
GA•AWARDS:
Georgia's P-20 Longitudinal Data System

House Study Committee on the
Role of the Federal Government in Education

July 30, 2014



THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
of STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT



Presentation Topics

GOSA Overview – Agency role in education accountability

- O.C.G.A. §20-14-25 to §20-14-41
- O.C.G.A. §20-14-50, 60, and 70

GA•AWARDS: P-20 Longitudinal Data System

- System purpose and capability
- Research examples
- Sustainability

How Georgia uses data to improve instruction

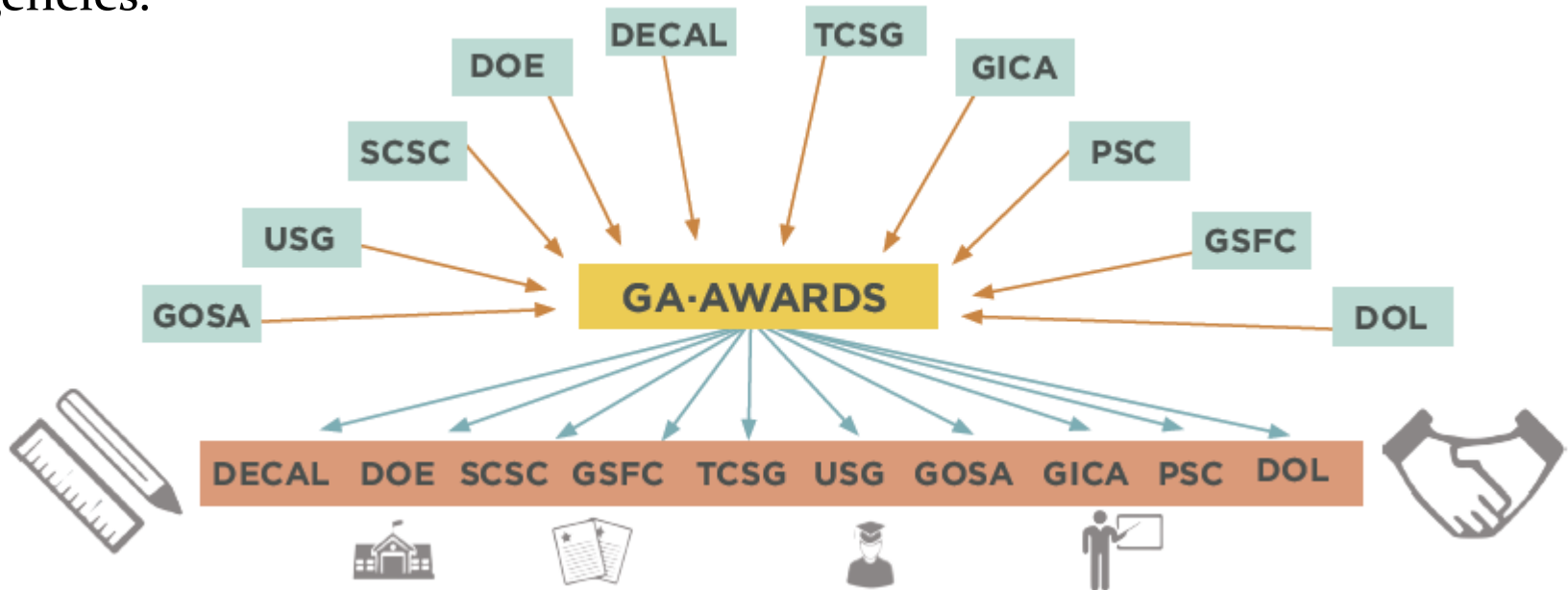
- Report Cards
- CCRPI
- IE²

GOSA Role in Education Accountability

The Governor's Office of Student Achievement (GOSA) strives to increase student achievement and school completion across Georgia through meaningful, transparent, and objective analysis and communication of statewide data. It accomplishes this goal through:

- An education report card indicating the effectiveness of Georgia's P-20 education institutions;
- Collaboration with GaDOE on IE² accountability measures and analysis,
- Collaboration with GaDOE on CCRPI, climate star ratings, and financial star ratings
- Research initiatives on education programs in Georgia and corresponding findings to inform policy, budget, and legislative efforts;
- Thorough analysis and straightforward communication of education data to stakeholders; and
- Academic program audits.

