



# Mrs. Dean's Media News

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## **GPS: It's Not Just Global Positioning System for Georgia Schools!**

For the last few years the state of Georgia has been busy working on implementing new standards for the students in public schools in Georgia. Teachers used to have to work with QCC objectives. QCC stands for Quality Core Curriculum. They served Georgia well until new requirements were needed in order to meet AYP (Annual Yearly Progress) outlined by the new Federal guidelines from No Child Left Behind (NCLB).

The NEW GPS (Georgia Performance Standards – NOT Global Positioning System) evolved through a process of looking at what works in schools and changes that needed to occur to ensure student success.

### **What Is A Performance Standard?**

Performance standards go deeper than the content standards used in the previous curriculum. The QCCs gave the teacher a list of what the student was expected to know. The GPSs do that as well, but they expand on the QCC requirement. It adds three more components: suggested tasks, sample student work, and teacher commentary on that work.

Performance standards provide clear expectations for assessment, instruction, and student work. They define the level of work that demonstrates achievement of the standards, allowing a teacher to know "how good is good enough." Just like a GPS system in your car can isolate

your position in the world and give you guidance to where you need to be, the GPS in Georgia allows a teacher to isolate and identify the skills students need to use the knowledge and skills to problem-solve, reason, communicate, and make connections with other information. Performance standards also help the teacher know how to assess the extent to which the student knows the material or can manipulate and apply the information.

### **How can the Media Specialist Help?**

Knowing that the GPS is here to stay for a while allows everyone in the school to work together to make any necessary changes. Some of us need to change how we teach. Some of us are already assessing children to see what they know and start to plan activities for their area of need. Since everyone in the school has posted their Curriculum Map, I will know ahead of time what is coming up. Please don't forget to include me in your planning days and unit planning. I will be glad to help gather materials and plan lessons to help your team focus that GPS radar on the students in your class. We can plan units that allow students to choose activities and learn important literacy skills at the same time. We are a team that can work together that can use the GPS to Globally Position our Kids for Success in the World!

## References

Georgia Department of Education. QCC standards and resources. Retrieved June 14, 2007 from the Georgia Department of Education Web site:  
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