

MINUTES

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION

Remote Meeting via TEAMS Platform

June 9, 2022

The Georgia Professional Standards Commission (PSC) met on Thursday, June 9, 2022.

Members Present

Jeanine Bunn	Kedrione Harris	Jane Rookard
Abigail Coggin	Nathan Lewis	Beth Townsend
Daniel Dooley	Dr. Franklin Perry	Dr. Jennifer Wade
Derek Easterling	Dr. Holley Roberts	Carol Williams
Jordan Frobos		

Members Absent

Dr. Brandon Seigler	Jimmy Atkins
Dr. Steve Barker	

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chair Sirmans called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and Commissioners answered roll call for attendance.

II. VISITORS

Chair Sirmans welcomed the visitors.

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chair Sirmans called for approval of the agenda.

MOTION: (Beth Townsend / Jeanine Bunn) To approve the agenda.

PSC ACTION: Approved

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Sirmans called for approval of the May 12, 2022 minutes.

PSC ACTION: Approved

V. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

- We have no June birthdays this month.
- We were well-represented in sessions at the recent GASPA conference. GASPA is the Georgia Association of School Personnel Administrators. When not assisting HR Director's during and in between other conference sessions, Dr. Kelli Young and Windy Fortenberry presented the latest news and updates on certification. Anne Marie Fenton and Laurin Vonada conducted a session, along with two HR directors, on mitigating educator missteps, using the Model Code of Ethics for Educators. Dr.

Penney McRoy presented with GOSA and GaDOE on new teacher and leader induction. Bradley Golub, GaPSC's Troops to Teachers recruiter, manned a conference table to further the exposure of available support for military veterans and their spouses. We appreciate Georgia's HR directors and the important collaboration we have with GASPA and them.

- NASDTEC will hold their annual conference starting June 12th in Boston. NASDTEC is the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification. We will be well represented at this conference as well.

VI. CHAIR REPORT

Chair Sirmans thanked Dr. Steve Barker for his service to the Commission and spoke briefly about his contributions to the Commission. Dr. Barker will be missed.

VII. REVISIONS TO APPROVAL STANDARDS

Dr. Angie Gant, Program Approval Director, presented the proposed Program Approval Standards which were updated to reflect the admission requirement changes the Commission adopted in May. Because a 2.5 GPA and passing the Program Admission Assessment are no longer requirements for being admitted to a program, the Program Approval Standards needed to be revised to align with those changes. These revised standards will come before the Commission for adoption during the July Commission meeting.

VIII. RULES PREVIEW

- 505-2-.168 INTERVENTION SPECIALIST ENDORSEMENT - to adjust the formatting, revise the certificate types issued, and clarify the in-field requirements for teaching students in early intervention programs. (Kelli Young delivered the preview.)
- 505-3-.111 ELEMENTARY Agriculture Education (P-5) Endorsement program - The new rule will expand preparation program options for those seeking certification to teach Agriculture Education in P-5 schools. (Julie Beck delivered the preview.)
- 505-6-.01 THE CODE OF ETHICS FOR EDUCATORS - To reorder the definitions. (Laurin Vonada delivered the preview)

IX. GACE LITERACY SPECIALIST STANDARD SETTING

Anne Marie Fenton asked Commissioners to set the passing standard for the GACE Literacy Specialist Assessment (Test 560) that becomes effective July 1, 2022, yet will not have its first administration until October of 2022.

This field is a service field aligned to program standards that prepare individuals to serve as literacy specialists in grades P-12 and who will coach reading teachers.

A diverse and representative standard setting committee convened on March 22, 2022, to formulate a recommendation of where the passing bar should be set. The committee consisted of those who prepare Literacy Specialists from our state-approved Literacy Specialist program providers as well as educators in the field.

The committee was provided an overview of the test's structure, content, development, and the standard setting process. Following a review of the test form used in standard setting, panelists discussed among themselves what they saw being measured including:

- what content they expect to be particularly challenging for candidates and
- what content is especially important for beginning practice.

All panelists agreed the test is appropriate for licensure as a literacy specialist. The panel agreed with the recommended passing score from the multi-state standard setting: 73 out of 107 total points on the form reviewed.

After reviewing the projected pass rates, we recommend the Professional passing score (250 GACE scale), be set at -1 Standard Error of Measurement (SEM) below the committee recommendation.