GAAWARDS is Georgia's research-focused P-20 longitudinal data system, housed at GOSA, that links individual level data across multiple state agencies.



The primary purpose is to provide matched data to each agency, allowing it to examine trends over time for students prior to entering and after exiting the agency's system.

Nuts and Bolts

- The Alliance of Education Agency Heads governs GAAWARDS.
- GOSA receives individual-level data from each agency, matches it to a unique identifier, and then provides access to each agency.
- Data are shared using a secure, encrypted process and are stored at the University System of Georgia.
- Each agency only has access to personally identifiable information for individuals in its own data warehouse.
- Data are currently available only to agency researchers and database managers with high-level analytical skills.
- The system currently holds seven years of data, 2007-2013, but it will begin processing 2014 data once it receives it from agencies.

Examples of Current Uses

- GOSA's Report Card
- GaDOE's high school feedback report

Examples of Possible Research Questions

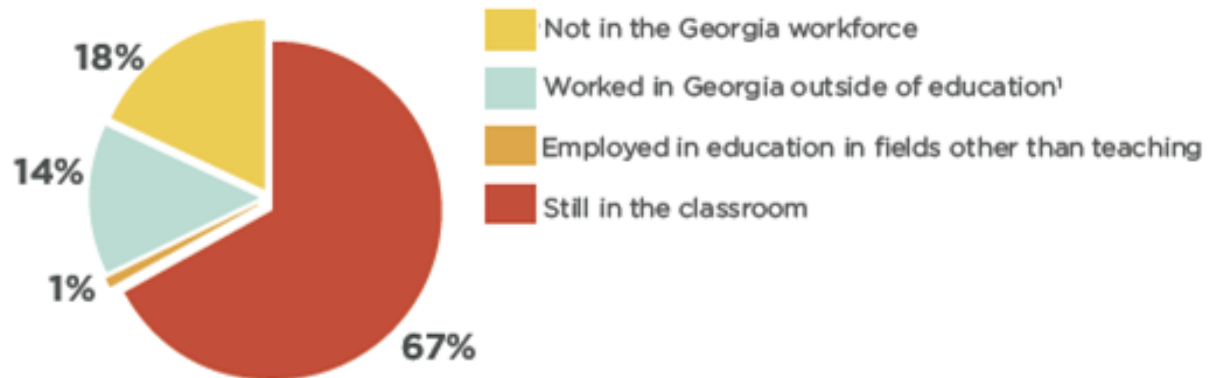
- What is the impact of Georgia's Pre-K on future student achievement?
 - How does student mobility affect student progression from elementary to postsecondary education in Georgia?
 - Do students who take college courses while in high school (dual enrollment) do better in college?
 - What are the educational backgrounds of students who experience difficulty transitioning to college?
 - Are graduates of Georgia's public colleges working in Georgia?
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Research Example: GaPSC and Department of Labor data

