the text (which must be kept with the book at all times.)*

http://neilswaab.com/design/smallwhitescar_jacket.html

Since his mother’s death, Will’s job has been to look after his twin brother, Denny, who has Down syndrome. Their father’s word is law on the ranch, and 15-year-old Will knuckles under as the story begins. But he soon devises an escape plan that leads toward the rodeo, and beyond, to spending his days as a cowboy without the responsibility of watching his brother. When Denny follows Will across the plains, that plan takes an unexpected twist, leading Will to confront the people he loves and hates most and forcing changes in all their lives. Set in Colorado in 1940, the novel transports readers to a vividly realized setting as the boys move across the country on horseback and encounter hazards from a poisonous snake to a swollen river. But external dangers are not the engine driving the plot. Will’s frustration, determination, and flashes of anger give the story its momentum as he struggles to emerge from his childhood and finds no clear path toward becoming an adult. Part family tale, part adventure, part journey narrative, this coming-of-age story has an emotional core that will touch even readers who never dreamed of competing in a rodeo. An unusually fine first novel. - *Copyright 2006 Booklist.*

Kayse Harshaw  
Intellectual Disabilities Specialist  
Division for Special Education Services  
Georgia Department of Education  
Atlanta, Georgia  30334-5040  
Phone: (404) 463-5281
I am included the unique group of educators who started in the Fayette County School System as a paraprofessional 17 years ago. I started 2 years before that as a volunteer at Fayette Middle School media center. The media specialist at the time, Martie Courington, was a wonderful, experienced media specialist. As I observed her as a parent, she taught students and was an exuberant helper and faithful friend to the faculty, staff and parents. She took her responsibility to provide what teachers needed to teach and what students needed in order to be successful, life-long learners very seriously. She gave 110% effort in everything she did. When she asked if I would be interested in working in the media center as her parapro, I jumped at the opportunity to be a part of her team.

Several years later a social studies teacher who had brought her class to the media center to do research, asked why I wasn't teaching and from that prompting to investigate the possibility of going back to college (at the age of 48), came the beginning of a very rewarding journey! Two months later I had an unexpected change in my life, and realized that not only was the journey beginning, but that what I considered as a fun adventure, now became a means of survival. I had already enrolled in 2 classes and managed to keep my head above water as I worked towards not only completing my undergraduate degree in Middle School Education, but of working towards a goal that I already knew I loved - media! Technology was just starting to be a major part of the media center and so I was able to have hands on experience in that area as well as I pursued my undergraduate degree. I took a year sabbatical to take 7 classes one semester and do my student teaching in the spring (managing to substitute at my school on Fridays when needed.)

When that degree was completed in May 2001, I immediately enrolled in the Masters program at the State University of West Georgia and applied for a media specialist position at Flat Rock Middle School. I interviewed for the job focusing intently on the fact that I had worked in a media center for 9 years as a parapro and had been mentored by an exceptional media specialist and that I would finish my Masters in Media and Technology in as short a time as possible. I got the job two days before my graduation!

As I worked at Flat Rock making friends with faculty, staff and encouraging students to love the media center, I often told students that we had something in common...I was a student too! I went to school at night and learned all those things I hadn't learned working as a media parapro. For example, I had done hundreds of budget requisition forms, but had never done any selection and purchasing of media materials. There was still plenty to learn and I enjoyed being able to immediately put newly acquired skills and ideas into practice. It was a wonderful year of learning and growing in confidence as I explored new programs and implemented ideas of my own.

Ten years after the journey began, I finished my Educational Specialist degree in Media and a year later had the once in a lifetime opportunity (for me) to open Fayette County's newest middle school. Last summer as I ordered and planned and worked and purchased and spent endless hours dreaming, I used every one of the skills that I had acquired over the years, both as a parapro and as a media specialist in order to be ready for a very excited Bennett's Mill student to check out...*on the first day of school*!

Three degrees in ten years and my encouragement to media parapros would be...do it, you'll never regret it! If you love what you are doing now, you will love it even more when you become a "real" media specialist!