MOTION: (Beth Townsend / Derek Easterling) To formally establish the passing score for the Literacy Specialist assessment (test code 560), effective July 1, 2022, for the Professional passing score (250 GACE scale), which equals the Recommended Study Value (RSV) minus 1 SEM (69 raw score points).

PSC ACTION: Approved

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Ethics and Professional Conduct --Recommendations and Actions on Cases

Chair Beth Townsend of the Educator Ethics Review Committee (EERC), gave a preliminary review of the Cases.

1. Chair Townsend reported that the Committee reviewed 51 *Probable Cause* cases during the June 8, 2022, meeting and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
22-2-884	1,5a7	NPC	Accept
22-3-1156	5a5, 5a7	NPC	Accept
22-3-1185	5a5, 5a7	Reprimand	Accept
22-3-1207	1,4,5a7	Reprimand	Accept
22-4-1290	1,4,5a7	Reprimand	Accept
22-5-1366	1,5a7	Reprimand	Accept
20-2-1179	1, 2, 9, 5a7	Extend pending criminal outcome	Accept
20-5-1556	1,4, 5a7,8,9	NPC	Accept
20-5-1567	1,4,5a7,8,9	NPC	Accept
20-5-1578	1,4,5a7,8,9	Revoke	Accept
20-5-1585	1, 5a7	Reprimand	Accept

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
20-6-1675	1,4,5a7,8,9	Revoke	Accept
20-7-94	1,4,5a7,8,9	NPC	Accept
20-9-259	1,4,5a7,8,9	NPC	Accept
20-10-323	1,4,5a7,8,9	Suspension 20 days	Accept
20-11-479	1,4,5a7,8,9	Revoke	Accept
20-12-541	9, 5a7	Reprimand	Accept
20-12-553	2, 9, 5a7	NPC	Accept
20-12-558	5, 9, 5a7	Suspension 20 days	Accept
21-6-1216	4, 9, 5a7	NPC	Accept
21-10-424	9	Suspension 90 days	Accept
21-11-557	3, 9	Suspension 1 year	Accept
22-1-796	1,4,5a7,9 (2010),10 (2010)	Reprimand	Accept
22-1-871	1, 2, 9	Extend pending criminal outcome	Accept
22-2-911	2 & 9	Suspension 30 days	Accept
22-2-929	2 & 9	NPC	Accept
22-2-975	8, 9	Reprimand	Accept
22-2-976	2,9	Suspension 2 years	Accept
22-2-998	1,2,9	Extend pending criminal outcome	Accept
22-2-999	4, 9	Suspension 20 days	Accept
22-2-1009	2, 4, 9	Suspension 1 year	Accept
22-2-1023	3, 9	NPC	Accept
22-2-1024	3, 9	NPC	Accept
22-3-1058	4,5,9	Suspension 1 year	Accept
22-3-1060	1, 2, 9	Revoke	Accept
22-3-1063	2, 9	Reprimand	Accept
22-3-1067	2 & 9	NPC	Accept
22-3-1094	2, 4, 9	Suspension 1 year	Accept
22-3-1101	5a2, 5a5	Revoke	Accept
22-3-1102	5a2, 5a5	Revoke	Accept
22-3-1107	2, 9	Suspension 5 days	Accept
22-3-1117	8, 9	NPC	Accept
22-3-1118	2, 9	Suspension 10 days	Accept
22-3-1144	2,9	Suspension 10 days	Accept
22-3-1180	1,2,9	Extend pending criminal outcome	Accept
22-3-1183	2, 9	Reprimand	Accept
22-3-1210	1,4,5a7,8,9	Reprimand	Accept
22-4-1245	2, 4, 9	Suspension 5 days	Accept
22-4-1253	1, 2, 9	Extend pending criminal outcome	Accept
22-5-1375	1,4,5a7,8,9	Reprimand	Accept
22-5-1399	4,5a2,5a7,8,9	Reprimand	Accept

2. Chair Townsend reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 10 *Settlement Agreements* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
21-10-406	Reprimand	Accept
21-12-644	Reprimand	Accept
22-1-761	Suspension 10 days	Accept
22-1-763	Suspension 10 days	Accept
22-1-868	Reprimand	Accept
22-2-987	Reprimand	Accept
22-3-1103	Suspension 2 years	Accept
22-3-1162	Suspension 5 days	Accept
22-3-1191	Reprimand	Accept
22-3-1213	Reprimand	Accept

