



South Georgia
History Project

The Wiregrass Telegraph

Treeless
Edition
JAN 28 2004

Promoting Educational Excellence in U. S. History!

Folks, following is your newsletter for this period - it's a brief after action report of the past three days spent at Lake Oconee attending the GA Social Studies Leadership Conference. The conference was devoted to spotlighting the new curriculum, explaining phase-in and describing testing procedures. You'll notice that there's an attached PPT file on EOCTs that is current as of 1 FEB.

Impressions:

1. It's a fast moving train; DOE is trying to minimize controversy over the new GPSs, especially while the Legislature is in session. My general impression is that most teachers see the new standards as a vast improvement, but that opinion is not universal, as you would expect.
2. I would recommend that if you have not done so, go to the GLC website and read the new SS curriculum for each grade 7-12. Realize that US history to 1876 is taught in the 8th grade. If you have a problem, see an omission, etc, make comments during this 90 day period.
3. The thought of professional development for a content area (1877-present) that is not taught very well by most teachers has yet to sink in, but it's coming. Teachers in SGHP are in great shape. By the way, we're now up to 35 teachers, with about 5 more in the process of committing. I'm capping this thing at 45 so if you have someone that's been fence-sitting, it's time to move.



North GA Ice Storm, Jan 26, 2004, Lake Oconee

FAQs

1. *What are test dates for this calendar yr?*
Note the EOCT test dates/windows in the attached PPT. Those dates are non-waiverable because Perdue Education - the contract testing folks - says so.
2. *Will the GHS> go away now that we have EOCTs?* That was the original plan but don't kiss it good-bye yet. It's quite possible we'll have GHS> next year just to maintain the testing base during a transition period.
3. *When will the new US history standards go into effect?* (especially for [Mickey Boyd](#))
We're hearing the following now - SY2004-2005, current QCCs, tested on QCCs;
SY2005-2006, 1st year, new GPSs, no tests;
SY2006-2007, GPSs, 1st yr of EOCT testing.
4. *Why aren't we implementing the new standards immediately?*
Textbook adoption considerations and the need for professional development.



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5. *Will the new EOCTs accurately reflect the new GPSs?*

After listening to the guys that make the tests, (Dr Lloyd Komatsu and Chris Domaleski) I have no doubts that the tests will be accurate measurements of the GPSs. The testing staff appears to me to be doing their jobs quite well; any problems (procedure, administration, etc) with testing come from the DOE staff people that make policy and must watch for legal entanglements.

6. *Should I ignore the new standards until SY 2004-2005?*

Even though we'll be using the QCCs for another SY, my recommendation would be to start working on your transition year now. There will be less to do the following year and when EOCTs come, you will know what works and your students will be ready.

6. *What can I do to prepare myself?*

- Attend the graduate seminar courses we have scheduled for you.
- Read all the books and primary source material you'll receive when you go to class.
- Start researching for lesson plans. Begin to integrate these into your courses.
- Network with your fellow SGHP teachers.

7. *Is this all locked in stone?*

If you've taught in GA for more than 2 years, you'll know that absolutely nothing is permanent or guaranteed. Keep your ear to the ground for changes and we'll try to get information to you as quickly as possible.

Following info is for attendance at the Regional GPS Workshops on the new standards now underway. Contact your administrator for attendance. If he tells you he can't afford it, SGHP will reimburse you! For more info, go to:

<http://admin.doe.k12.ga.us/gadoe/trngadmin2.nsf/DH/TMLOfferings?OpenForm&ui=curriculum&>

South Georgia

Date: Friday, March 5, 2004

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Location: Waycross College
Education Center Auditorium (Building C)
2001 South Georgia Parkway
Waycross, GA 31503-9248, (912-285-6140)
<http://cnts.waycross.edu/CampusMap/>)

Participants: Atkinson, Bacon, Ben Hill, Berrien, Brantley, Brooks, Camden, Charlton, Clinch, Coffee, Cook, Echols, Irwin, Lanier, Lowndes, Pierce, Tift, Turner, Valdosta City, Ware,

Coastal Plains RESA, Okefenokee RESA

Southwest Georgia

Date: Tuesday, March 23, 2004

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Location: Pelham High School Auditorium
203 Mathewson Avenue
Pelham, GA 31779
(229-294-8623)

Participants: Baker, Calhoun, Colquitt, Decatur, Dougherty, Early, Grady, Lee, Miller, Mitchell, Seminole, Terrell, Thomas, Worth, Pelham City, Thomasville City,

Southwest Georgia RESA



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