Diana Evans
Fayette County

Have a story to share? Send your parapro to Media Specialist story to Judy Serritella at jserrite@doe.k12.ga.us
You never know who you are going to inspire.
New Resource Available for Georgia Educators

GEORGE W. ROUGHTON AND THE IMMORTAL 600:
THE STORY OF CIVIL WAR POWS

Developed by: GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY
ADMINISTRATION, THE GEORGIA TECHNOLOGY AUTHORITY AND THE HISTORY WORKSHOP
(BROCKINGTON AND ASSOCIATES)

The video series is currently available in video format in the Georgia Public Broadcasting Digital Library:
Part 1: mms://mediam1.gpb.org/ga/2008/GA_DOT_Immortal600_204745111.wmv
Part 2: mms://mediam1.gpb.org/ga/2008/GA_DOT_Immortal600_204745112.wmv
Part 3: mms://mediam1.gpb.org/ga/2008/GA_DOT_Immortal600_204745113.wmv

The video series and teacher resource material will soon be available on the new Georgia Stories website:
www.gpb.org/georgiastories

The story of Civil War prisoners is the story of the Civil War itself. The Immortal 600, a
group of Confederate POWs, is one story which has gone relatively unnoticed in the
history of the Civil War. In 1864, Union General John Gray Foster ordered 600
Confederate prisoners to be brought to Morris Island from Fort Delaware. The 600
Confederate prisoners were herded onto the steamer Crescent City for the journey south
to Charleston. The Confederate prisoners were housed in A-frame tents within the
Morris Island stockade and poorly fed, mirroring the conditions of other Civil War
prisoner of war (POW) camps. The prisoners were forced to sleep in the sand and endure
sand fleas, insects, and hot weather. The stockade on Morris Island was strategically
placed so that both cannon fire from Federal guns and return fire from Confederate
cannons blasted over the stockade. As such, the 600 Confederate POWs were exposed to
cannon fire from both the Confederate and Federal armies. Occasionally, the Federal
shells would rupture prematurely and scatter the camp with shrapnel. Even more
frightening were the 18 rounds that landed directly in the camp. The Confederate
prisoners were eventually removed from Morris Island and finally transferred to Fort
Pulaski in Georgia. In all, they endured 45 days of exposure to shellfire. Amazingly,
none of the prisoners were killed by shellfire, and only minor injuries occurred. In 1905,
John O. Murray, one of the survivors, wrote a book about the Confederate prisoners' ordeals. He called the group of prisoners the Immortal 600, the name by which they are
still known today.

In 2005, the Georgia Department of Transportation (DOT) and Brockington and
Associates conducted cemetery excavations at the Roughton/Browne Family Cemetery
in Washington County, Georgia. The cemetery was relocated to Brownwood Cemetery
in Sandersville, Georgia, due to the proposed widening and reconstruction of SR 24/SR 540. The Roughton/Browne Family Cemetery, containing approximately 15 graves, was identified
by a single obelisk inscribed with the names George W.
Roughton, Elizabeth Kinman Roughton, and Joseph Browne
and one headstone inscribed as follows: Capt/Georgia [sic] W
Roughton/CO 1/49 GA INF/CSA/1834/1895/ "ONE OF THE
IMMORTAL 600."
In early January your system will be receiving three books that should be distributed to your elementary, middle, and high schools. These books are a gift from Dr. Jagdish Sheth, a professor of marketing at Emory University.

This gift was approved by the Georgia Department of Education.

*India Unveiled* by Robert Arnett is for both middle and high schools. This book was reviewed in both *Library Journal* and *Booklist*. As you know, Booklist only gives positive reviews. It is 224 pages and organized by regions of the country.

*Finders Keepers* also by Robert Arnett is for elementary and middle schools. This book was reviewed in *School Library Journal*.

Both of these titles have already been given to Muscogee, Bibb, and Savannah-Chatham school systems. (Those systems will not be receiving duplicate copies).