3. Chair Townsend reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 16 *Negotiated Settlement Agreements* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>NEGOTIATED SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMEND</u>
18-7-119	Suspension 1 year	Accept
18-8-264	Suspension 3 days	Accept
18-11-634	Reprimand	Accept
19-2-1004	Reprimand	Accept
19-2-1008	NPC	Accept
19-7-86	Suspension 10 days	Accept
19-7-90	Reprimand	Accept
19-11-728	Reprimand	Accept
20-2-1110	Reprimand	Accept
20-10-381	Reprimand	Accept
21-5-1051	Reprimand	Accept
21-5-1107	Suspension 120 days	Accept
21-5-1143	NPC	Accept
21-9-285	NPC	Accept
21-12-673	NPC	Accept
22-1-774	Reprimand	Accept

4. **OTHER BUSINESS**

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the *Other Business Report* as follows:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>FINDINGS OF FACTS</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
22-2-977	Additional complaint	Investigate
22-3-1124	Additional complaint	Investigate
22-3-1171	Additional complaint	Investigate
22-4-1255	Additional complaint	Investigate
22-5-1438	Additional complaint	Investigate
20-8-119	Failure to respond.	Hold New App

<u>CASE</u>	<u>FINDINGS OF FACTS</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
20-8-180	Failed to provide requested docs.	Hold New App
20-10-402	Failed to provide requested docs.	Hold New App
21-6-1203	Failed to provide requested docs.	Hold New App
21-6-1236	Failed to provide requested docs.	Hold New App
21-6-1317	Failed to provide requested docs.	Hold New App
21-7-30	Failure to respond.	Hold New App
21-7-86	Failed to provide requested docs.	Hold New App
21-8-116	Failure to respond.	Hold New App
21-8-150	Failed to provide requested docs.	Hold New App
21-8-178	Failure to respond.	Hold New App
21-8-182	Failed to provide requested docs.	Hold New App
21-8-211	Failure to respond.	Hold New App
21-8-213	Failure to respond.	Hold New App
21-9-283	Failure to respond.	Hold New App
21-9-318	Failed to provide requested docs.	Hold New App
21-9-368	Failed to provide requested docs.	Hold New App
21-10-415	Failed to provide requested docs.	Hold New App
22-2-885	Failure to respond.	Hold New App
22-2-891	Failure to respond.	Hold New App
22-2-919	Failed to provide requested docs.	Hold New App
22-2-949	Failed to provide requested docs.	Hold New App
22-2-955	Failure to respond.	Hold New App
22-2-985	Failed to provide requested docs.	Hold New App
22-2-989	Failed to provide requested docs.	Hold New App
22-2-990	Failure to respond.	Hold New App
22-2-991	Failed to provide requested docs.	Hold New App
22-2-1025	Failed to provide requested docs.	Hold New App

5. The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the *Preliminary Investigative Determination Report* consisting of 137 new complaints received during the months of May and June 2022

6. VOLUNTARY SURRENDERS

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the 8 *Voluntary Surrenders* listed below in which an Educator/Applicant voluntarily accepted a sanction of Revocation prior to the submission of an investigative case summary for a Probable Cause Determination.

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
21-10-496	2, 9, 5a7	Voluntary Surrender	Accept
22-2-1018	1, 2, 9	Voluntary Surrender	Accept
22-3-1056	2, 9	Voluntary Surrender	Accept
22-3-1092	2, 9	Voluntary Surrender	Accept
22-3-1190	2, 9	Voluntary Surrender	Accept

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
22-4-1240	1, 2, 9	Voluntary Surrender	Accept
22-4-1241	1, 8, 9	Voluntary Surrender	Accept
22-4-1246	2, 9	Voluntary Surrender	Accept

7. EXTENSIONS – PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIVE DETERMINATIONS

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the 54 *Extensions - Preliminary Investigative Determinations* consisting of the following:

22-5-1532	22-5-1540	22-5-1547	22-5-1554	22-5-1561	22-5-1569	22-6-1585	22-6-1594
22-5-1533	22-5-1541	22-5-1548	22-5-1555	22-5-1562	22-5-1570	22-6-1586	22-6-1595
22-5-1534	22-5-1542	22-5-1549	22-5-1556	22-5-1563	22-5-1580	22-6-1587	22-6-1596
22-5-1535	22-5-1543	22-5-1550	22-5-1557	22-5-1564	22-5-1581	22-6-1588	22-6-1597
22-5-1536	22-5-1544	22-5-1551	22-5-1558	22-5-1565	22-5-1582	22-6-1591	22-6-1598
22-5-1537	22-5-1545	22-5-1552	22-5-1559	22-5-1567	22-5-1583	22-6-1592	
22-5-1539	22-5-1546	22-5-1553	22-5-1560	22-5-1568	22-5-1584	22-6-1593	

8. EXTENSIONS - INVESTIGATIONS

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended granting an *Investigative Extension* to the following 214 cases:

<u>WRITTEN COMPLAINT EXTENSIONS</u>							
21-1-605	21-12-661	21-3-920	21-6-1341	22-1-737	22-2-910	22-3-1073	22-3-1155
21-1-646	21-12-663	21-3-928	21-7-12	22-1-740	22-2-920	22-3-1077	22-3-1156
21-10-384	21-12-667	21-4-966	21-7-46	22-1-742	22-2-924	22-3-1078	22-3-1157
21-10-391	21-12-680	21-4-969	21-7-71	22-1-744	22-2-934	22-3-1080	22-3-1158
21-10-392	21-12-681	21-4-994	21-7-84	22-1-762	22-2-948	22-3-1081	22-3-1169
21-10-411	21-12-686	21-4-1012	21-8-104	22-1-792	22-2-963	22-3-1084	22-3-1170
21-10-440	21-12-687	21-5-1039	21-8-118	22-1-796	22-2-965	22-3-1085	22-3-1171
21-10-444	21-12-688	21-5-1087	21-8-125	22-1-797	22-2-970	22-3-1088	22-3-1172
21-10-447	21-12-694	21-5-1106	21-8-152	22-1-804	22-2-972	22-3-1090	22-3-1174
21-10-448	21-12-716	21-5-1111	21-8-153	22-1-807	22-2-977	22-3-1091	22-3-1177
21-11-528	21-12-719	21-5-1113	21-8-154	22-1-810	22-2-980	22-3-1093	22-3-1178
21-11-545	21-2-663	21-5-1114	21-8-158	22-1-812	22-2-982	22-3-1097	22-3-1184
21-11-558	21-2-670	21-5-1117	21-8-190	22-1-831	22-2-996	22-3-1104	22-3-1186
21-11-563	21-2-677	21-5-1124	21-8-195	22-1-832	22-2-1001	22-3-1105	22-3-1194
21-11-564	21-2-686	21-5-1174	21-8-212	22-1-839	22-2-1010	22-3-1106	22-3-1196
21-11-565	21-2-698	21-5-1185	21-8-215	22-1-840	22-2-1011	22-3-1112	22-3-1197
21-11-571	21-2-745	21-5-1188	21-8-237	22-1-843	22-2-1017	22-3-1116	22-3-1200
21-11-576	21-2-748	21-6-1235	21-9-289	22-1-847	22-2-1030	22-3-1124	22-3-1205
21-11-579	21-2-751	21-6-1241	21-9-290	22-1-850	22-3-1032	22-3-1126	22-3-1210
21-11-596	21-2-756	21-6-1292	21-9-308	22-1-851	22-3-1034	22-3-1128	22-3-1211

WRITTEN COMPLAINT EXTENSIONS							
21-12-618	21-2-771	21-6-1295	21-9-319	22-1-856	22-3-1042	22-3-1130	22-3-1214
21-12-625	21-3-808	21-6-1298	21-9-321	22-1-858	22-3-1043	22-3-1132	22-4-1215
21-12-626	21-3-883	21-6-1299	21-9-358	22-2-884	22-3-1047	22-3-1134	22-4-1216
21-12-634	21-3-887	21-6-1316	21-9-365	22-2-889	22-3-1057	22-3-1146	22-4-1221
21-12-651	21-3-892	21-6-1325	21-9-366	22-2-892	22-3-1059	22-3-1148	22-4-1225
21-12-653	21-3-903	21-6-1326	21-9-369	22-2-903	22-3-1070	22-3-1151	
21-12-657	21-3-904	21-6-1333	22-1-735	22-2-904	22-3-1071	22-3-1152	

9. **APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION REPORT**

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended to approve a no probable cause determination on 22 cases reflected on the *Applications for Certification Report*.

