

EDUCATION REPORT: Parents can prepare kids for curriculum tests

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ATLANTA — Last week Fulton County students in grades 1-8 started taking the Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests, a series of tests that measure mastery of the curriculum. Testing continues this week and is scheduled to end Thursday.

All third-graders must score at or above expectations in reading on the CRCT to graduate to the fourth grade. Likewise, students in fifth and eighth grades who score below the standard in reading and math cannot go to the next grade unless they attend summer school and pass makeup tests. Fulton County school officials say they expect most students will pass.

There are a few things that parents can do to help children do their best while taking the test. Here are some tips from various school counselors on what parents can do:

- *Make sure your child attends school regularly and on time.*
- *Remember that tests reflect the overall achievement of your child. Time spent in learning situations increases the likelihood that students will do well on tests.*
- *Avoid scheduling doctor's or dentist's appointments during testing times. Make those appointments for after school or on a day not affected by spring testing, if possible.*
- *Give your child encouragement. Highlight things done well throughout the year. A child who is afraid of failing is more likely to make a mistake. Ensure that your child has a well-rounded diet.*
- *A healthy body leads to a healthy, active mind. Make sure the child has a good breakfast on testing days and every day.*
- *Keep the lines of communication open between home and school. Parents and teachers should work together to benefit the child.*
- *Make sure your child is well-rested. Children who are tired are less likely to pay attention in class or to handle the demands of class work and tests.*
- *Don't judge a child on the basis of a single test. Test scores are not perfect measures of what a child can do. There are many other things that might influence a test score. For example, a child can be affected by the way he or she feels that day.*
- *Follow normal routines. Interruptions of normal routines may affect your child's performance.*
- *Don't forget glasses. If your child wears glasses, a hearing aid or another device that assists in learning, be sure he or she remembers to take it to school and wear it during all testing sessions.*

1. In paragraph form, identify the primary objective of the Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests as well as repercussions per grade level, which one might encounter assuming he or she did not perform to standard.
2. In accordance with the passage above, prioritize and rewrite the ten recommendations listed above with ratings of one being most important and ten being the least. Briefly explain your reasoning.
3. Compare and contrast your results of question two with three of your peers and articulate your findings in the form of a table and/or graph.
4. Upon completion of this assignment, how far have we progressed through the 2007-08 series of *The Daughtry Times*®? Express your answer as a fraction, decimal, percentage, and pie chart.
5. Complete *The Daughtry Times*® "Writing Guidelines" checklist on all questions requiring a written response. To ensure compliance, neatly label each component adjacent to your paragraph.
6. Complete *The Daughtry Times*® "Preliminary Reading Guidelines" checklist prior to reading the passage and clearly identify each essential component of the article (title, keywords in italics, etc.).
7. Using contextual clues only, explain the meaning of the italicized words: *likelihood* and *mastery*. Additionally, use each word in a sentence to demonstrate further comprehension.
8. In paragraph form, explain at least five legitimate and educational purposes behind *The Daughtry Times*®.

Upon successful completion of the CRCT, The Daughtry Times® will return in all its mathematical glory on Friday, May 2, 2008.