The books are being sent to the central office and we have asked that the Media Coordinator distribute the books at their earliest convenience.

We will lead the nation in improving student achievement.

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Judy Serritella  
Phone: 404-657-9800  
Fax: 404-656-5744  
E-mail: jserrite@doe.k12.ga.us

1754 Twin Towers East  
205 Jesse Hill Jr. Drive  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Kathy Cox, State Superintendent of Schools
The Georgia Reading Association will host its Annual Convention March 1-3 at the Omni Hotel, CNN Center in Atlanta, Georgia. The theme of the convention is “Reading with Purpose”. Join the hundreds of literacy leaders and reading professionals who will share with educators at every level their research and teaching experience.

2009 Georgia Reading Association Annual Convention

Keynote Speakers

Dr. Robert Cooter
University of Memphis
Editor The Reading Teacher Journal and Renowned Author

Dr. Joyce Many
Georgia State University
Professor and Coordinator of Georgia’s Reading Consortia and Author

Steve Swinburn
Stephen R. Swinburne has turned his personal enjoyment of nature and photography into a series of books on wildlife for children.

The proposal can be found on www.georgiareading.org. Submit your proposal to Dr. Sallie Averitt Miller at miller_sallie@colstate.edu.
I am pleased to announce that registration for CSAC 2009 is now online at the GPLS website.

CSAC will be held at the Anderson Conference Center in Macon, GA on Monday, February 2 from 9:00am to 4:00pm. Like last year, CSAC will be free to attend, but is limited to the first 450 registrants. We have a great conference planned—dynamic breakouts, fantastic presenters from across state, and fabulous featured speakers, storyteller J’Miah Nabawi and early literacy expert Saroj Ghoting. The first 50 to register will receive a “Be Creative” lapel pin.

For complete details and to register online, please go to: http://www.georgialibraries.org/lib/child/csac2009/.

If you have any questions or additional information, please do not hesitate to email or call.

Looking forward to being creative at your library with you,

E.B. Black
Director of Youth Services
Georgia Public Library Service
1800 Century Place, Suite 150
Atlanta, GA 30345-4304
Georgia High School Writing Scores Rise

Eighty-nine percent of students meet or exceed standards

MEDIA CONTACT:
- Dana Tofig, (404) 463-1487, dtofig@gadoe.org

November 25, 2008 -- Georgia's High School students showed steady improvement on the state's writing test this fall.

Eighty-nine percent of students met or exceeded standards on the Georgia High School Writing Test (GHSWT) -- up one percentage point from fall, 2007. Many of Georgia's student subgroups showed dramatic gains, including English Language Learners and Students with Disabilities.

"Our high schools are doing an excellent job teaching our students the importance of writing and the results are showing on the GHSWT," said State Superintendent of Schools Kathy Cox. "Using our new curriculum, the Georgia Performance Standards, Georgia is growing a strong generation of writers and communicators."

More than 106,000 students took the GHSWT this fall, of which 96,444 were first-time test takers in grade 11. The pass rate for first-time test takers was 91 percent.

The pass rate for English Language Learners was 65 percent, a jump of 12 percentage points from last year. The pass rate for Students with Disabilities was 60 percent, an increase of five percentage points. The scores of African-American (85 percent) and Hispanic (82 percent) students each rose two percentage points, while the pass rate of white students held steady at 93 percent.

"We are seeing high achievement and improvement across the board on the writing test," Superintendent Cox said.

ABOUT THE GHSWT

The Georgia High School Writing Test is given to students in grade 11 and must be passed in order to graduate from high school. Students who do not pass the GHSWT the first time can retake the test. The GHSWT has been aligned to the state's new curriculum -- the Georgia Performance Standards -- for two years. The test is scored on a scale from 100 to 350, using the following scoring levels:

100-199 - Does not meet standards
200-249 - Meets standards
250-350 - Exceeds standards

The average scale score for the 2008 GHSWT was 219, up two points from last year.

MORE INFORMATION

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