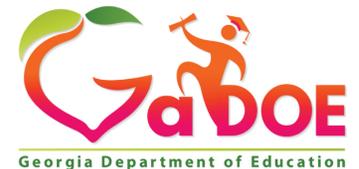


# PAGE Day on the Hill 2021

**Richard Woods**  
**State School Superintendent**



# Thank You for Meeting the Moment



Transitioning to distance learning with little notice



Adapting to new methods of learning in 2020-21



Addressing student mental health along with learning

# Key Updates

- **\$1,000 retention bonus:** Working to coordinate with DECAL – anticipate payments going out this spring
- **Testing waiver:** Plan to resubmit to U.S. Department of Education
- **Vaccines:** Teachers in Phase 1B along with other essential workers

## Reducing Testing Stakes:

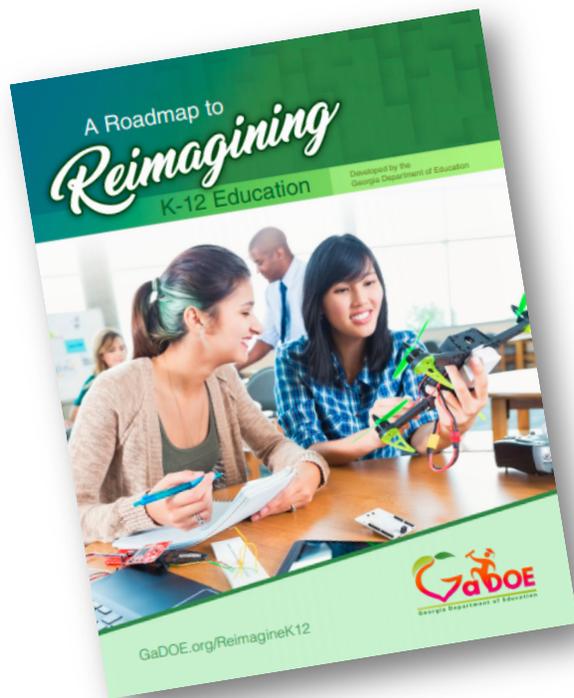
- TKES summative evaluation suspended
- EOC course grade weight reduced to .01%
- Districts directed not to use Georgia Milestones for promotion/retention decisions in grades 3-8

# GaDOE's Pandemic Response

- With GEMA, issued PPE to every school district in the state
- Made formative assessment available to every school district at no cost
- Connectivity: Deployed approx. 3,000 school bus WiFi rangers, used CARES funding to ensure all schools have broadband signal extenders, provided \$21 million in digital learning grants, & formed partnerships w/ major carriers to allow districts to purchase discounted mobile internet plans
- Trained **15,000+** teachers on virtual learning & doubled GA Virtual School capacity
- Partnered with GPB to create TV & digital learning resources ([gpb.org/learn](http://gpb.org/learn))
- Worked to decrease focus on assessments/accountability/mandates

**In summary: we have worked to keep the focus on compassion over compliance.**

# Looking to the Future



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

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

   @georgiadeptofed

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

