



# GPS and Placement Reporting in K-5

## Reading/Language Arts and Mathematics

*In an effort to improve what Georgia students learn, the Georgia Department of Education has completely rewritten the curriculum used in the state's schools. The new curriculum, known as the Georgia Performance Standards (GPS), has been phasing in since the 2004-05 school year. This year marks the first year of full implementation of the Georgia Performance Standards in K-5 Reading/Language Arts and Mathematics.*

*Due to re-alignment with the new Georgia Performance Standards, parents will see slight changes in how a student's placement level is reported in the Fulton County School System's Continuous Achievement model on both the Progress Skills Checklist and the report card.*

### **How will the Georgia Performance Standards affect a student's placement level (Continuous Achievement level)?**

For a number of years Fulton County has been dedicated to ensuring a seamless and challenging curriculum for all students. With the change in curriculum to the Georgia Performance Standards, Fulton County remains dedicated to the philosophy of Continuous Achievement by placing students in the Reading/Language Arts and the Mathematics curriculums according to their abilities and level of function.

Students are now placed in the K-5 Reading/Language Arts and Mathematics GPS curriculum as either 'On-Level,' 'Advanced,' or 'Supported,' depending on the student's achievement level. Likewise, their Continuous Achievement Level will now be reported as 'On-Level,' 'Advanced,' or 'Supported' on the Progress Skills Checklist and the report card.

### **How is a student's placement level determined?**

Just as in years past, a student's placement level (Continuous Achievement level) is determined based upon where the student is successfully functioning within the curriculum. These levels are determined by a variety of assessments which include unit pre- and post-assessments, performance assessments, 18- and 36-week assessments, placement and acceleration assessments, and the GKAP, CRCT, and ITBS at selected grade levels.

### **Once a student's placement (Continuous Achievement level) is determined, what is different about the instruction that is provided?**

Instruction is differentiated for students depending upon the level at which they are working within the curriculum. Instructional units and assessments assist teachers in providing the additional challenge, rigor and depth that a student working at an advanced level would require. They also define the instruction that should be given to students who require additional support attaining the grade level curriculum. The adopted instructional materials in both K-5 Reading/Language Arts and Mathematics provide differentiated instruction for students working 'On-level,' 'Advanced,' or 'Supported.'

### **Will my student be able to progress to the same levels of achievement in the GPS as in the previous curriculum?**

Yes. Actually, the GPS grade level curriculum in both Reading/Language Arts and Mathematics is at a higher level of rigor than the previous curriculums. Just as was the case for students working a full year ahead in the previous Reading/Language Arts curriculum, students exiting 5<sup>th</sup> grade who are working successfully either at the "5<sup>th</sup> Grade Advanced"

level or at the 6<sup>th</sup> grade level will be eligible for 6<sup>th</sup> grade Advanced Language Arts as they enter middle school.

The chart below indicates the possible course paths for students in mathematics, depending upon the level at which they successfully exit 5<sup>th</sup> grade in the GPS. Given the rigor of the GPS K-12 curriculum in math, as indicated by the chart, a student does not have to leave elementary school working a year ahead in order to be eligible for AP Calculus AB or BC in high school.

**Possible Mathematics Course Paths**

<b>5<sup>th</sup> Grade Level/ Performance</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>
Supported	Grade 6 Math with support	Grade 7 Math with support	Grade 8 Math with support	Math I with support	Math II with support	Math III with support	Math IV with support
On-Level	Grade 6 Math	Grade 7 Math	Grade 8 Math	Math I or Accelerated Math I	Math II or Accelerated Math II	Math III or Accelerated Math III	Math IV or AP Calculus AB or BC
Advanced	Grade 6 Math Advanced	Grade 7 Math Advanced	Grade 8 Math Advanced	Accelerated Math I	Accelerated Math II	Accelerated Math III	AP Calculus AB or BC
Accelerated	Grade 7 Math Advanced	Grade 8 Math Advanced	Accelerated Math I Advanced	Accelerated Math II	Accelerated Math III	AP Calculus AB or BC	AP Calculus BC or Calculus II/III at Georgia Tech

**September 2007**

**For more information, contact the Curriculum and Instruction Division at 404-669-4943.**

