

# Reimagining education – with a focus on compassion over compliance

Superintendent Richard Woods  
GAESP/GAMSP 2020



# Our Focus Since Day One

- Provided comprehensive package of state-level waivers to school districts
- Sought federal flexibility to extend free school meals
- Applied for waivers of federal testing requirements in 2019-20 and 2020-21
- Encouraged districts to focus on student mental health and wellness/recovering together

“Our focus during this time should be on **compassion over compliance**. To be clear, we must continue to be vigilant in support of our students. But our focus during this time should not be on test scores, accountability or percentiles. Our marker for success should be that our children got through this time **healthy, safe, and nurtured**. It is not a time to be rigid or inflexible – it is a time to extend grace to each other.”

# Support for Teaching & Learning

- DRC BEACON available at no cost to every Georgia district
- Free trainings for virtual/distance learning:  
[gavirtualpd.catalog.infrastructure.com](https://gavirtualpd.catalog.infrastructure.com)
- Comprehensive learning resources, remote learning plans & more available in partnership with GPB: [gpb.org/learn](https://gpb.org/learn)



# State Testing in 2020-2021

- Submitted USED waiver request on July 13, 2020 – the first state to do so
- USED has denied Georgia's request – however this **does not mean business as usual for 2020-21 testing**
- Georgia will follow federal law but we are issuing a set of directives to reduce high-stakes impact

## Reducing High-Stakes Pressure

- Proposed reducing 20% EOC weight to .01% -- public comment link on GaDOE website
- Waiving promotion/retention consequences tied to Georgia Milestones
- Providing flexible options for administering the 2020 winter End-of-Course assessments

# Public Comment Open on EOC Proposal – Closes November 16



Richard Woods, Georgia's School Superintendent

- Offices & Divisions ▾
- Programs & Initiatives ▾
- Data & Reporting ▾
- Learning & Curriculum ▾
- State Board & Policy ▾
- Finance & Operations ▾
- Contact ▾

**Survey Available**  
for Public Comment on  
**EOC course weight proposals**

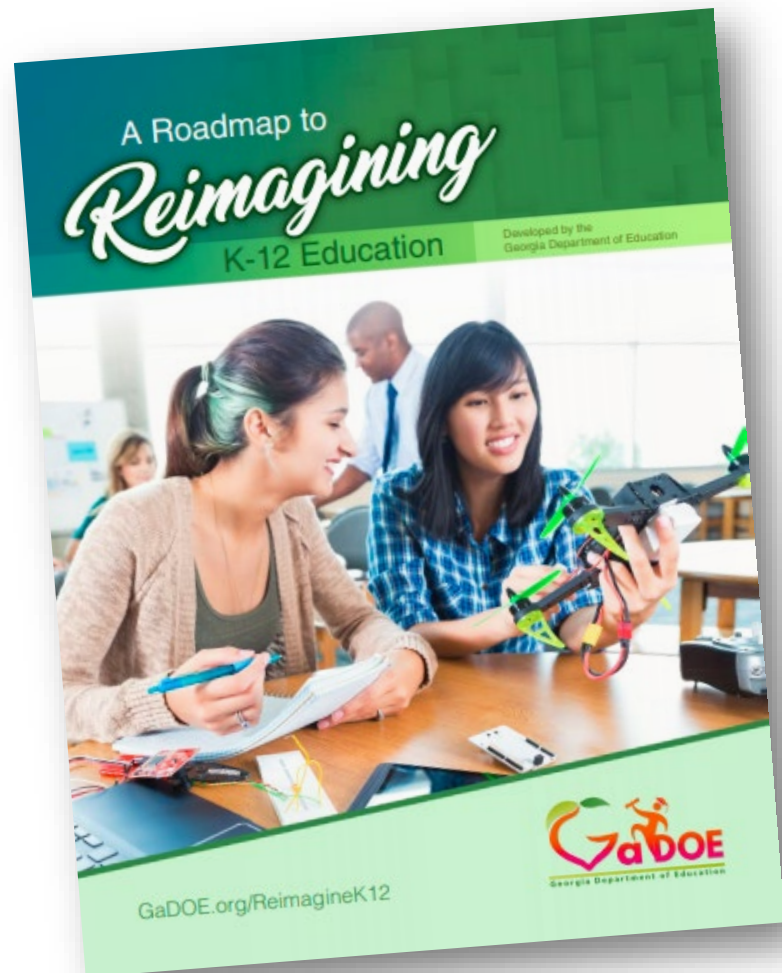
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# Teacher & Leader Evaluation in the Pandemic

- Providing flexibility to the greatest extent possible under state law – summative ratings cannot be calculated
- Interpreting “multiple observations” required by state law as two observations – school leaders should strongly consider conducting these in the second half of the school year
- **Evaluations should be conducted to support a teacher’s growth and should not be punitive in nature**



# Looking Ahead: A Roadmap to Reimagining Education in Georgia



[gadoe.org/reimaginek12](https://gadoe.org/reimaginek12)

# My Charge to You

- Focus on students' safety, mental health and wellness before data points and metrics
- Do not focus on test prepping or cramming – remember that every student and every teacher is more than a test score
- Every child in Georgia has experienced unprecedented isolation – many have experienced trauma and loss. Let's enter the gap for these children and provide an nurturing, positive, safe environment where they can learn and grow.



[www.gadoe.org](http://www.gadoe.org)

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 [youtube.com/c/GeorgiaDepartmentofEducation](https://youtube.com/c/GeorgiaDepartmentofEducation)



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GEORGIA'S FUTURE**

