



Dr. John D. Barge, State School Superintendent  
"Making Education Work for All Georgians"

# Grade 8 Writing Update Bulletin

December 29, 2011

## 2012 Calendar

**Jan. 03 – 06**  
Materials arrive

**Jan. 04 – 06**  
Pre-Administration  
Workshop Webinars

**Jan. 18**  
Main Administration

**Jan. 19**  
Make-up  
Administration

**Jan. 26**  
Final day for GCA to  
receive shipments of  
materials

**Mar. 05 – 09**  
Results arrive in  
systems

The Grade 8 Writing Assessment measures student competency in one of two genres of writing: expository or persuasive. Writing prompts will be spiraled, and students will receive either an expository or a persuasive prompt. Prompts must be distributed as packaged *except* in the case of students with IEPs, IAPs, or ELL TPC plans requiring prompts be read aloud (only in English).

Students are given 100 minutes to complete the assessment. No extended time is allowed unless it is specified in a student's IEP, IAP, or ELL/TPC Plan. Approximately 30 minutes will be needed for distributing and collecting materials. A makeup day, with a make-up writing topic, for students who are absent during the main administration is allowed.

### ACCOMMODATIONS

Dictionaries are not allowed on the Grade 8 Writing Assessment. Exception: ELL students may use a word to word translation dictionary if their ELL/TPC Plan indicates the accommodation.

Students who have a temporary physical impairment (e.g., broken arm or hand) that prevents production of a handwritten response should not be tested unless an accommodation allows for the student to test. Eligible students may be provided accommodations based on an emergency Section 504 Plan to allow participation in the assessment.

A word processor is not allowed unless it is a part of the student's IEP, IAP, or 504 Plan and is a part of the regular instructional program accommodations. All spelling and grammar checks must be disabled. The printed document should be placed inside the answer document and include the student's GTID number in the upper right-hand corner of the paper. Braille versions of the Writing Topic Page and the Testing Directions from page 2 of the Answer Document (Response Folder) will be available upon request. Systems that require Braille testing materials should contact Jeremy Granade (888-392-8977 or [jgranade@uga.edu](mailto:jgranade@uga.edu)) at the Georgia Center for Assessment by January 6, 2012. System Test Coordinators may enlarge a copy of the prompt for students requiring a large print version.

Specific Accommodation Types appear in the FOR TEACHER USE ONLY – ACCOMMODATIONS section of the answer document. Use the four bubbles to the right of "Accommodations Type" to indicate type of accommodation(s): S represents setting accommodation; P represents presentation accommodation; R represents response accommodation; and SC represents scheduling accommodation. The types of accommodations may be found in the *System and School Test Coordinator's Manual* and the *Examiner's Manual*, as well as the *Student Assessment Handbook* and the *Accommodations Manual*.

**For more information  
on the Grade 8  
Writing assessment,  
visit the assessment  
web site at:**

[http://www.gadoe.org/ci\\_testing.aspx?PageReq=CITestingWA8](http://www.gadoe.org/ci_testing.aspx?PageReq=CITestingWA8)

**Michael Huneke  
Writing Assessment  
GADOE  
205 Jesse Hill Jr. Dr  
1754 Twin Towers East  
Atlanta, Ga. 30334**

**Phone:  
(404) 232-1208**

**Fax:  
(404) 656-5976**

**E-mail:  
[mhuneke@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:mhuneke@doe.k12.ga.us)**

Conditional Administration is the term for a non-standard administration. Fill in the circle with the letter Y if an administration is Conditional. Use of conditional accommodations must be pre-approved by the Assessment Division. Requests should be submitted to Melissa Fincher ([mfincher@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:mfincher@doe.k12.ga.us) or 404-651-9405) six weeks in advance of the assessment administration.

### **CODING OF ANSWER DOCUMENTS**

A bubble is present to denote Large Print participants in the FOR TEACHER USE ONLY – ACCOMMODATION section. Fill in the bubble to indicate a student required large print.

A bubble is also present for the coding of PTNA in the FOR TEACHER USE ONLY – ACCOMMODATION section. PTNA should be marked only if a student does not write in the Answer Document.

SDU A is used by the GNETS programs to report their assigned facilities identification code. The two-digit code should be marked for all students who are served at a GNETS facility. This information is collected to provide summary reports to each center. Codes can be found in the System and School Coordinator’s Manuals.

SDU B is used to record irregularities and invalidations. Do not use this without being given specific directions by the GaDOE Assessment Specialist for Writing. If a testing irregularity occurs during the administration, contact Michael Huneke to report the irregularity. Instructions will be given for coding the irregularity. Report the case on the MyGaDOE Portal Testing Irregularity Form. Some situations may result in the invalidation of the student’s work and/or reporting to the Professional Standards Commission. Guidance will be provided in these situations for proper documentation and reporting.

Barcode labels should be used unless the label is incorrect or has missing information. In the case of incorrect or missing information, the barcode label should not be used.

The SRC is embedded in the barcode label; however, the information should also be bubbled in the SRC box on the answer document.

### **REMINDERS**

The final draft must be written in black or blue pen. Pencils may not be used on the final draft. All final drafts must be written on pages 3 and 4 of the Answer Document in order for the paper to be scored. **It is important that examiners monitor students and ensure that they begin their final draft on page 3.**

Students **MUST** record the form number of their prompt on their answer documents in order for their responses to be scored. Students **MUST** also fill in the form number of the prompt on page 3 of the Answer Document.

Examiners may read or clarify directions; however, the prompt may **NOT** be clarified.