10. **FINAL DECISIONS BY OPERATION OF LAW**

The Commission reviewed the report, which advised of 23 cases now closed without an appeal for a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge.

11. **FINAL DECISIONS RENDERED BY AN ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE**

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended to accept the ALJ's sanction on the following:

CASE	ORIGINAL SANCTION	ALJ SANCTION	EERC RECOMMENDATION
20-3-1343	Reprimand	NPC	Accept
21-9-262	Suspension 1 year	NPC	Accept

Chair Sirmans called for approval of the Educator Ethics Review Committee report as present by Vice Chair, Dr. Steve Barker.

PSC ACTION: Approved

Abstentions: Derek Easterling-PIDs 22-4-1345; 22-5-1411; 22-5-1506; 22-5-1511; 22-5-1512; 22-5-1513; 22-5-1514; 22-5-1515; 22-5-1516; 22-5-1517; 22-5-1518; PCEs 22-2-1009; 22-3-1063; NCOs 19-7-90; 22-1-774; Clearance 22-2-995; Jeanine Bunn-PID 22-5-1434; OB 22-2-977; Jimmy Atkins-PID 22-5-1447; NCOs 18-7-119; 21-5-1051; 21-5-1143; Abigail Coggin-PCE 20-5-1567; Jane Rookard-PCEs 20-6-1675; 22-2-911; 22-2-929

B. Educator Preparation Standing Committee

Committee Chair, Dr. Holley Roberts, presented the report of the Educator Preparation Standing Committee.

- Morehouse College – The Committee recommends Developmental Approval for the EPP, and the following educator preparation programs reviewed during the Spring 2022 Developmental Approval Review.
 - Biology Education (6-12) [Baccalaureate degree]
 - Computer Science (P-12) [Baccalaureate degree]
 Additionally, the Committee recommends the submission of a progress report due June 8, 2023, addressing the areas for improvement (AFUs) cited during the Spring 2022 Developmental Approval Review.
- Southwest Georgia RESA – As a result of satisfactory progress indicated in the April 13, 2022, progress

report, the Committee recommends removal of the areas for improvement (AFIs) in standards 5.1 and 5.3 for the EPP. In addition, as a result of satisfactory progress indicated in the April 13, 2022, progress report, the Committee recommends removal of the AFIs for the following programs.

Alternative Preparation for Tier I Educational Leadership

- Standard 1.1
- Standard 1.2
- Standard 6.1

GATAPP

- Standard 1.1
- Standard 1.3

Gifted In-Field Endorsement

- Standard 1.3

Reading Endorsement

- Standard 1.5

As a result of incremental progress, the AFIs in Standards 5.2 and 5.4 remain.

The Committee recommends the submission of a progress report due December 9, 2022, addressing the remaining AFIs. The progress report should include data from the August training and follow-up sessions on inter-rater reliability. Additionally, the progress report should provide evidence for how the key assessment rubric descriptors for the Educational Leadership Tier I program measure for, and inform the quality of the knowledge and skills of program candidates, as opposed to checking off the completion of tasks.

3. Central Savannah River Area (CSRA) RESA – The Committee recommends Developmental Approval of the Computer Science Endorsement.
4. Mercer University – The Committee recommends Developmental Approval of the Teacher Leader Endorsement.
5. Mercer University – The Committee recommends Developmental Approval of the Special Education Preschool (Ages 3-5) Endorsement.
6. Northwest GA RESA – The Committee recommends Developmental Approval of the ESOL Endorsement.
7. Northwest GA RESA – The Committee recommends Developmental Approval of the STEM Endorsement.
8. Reinhardt University – The Committee recommends Developmental Approval of the Dyslexia Endorsement.

Chair Sirmans called for approval of the Educator Preparation/Certification Committee report as present by Dr. Holley Roberts.

PSC ACTION: Approved

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Our next Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, July 14th, at 4 pm. We will meet remotely and the information will be posted on our website under Commission Information. The Educator Ethics Review

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Committee and Educator Preparation/Certification Standing Committee meeting will meet on Wednesday, July 13th, at 4:00 pm. Chair Sirmans called for the meeting to be adjourned at 4:44 p.m.

PSC ACTION: Approved