



# A Day with GaPSC

Highlights – Spring 2020

## Certification

- Effective January 1, 2020, the following notable rule changes became effective:
  - Certificates of Eligibility (COE) will no longer be issued. Individuals holding a COE may reapply for issuance of a certificate under current rules.
  - The Georgia Educator Ethics – Program Exit assessment is required for issuance of an Induction certificate for individuals applying based on reciprocity.
  - Special Georgia Requirements (ethics exit, content assessment, and special education course) may be exempted by educators applying based on reciprocity with five years of successful experience one field earned at any time in their career while holding a professional certificate in the same field. The five years of experience is no longer restricted to the five years preceding the application for certification.
  - A One-Year Induction certificate may be issued to candidates who have completed all teaching program requirements with the exception of the GACE content and/or edTPA. This certificate must be requested by a Georgia employing LUA.
  - A One-Year Induction or One-Year Non-Renewable certificate may be issued to educators applying based on reciprocity with a Professional out-of-state certificate, but lacking the content assessment.
  - The Induction Pathway 4 certificate title changed to Provisional; all eligibility requirements for this certificate remain the same.
- MyPSC was updated to include a “Personal Affirmation” page, where educators may answer the ethics related questions, and the answers will remain valid for one academic year. This will allow for the completion of certain certification transactions to be completed without a completed application.
- A Health and Physical Education Task Force was convened to discuss eliminating the test-in option for this field. The group proposes that completion of a course in the methods of teaching health and physical education be required in addition to the GACE content assessment in order to add this field to an Induction or Professional certificate. The proposal is currently under discussion; however, the effective date would be no sooner than July 1, 2021.
- As a reminder, Induction certificates may not be converted until after May 1 of the academic year of expiration, after the summative evaluation is complete and the educator has had no summative evaluations below proficient.

## Educator Preparation

- Be sure to complete the **surveys** you receive from GaPSC near the end of the school year. New teachers, new principals or assistant principals, and their supervisors receive a request from GaPSC to complete a survey. Your responses to these surveys help preparation programs improve, and they are part of the Preparation Program Effectiveness Measures (PPEMs) we use to evaluate programs. Surveys are sent to educators via the email address in MyPSC, so please be sure your email address is accurate.
- **PPEMs** are now available to the public at <https://www.gapsc.com/EducatorPreparation/PSCPpemLookup.aspx>. You can search by program provider or by program to view 2019 performance data. Also available are contextual data for each program provider, including program enrollment and employment trends.
- We encourage you to support **Teaching as a Profession Pathway** programs in your high schools. These programs serve as an excellent platform for recruiting teachers and future school leaders. You can lend your support this spring by participating in **Future Educators Signing Day**, set to take place across the state on Tuesday, May 5, 2020.
- Stay connected with local program providers, school districts, and state agency representatives by participating in your **Regional P-20 Collaborative**. You will find upcoming collaborative dates, agendas, and registration information at [www.gapsc.com/P20.aspx](http://www.gapsc.com/P20.aspx). Local educators lead Collaboratives and discussions are focused on local needs.
- Support **teacher professional development** by encouraging enrollment in programs like Curriculum and Instruction, Instructional Technology, Teacher Leadership—a degree program or an endorsement, or endorsement programs such as STEM, Autism, K-5 Mathematics, or K-5 Science. Remember, teachers who complete the K-5 Mathematics or Science endorsement are eligible for stipends. Advanced degree programs and certain endorsements serve as a pathway to the top tier of Georgia’s Tiered Certification structure—Lead Professional or Advanced Professional. Teachers earning top tier certification are well prepared to enhance instructional capacity and lead improvements to teaching and learning.
- Georgia program providers seeking to expand their offerings have several new options. **New endorsements** include Dyslexia, Elementary Agriculture Education (P-5), PBIS, Personalized Learning, and Urban Education. Also available is a **new Reading Education Master’s degree program** that will result in a certificate level upgrade and prepare certified teachers at any grade level to diagnose and address students’ reading and literacy challenges. Programs are being developed now and will be available to educators after they are approved by GaPSC, likely in late 2020. Use the [GaPSC list of approved programs](#) to find approved program providers.

## Ethics

- Inappropriate conduct with students (standard 2) is the most violated standard.
- Please be reminded that educators are mandated reporters if they believe a standard of the Georgia Code of Ethics for Educators has been violated.

Updated 2-20-20

- In addition to handling current ethics cases, the Ethics Division is focusing on prevention, including policy recommendation for electronic communications with students; reinforcing the latest revisions to the Code of Ethics, including breaches of employment contracts; and ensuring school systems are knowledgeable about certification applications investigations.

## Assessment

- The following two content assessments will be available in Fall 2020:
  - The current Educational Leadership GACE is under revision to align to the revised national Professional Standards for Educational Leaders (PSEL) and state standards. Diverse and representative bias review and standard setting committees are convening in Spring 2020.
  - A second part of the American Sign Language GACE, which is currently all performance-based, will be added at the request of Georgia ASL practitioners to ensure content expertise with regard to cultural knowledge, linguistic features, pedagogy, and language acquisition. Bias review by Georgia educators is complete, and the standard setting committee will convene in Spring 2020.
- Free, online preparation resources that provide instruction and support for reading, writing, and mathematics for the GACE Program Admission Assessment (PAA) are now available. Diagnostic tests, instructional videos, interactive practice tests, and study plans are available at [https://gace.ets.org/s/pdf/study\\_companions/tips\\_for\\_gace\\_test\\_takers\\_using\\_praxis\\_online\\_tool.pdf](https://gace.ets.org/s/pdf/study_companions/tips_for_gace_test_takers_using_praxis_online_tool.pdf). For a preview, explore the mathematics instructional and support videos and exercises at: [https://gace.ets.org/s/pdf/gace\\_crosswalk\\_of\\_%20program\\_admission\\_mathematics\\_to\\_khan\\_academy\\_videos.pdf](https://gace.ets.org/s/pdf/gace_crosswalk_of_%20program_admission_mathematics_to_khan_academy_videos.pdf)

## REMINDER:

- Anyone evaluated under TKES or LKES and receiving an ineffective or needs development rating on the TAPS or LAPS component must be reported to GaPSC. The TAPS and LAPS summative data components will continue to be the sole measure for ratings reported to GaPSC for certification purposes. School systems and charter schools must also report unsatisfactory summative ratings for certificated personnel who are not evaluated under TKES or LKES. The deadline to report is June 30th.