



Dr. John D. Barge, State School Superintendent

Dear Parents,

As the end of the school year approaches, we become concerned with the “summer slide”. The summer slide is an alarming trend in which students who do not read on a regular basis during the break fall behind in reading achievement. The Georgia Department of Education has launched READ GA to help prevent this ‘summer slide’. As part of the campaign we would like to share with you some outstanding resources that use students’ Lexile® measures found on both the CRCT and Georgia High School Graduation Test.

Research has shown that reading just six books during the summer may keep a struggling reader from losing ground. When choosing the six, the parent and student need to be sure that the selected books are just right — not too hard and not too easy. Take advantage of our state’s outstanding public libraries and ask for help selecting books that match your child’s age, interests, and abilities. Most public libraries run summer reading programs that motivate kids to read. The Georgia public library website is located at: <http://www.georgialibraries.org/>

The Lexile “Find a Book GA” website can help identify books that students are interested in and are able to read. This website can be found at: <http://georgia.lexile.com> or <http://www.lexile.com/fab/ga>. The Georgia Department of Education’s Lexile initiative information can be found at: <http://www.gadoe.org/lexile.aspx>.

The Find-a-Book GA website uses a Lexile reading measure to determine appropriate reading books for the student. A Lexile measure reflects a student’s reading ability plus a book’s text difficulty. It is the most widely adopted reading measure used today. In Georgia, students in grades 1 through 8 and most 11th graders receive a Lexile measure in their end of year test results. More Lexile information can be found on the Georgia Standards.org site at: <https://www.georgiastandards.org/Resources/Pages/Tools/LexileFrameworkforReading.aspx>

The Georgia Department of Education encourages parents to take their students to public libraries this summer and use both the Find-a-Book website and Lexile measure to discover books that will both help improve comprehension and retain the valuable reading skills our students worked so hard to build over the past school year.

Please join me in participating in the READ GA not just during the summer, but year round. If you need additional information concerning Lexiles, please visit: www.lexile.com.

Sincerely,

Martha R. Reichrath, Ph.D.
Deputy State Superintendent

“Making Education Work for All Georgians”