

Supplementary Assessments from the Georgia Center for Assessment 2006-2007

Supplementary Writing Assessments Grade 4, Middle Grades (6-7), and Grade 10

We are pleased to announce a continuation of our supplementary assessments for the 2006-2007 school year. Our supplementary writing assessments have been updated to reflect the changes in the state writing assessments in grades 5, 8, and 11.

The *Grade 10 Assessment* remains a test of persuasive writing and may be useful as a predictor of students who may have a problem passing the Writing portion of the High School Graduation Test. The *Middle Grades Assessment* now includes two writing topics (one persuasive, one expository) to be spiraled at the classroom level. The *Grade 4 Assessment* now includes three writing topics (one persuasive, one informational, and one narrative) to be spiraled at the classroom level. The writing tasks are similar to those used on the state assessments, and the genres of writing are the same.

Supplementary writing assessments will be scored using the same analytic rubrics as the new state writing assessments. In each supplementary writing assessment, student papers will be scored in four domains: Ideas, Organization, Style, and Conventions. The supplementary assessments provide the same information about students' writing skills as the state program. We will use the 2006-07 Supplementary administration scores to link to the state tests and provide a measure of the comparability of the two programs. *Student papers will be returned* and can be used for instruction.

High School Predictor Test

As in previous years, we will offer tests in Science and Social Studies that parallel the Georgia High School Graduation Tests in content, difficulty, and type of task. These tests were created at Cherokee County Schools by Dr. Janice Hamrick. The Predictor Test scores correlate with the actual HSGT scores of students at approximately .70 and have alpha reliabilities of approximately 0.91. They have been equipercentile equated to the state tests. Administering this test may help identify students who are at risk of failure on the Science and Social Studies portions of the High School Graduation Tests in order to begin remedial instruction before the student suffers a failure. The English and Science tests should be valid predictors of the transitional forms in 2007.

Scheduling

The administration of these tests is flexible, based on the needs of the local system.

Grade 4, 6 and 7 Writing: January - May, 2007. Documents will be shipped to systems in early January, 2007. The documents will be scored during the spring and summer and score reports will be available to teachers during pre-planning for Fall, 2006, if not sooner. Answer documents must arrive at GCA/TSARS by May 7, 2006.

Grade 10 Writing: October, 2006, before, during, or after the regular High School Graduation Writing Assessment. Documents will be shipped to systems around September 1, 2006. Answer documents must arrive at GCA/TSARS by November 15, 2006. Score reports will be available to teachers by the end of January, 2007.

High School Predictor: The administration of the High School Predictor Test is flexible, based on the needs of the local system. We are offering two administrations of this test. The Fall Administration window is in September-November and is more appropriate for students in Grade 11. The Spring Administration window is in March-May, before, during, or after the regular High School Graduation Test window and is more appropriate for students in Grade 10. Documents will be shipped to systems around September 1, 2006 and/or February 1, 2007. Fall answer documents are due back to TSARS by November 30, 2006. Spring answer documents are due back by May 31, 2007. We will return reports during the first week of each month for all documents received during the previous month.

Reports

Each testing program will provide:

- Individual student report and label
- Original student writing sample
- School summary report. Separate reports by grade, if applicable
- System summary report (may be embedded in school report)
- School- or classroom-level student achievement roster, by grade, if applicable
- School-level alert roster of at-risk students

Costs

Supplementary Writing Assessments for Grades 4, 6, 7, and 10 will cost \$3.25 per student. High School Predictor tests cost \$1.00 per content area.

Ordering information

Your order must include a purchase order covering all materials ordered. We will bill you for the exact number of tests we score. Please be conservative when you estimate the number of documents you need.

We look forward to hearing from you about these services.