Five-Year Retention of all 2007-08 Georgia Public School Teachers



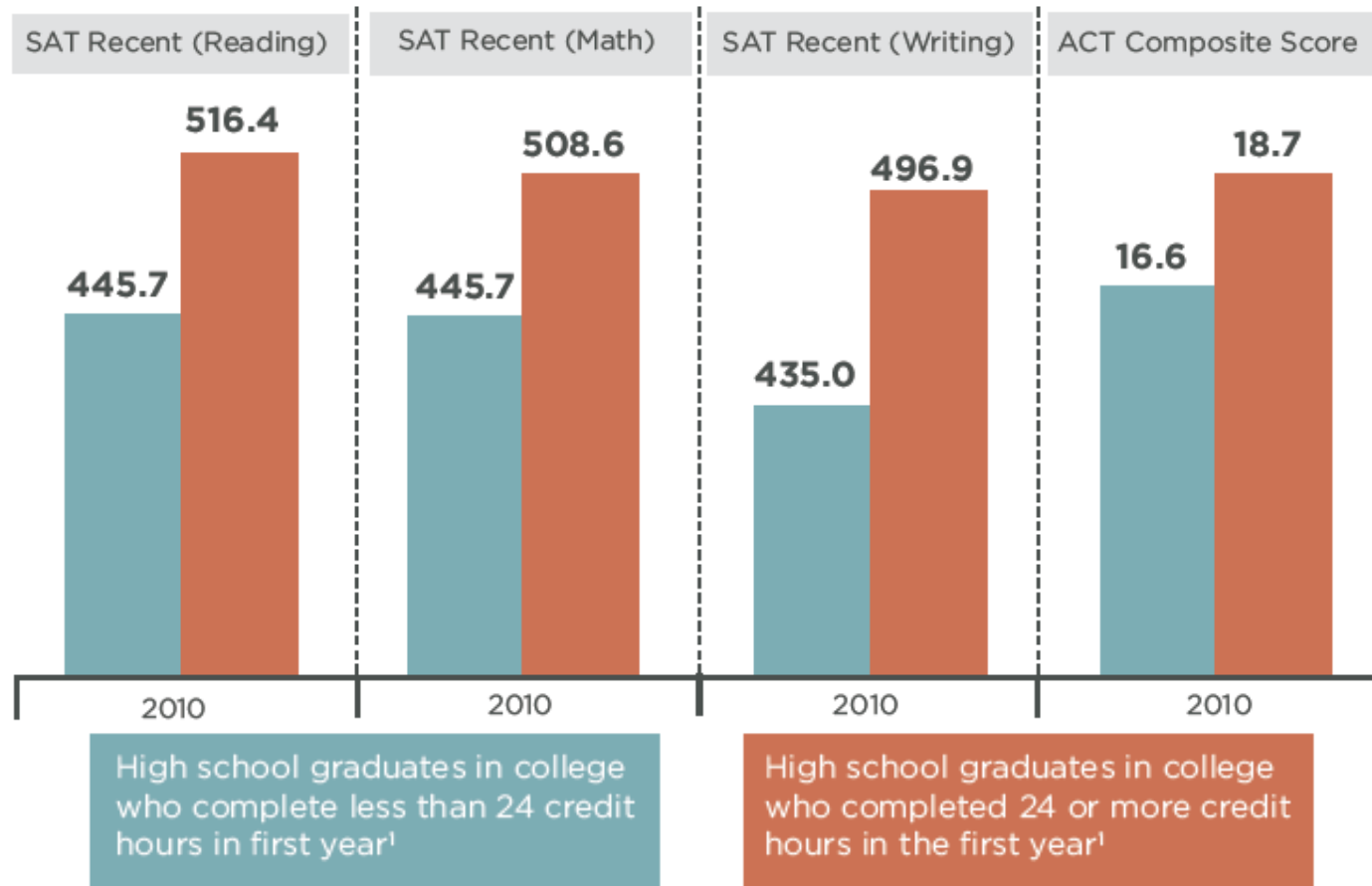
Five-Year Retention of all 2007-08 First-Year Georgia Public School Teachers



¹In jobs covered by Georgia's unemployment system.

