

MINUTES

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION

Remote Meeting via TEAMS Platform

September 14, 2023

The Georgia Professional Standards Commission (PSC) met on Thursday, September 14, 2023.

Members Present

Jimmy Atkins	Nathan Lewis	Beth Townsend
Jeanine Bunn	Dr. Franklin Perry	Carol Williams
Abigail Coggin	Dr. Holley Roberts	Dr. Judi Wilson
Jordan Frobos	Jane Rookard	Vonda Woodall
Kedrione Harris		

Members Absent

Dr. Jennifer Wade	Dr. Brandon Seigler
Derek Easterling	

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 / Jordan Frobos) To approve the agenda.

PSC ACTION: Approved

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Sirmans called for approval of the August 10, 2023 minutes.

PSC ACTION: Approved

V. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

September Birthdays – Mark Kaufman

We have 2 new Program Approval Education Specialists in the Educator Preparation Division – Becky Pennington and Rene Mason. Becky comes to us after serving for 21 years at Covenant College as an education faculty member and dean of social science and learning design. Her 40 years of education experience span grades 2-8, ESL instruction, work as a curriculum specialist, and college teaching and administration. Rene comes to us from Wiregrass Technical College. She served as Admissions Coordinator, Assistant to the

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Executive Academic VP, and Early childhood/Education coordinator/instructor. Within that path, Rene became an instructor and then program director for GaTAPP – the only TAPP housed at a technical college. Her work with TAPP also allowed Rene to become more involved with us as a site visitor team member and chair, and as a member of the Evaluation Review Panel. We are happy to have them both on our team.

I want to take a few moments to share information about our partnership with the Department of Early Care and Learning - Bright from the Start. Beginning in 2010, our agency's Certification Division and DECAL launched the Professional Development System which is referred to as PDS. This is a one-stop electronic repository developed especially for Early Care Education professionals in our Birth thru Pre-Kindergarten classrooms and their professional learning trainers. It includes trainer registration and approval, approved training registration, and the Professional Development Registry. The Registry section allows Early Care professionals the opportunity to record and monitor their verified credentials. A profile unique to each Early Care professional is created in the registry for use in job applications, career planning, Quality Rated, and other incentives.

The certification staff contracted to do this work consists of fourteen staff members. Due to Quality Rated and other incentives, PDS is busy. They have experienced a significant increase in volume like our certification division but they remain dedicated to efficiency and customer service. After thirteen years of collaboration, the PDS team continues to be a vital component in making sure our certification division remains exceptionally responsive to our customers, demonstrating a commitment to our P-12 educators, Early Care professionals, and to the work of our state.

Director of Educator Preparation, Penney McRoy, and Director of Assessment, Anne Marie Fenton and myself presented to the Literacy Council Professional Development Working Group on the impact of HB538 on Educator Preparation and Assessment. I also provided teacher pipeline data.

VI. CHAIR REPORT – No chair report given.

VII. RULES PREVIEW

Anne Marie Fenton presented the Rule for Preview which did not require a vote. Today, we are beginning a new rules cycle, which starts with a preview of rules that will come before you at the October 12th meeting for your Initiation consideration. If initiated by you, the rules will be posted for the 30 day public comment period and come back to you for your adoption consideration at the December 14th meeting. The rules if adopted, will become effective January 1, 2024.

We heard from Dr. Kelli Young, Director, Certification Division, Dr. Penney McRoy, Director, Educator Preparation Division and Mr. David Pumphrey, Assistant Division Director, Educator Ethics Division.

505-2-.195 SCHOOL SAFETY AND ANTI-GANG ENDORSEMENT - It is proposed that GaPSC Rule 505-2-.195 SCHOOL SAFETY AND ANTI-GANG ENDORSEMENT be INITIATED as a new rule with a new number to create an endorsement that will expose qualified individuals to multidisciplinary best practices for promoting and preserving safe schools and for identifying and deterring youth gangs.

505-3-.01 REQUIREMENTS AND STANDARDS FOR APPROVING EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROVIDERS AND EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS - It is proposed that GaPSC Rule 505-3-.01

REQUIREMENTS AND STANDARDS FOR APPROVING EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROVIDERS AND EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS, dated August 15, 2023, be AMENDED to allow out-of-state organizations Accredited by CAEP (without conditions or probation) and approved by the home state (without conditions or probation) to seek GaPSC approval to offer non-credit-bearing certification-only programs leading to initial teacher certification. Clarifications are included related to embedded endorsement programs, approval process requirements, certain definitions, and to remove outdated language. If adopted, approval review application information, policies, and procedures for qualifying out-of-state organizations will be made available by April 1, 2024, with an implementation date of June 1, 2024.

505-3-.02 EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROVIDER ANNUAL REPORTING AND EVALUATION - It is proposed that GaPSC Rule 505-3-.02 EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROVIDER ANNUAL REPORTING AND EVALUATION, dated January 1, 2023, be REPEALED and a new rule with the same... We propose repealing the January 1, 2023 version to remove outdated language related to PPEMs.

