

# BEACON TESTING OVERVIEW



## *What is Beacon?*

Georgia BEACON (Benchmarking Educational Achievement & Comprehensive Online Assessments) is a formative assessment given three times a year in both ELA and Math. It is aligned directly to Georgia's Standards and is designed to check how well students understand grade-level content throughout the year.

BEACON is a computer-adaptive test, which means it adjusts the difficulty of questions as students work.

## *What does it measure?*

BEACON helps measure:

- Mastery of grade-level standards in math and ELA
- Skills needed for success on the Georgia Milestones (GMAS)
- Strengths and specific areas needing support
- Growth over the course of the year

Teachers receive standard-by-standard breakdowns that allow them to pinpoint exactly which concepts students have mastered.

## *Why does Beacon Matter?*

BEACON helps us monitor academic growth throughout the school year. Because it provides immediate feedback, teachers can adjust instruction quickly, ensuring students stay on track for success on the Georgia Milestones and beyond.

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## *How does Beacon benefit teachers and students?*

BEACON serves several key purposes:

- Acts as a GMAS predictor, showing how students are likely to perform in the spring
- Helps teachers identify learning gaps early so they can reteach or enrich
- Provides data for school-wide planning and intervention
- Allows parents and teachers to track year-to-year and month-to-month progress

Because BEACON mirrors the rigor and format of GMAS, it is also helpful for test preparation.

## *How to Understand the Beacon Report*

Parents can request to see:

- Overall Score: Shows performance on grade-level standards
- Domain Scores: Break down performance in areas such as Reading & Vocabulary, Writing, Operations & Algebraic Thinking, Geometry, and more
- Performance Bands: Indicate whether your child is Beginning, Developing, Proficient, or Distinguished
- Growth Indicators: Show changes between administrations
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These reports help parents understand both strengths and areas where additional support may be helpful.