Research Example: GaDOE, USG, and TCSG data

SAT/ACT Scores and College Course-taking Patterns



Comparing GaDOE and GOSA's Longitudinal Data Systems

GaDOE LDS

Operational Database

- K-12 data
- Updated on a continual basis
- Supports thousands of concurrent users
- Handles the daily transactions and needs
- Includes data to support all business activities
- Nearly 1000 data elements
- Accessible to all LEAs and public schools in Georgia

GOSA LDS (GA•AWARDS)

Data Warehouse

- P-20 data
- Updated periodically
- Supports few concurrent agency users
- Facilitates reporting and analysis
- Has only the data necessary for reporting and analysis
- A few hundred data elements
- Accessible only to agency researchers

Sustainability

- GA•AWARDS received full state funding to continue its work at the end of Race to the Top.
- It will continue to match data each year to increase the number of years available to participating agencies.
- As the team transitions from “building” to “steady state,” GOSA will focus more of its efforts on supporting agencies research and reporting priorities.

Using Data to Improve Instruction

GOSA's Involvement and Support

- Report Cards
- CCRPI
- IE²

Report Card Overview

The Governor's Office of Student Achievement (GOSA) provides accountability for all of Georgia's education agencies from Pre-K through postsecondary levels. As part of this mission, GOSA presents its annual report on Georgia's public education agencies.

The Report Card includes data from the following:

- Department of Early Care and Learning
- Department of Education
- Georgia Student Finance Commission
- Technical College System of Georgia
- University System of Georgia
- Professional Standards Commission

The Report Card is published in December of each year, with the exception of 2011-12 due to data delays from the CCRPI.

Report Card Format Change in 2011-12

For 2011-12, GOSA shifted to a dynamic Report Card with the following advantages:

- Allows for live updates as data quality/accuracy improves
- Provides easier access to data tables that accompany graphs.
- Improves functionality of reports

Still has some “growing pains:”

- Currently doesn't support Internet Explorer 11.
- Not optimized for mobile devices. Goal for this year.
- Numbers overlapping on some reports

Important Business Rules

- If the number tested in a subgroup is less than 10 students, then the cell and subsequent results show “Too Few Students” to protect student identity.
- If a student takes an assessment more than once within the same year, only the student’s highest score is counted.
- GOSA receives graduation rates, dropout rates, and personnel/fiscal data pre-calculated from the GaDOE.

What is currently published?

In December 2013, GOSA released the [2012-13 Report Card](#) with trend data available for 2011-12.

- [Pre-Kindergarten](#)
- K-12 Public Schools
 - [Accountability](#)
 - [Georgia Tests](#)
 - [National Tests](#) (College Board assessments in process now)
 - [National Assessment of Educational Progress \(NAEP\)](#)
 - [Southern Regional Education Board \(SREB\)](#)
 - [Indicators & Demographics](#) (HOPE eligibility in process now)
 - [Personnel & Fiscal](#)
- University System (in process now)
- Technical College System (in process now)

[Downloadable data files back to 2006-07 are available.](#)

Improvements expected in 2014

- Migrate 2010-11 Report Card into the new format and remove old Report Card website.
 - Going forward, three years of data will be kept in dynamic reports.
 - Downloadable files will be available for older years.
- Publish USG and TCSG Report Cards (pending data receipt from agencies)
- Upgrade to allow functionality for all web browsers
- Publish a school-level downloadable file for each indicator on the Report Card.
- Add additional indicators as needed based upon stakeholder feedback.

Differences between Report Card and CCRPI

Report Card

- All students included
- Snapshot of Pre-K through postsecondary performance, demographics, personnel/fiscal, and other indicators
- Driven by state/federal law
- More useful if looking for specific indicators

CCRPI

- FAY students only included
- Snapshot of K-12 performance
- Driven by ESEA waiver
- More useful if looking for overall summary of performance

Eventually, GOSA plans to include CCRPI on the Report Card.

IE² Contract Accountability Measures

- Districts contract with GaDOE for increased flexibility in return for increased accountability
- Currently three districts have such contracts
 - Gwinnett
 - Forsyth
 - Rabun
- GOSA's role is to collaborate with GaDOE on appropriate accountability measures and conduct data analysis to determine if performance meets targets.
- Current discussions are underway with GaDOE in anticipation of an increased number of districts pursuing IE² contracts in the future.

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