

GSO to GO News for April 2007

General Information

[ESOL Replaces QCC with WIDA](#)

English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) is a state funded instructional program for eligible English Language Learners (ELLs) in grades K-12 (Georgia School Law Section 20-2-156 Code 1981, Sec. 20-2-156, enacted in 1985). The ESOL Program is transitioning from a discrete skills curriculum to a standards-based curriculum emphasizing language proficiency. [ESOL QCC has been replaced](#) with the WIDA English Language Proficiency Standards.

[Lexile Framework for Reading Adopted by the State of Georgia](#)

In addition to the scale score that Georgia students receive with the CRCT or the scale scores on GHSGT in English Language Arts, students will also start obtaining a Lexile measure. What is a Lexile? A Lexile is a standard score that matches a student's reading ability with difficulty of text material. To read more about Lexile, the Lexile Framework and examples of Lexile measures visit the [Lexile Framework for Reading](#). Also available for [download](#) is a comprehensive list of literature titles with Lexile scoring and a memo by Kathy Cox, State Superintendent of Schools, emphasizing the importance of utilizing the Lexile Framework in conjunction with GPS.

Continuing Education

[Valdosta State University Offers Computer-Based Teacher Re-certification](#)

VSU's Department of Continuing Education is offering teacher re-certification courses through CD-Rom and online formats. All courses allow the participant to earn Professional Learning Units (PLUs). Course topics range from Classroom Management, Teaching Diversity, Speed Spanish and PowerPoint in the Classroom. The next session at VSU is April 18 - May 25, 2007. For more information, visit [VSU Continuing Education](#).

[Continuing Education at Clemson University through JER Online](#)

Georgia educators have many choices to earn PLUs through online course offerings. Not certain if you are ready for this 21st century learning modality? Well, JER Online has a [self-assessment questionnaire](#) to determine if you are ready to take an online course. JER Online offers the following courses that will earn PLUs: [Blackboard Basics](#), [Introduction to Teaching Online](#) and [Computer Fundamentals](#). For more information, e-mail [Dr. John Reid](#) or call Clemson University's Office of Off-Campus, Distance and Continuing Education at 1-864-656-2200.

[The Georgia Conservancy Creates Educator Awareness with Outdoor Classrooms](#)

The Georgia Conservancy is committed to ensuring that Georgians have the opportunity to be aware of the total environment and its associated problems. Through workshops and presentations, the Georgia Conservancy strives to empower educators with knowledge, attitudes, motivations, commitments, and skills needed to work individually and collectively towards solutions of current problems and the prevention of new ones. Learn more about workshops or attend a teacher workshop by [visiting the Education Page](#). [Click here](#) for upcoming events, dates, sign-up information and deadlines of the Georgia Conservancy.

Celebrating April

Earth Day

April 22 marks the exact day that spring begins in the Northern Hemisphere and autumn in the Southern Hemisphere. This is also the day that millions of people and governments in 175 nations observe Earth Day. Are your students curious on how this worldly event came to be? Visit [History Highlights](#) at [EnviroLink](#), which is an environmental organization tracking environmental information since 1991. Also, check with [Education World](#) to see what [Earth Day classroom activities](#) you can do with your students. Last but not least, [EarthDay.net](#) has a useful [PDF download](#) for teachers to print and to use as a handy reference for Earth Day.

April is Math Education Month

Prepare your students for everything math with creative lesson ideas, activities and printables by pointing your browser to the [TeacherVision Math Page](#). There are also many math teaching and learning links available through [Federal Resources for Educational Excellence](#) to keep your students computing. And just in time for math education month, many middle school teachers in Georgia have been visiting the [math framework page on GeorgiaStandards.org](#) to view a series of sixth and seventh grade GPS video Webcasts. Make April official by [downloading a Math Education Math poster for your classroom](#).

National Poetry Month

In 1996 the [Academy of American Poets](#) declared April National Poetry Month. In honor of the event, you can [sign-up for a new poem](#) to be sent to your e-mail inbox every day in April. A poetry celebration is not complete without [Shel Silverstein](#). Visit his [website](#) to watch exclusive Shel Silverstein animations, play games and read poetry. Keep your students in the know about poetry by bookmarking the [Glossary of Poetic Terms](#) and [The Life and Works of Famous American Poets](#) on all your classroom computers.