505-3-.63 CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION PROGRAM - It is proposed that GaPSC Educator Preparation Rule 505-3-.63 CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION PROGRAM, dated May 15, 2014, be REPEALED and that a new rule with the same number and the same title be INITIATED. The new rule reflects updates to the program content standards and content pedagogy course requirements.

505-3-.70 SPEECH-LANGUAGE ASSOCIATE PROGRAM - It is proposed that GaPSC Rule 505-3-.70 SPEECH-LANGUAGE ASSOCIATE PROGRAM be INITIATED as a new rule with a new name and new number. If adopted, this Service (S) field rule will result in the preparation of individuals at the baccalaureate degree level qualified to support certified Speech-Language Pathologists in school settings. A shortage of certified Speech-Language Pathologists, for which master's degree level preparation is required, has led to diminished services to P-12 children with communication disorders. The need for this field was established by a GaPSC-convened Task Force comprised of individuals representing the Georgia Department of Education, Georgia P-12 schools and school districts, and GaPSC-approved providers of Speech and Language Pathology programs.

505-3-.71 SPEECH AND LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY PROGRAM - It is proposed that GaPSC Educator Preparation Rule 505-3-.71 SPEECH AND LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY PROGRAM, dated June 15, 2015, be AMENDED to update program content standards.

505-3-.72 TEACHER LEADERSHIP PROGRAM - It is proposed that GaPSC Rule 505-3-.72 TEACHER LEADERSHIP PROGRAM, dated January 1, 2020, be REPEALED and a new rule with the same number and title be INITIATED. The new rule includes updated program content standards.

505-3-.76 ALTERNATIVE PREPARATION FOR EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM - It is proposed that GaPSC Rule 505-3-.76, ALTERNATIVE PREPARATION FOR EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM dated July 1, 2023, be AMENDED to change program admission requirements to ensure admitted candidates hold a minimum of a master's degree from a GaPSC-accepted accredited college or university, and to clarify the requirement that candidates must work in leadership positions for at least one-half day or more each day, in keeping with the job-embedded preparation focus of the program.

It is proposed that GaPSC Educator Preparation Rule 505-3-.92 K-5 MATHEMATICS ENDORSEMENT, dated August 15, 2023, be REPEALED and that a new rule with the same number and the same title be INITIATED. The new rule includes the current program content standards.

505-3-.92 K-5 MATHEMATICS ENDORSEMENT - It is proposed that GaPSC Educator Preparation Rule 505-3-.92 K-5 MATHEMATICS ENDORSEMENT, dated August 15, 2023, be REPEALED and that a new rule with the same number and the same title be INITIATED. The new rule includes the current program content standards.

505-3-.104 TEACHER LEADER ENDORSEMENT - It is proposed that GaPSC Rule 505-3-.104 TEACHER LEADER ENDORSEMENT, dated August 15, 2023, be REPEALED and a new rule with the same number and title be INITIATED. The new rule includes updated program content standards.

505-6-.01 THE CODE OF ETHICS FOR EDUCATORS - It is proposed that GaPSC Rule 505-6-.01 THE CODE OF ETHICS FOR EDUCATORS, dated January 1, 2023, be AMENDED to remove outdated references to the Department of Human Resources and make necessary revisions.

505-6-.02 PROCEDURES FOR INVALIDATED OR DENIED CERTIFICATION - It is proposed that GaPSC Rule 505-6-.02 PROCEDURES FOR INVALIDATED OR DENIED CERTIFICATION dated April 15, 2021, be AMENDED to remove outdated references to the Georgia Higher Education Assistance Corporation and the Department of Human Resources.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Chair Townsend called for a vote on Voluntary Surrender Case 23-6-1732 in which an Educator/Applicant voluntarily accepted a sanction of Revocation or Denial 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>
23-6-1732	5, 6, 9	Voluntary Surrender	Accept

MOTION: (Brian Sirmans / Dr. Franklin Perry) To accept the sanction of a Voluntary Surrender.

PSC ACTION: Approved

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

- Chair Townsend reported that the Committee reviewed 73 *Probable Cause* cases during August and September, 2023, meeting and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
23-5-1620	1,4,5a6	NPC
23-6-1725	1	NPC
23-7-111	4,5a2,5a6	Reprimand
23-7-116	1,4,5a6	NPC
23-7-15	5a6	NPC
23-7-22	1,5a6	NPC
23-7-29	1,4,5a6, 5a7	Reprimand
23-7-34	1,4,5a6	Reprimand
23-7-68	1, 5a6	Reprimand
23-7-75	1,5a6	Reprimand

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
23-7-81	1,5a6	Reprimand
23-8-123	1,5a6	Reprimand
23-8-126	1,5a6	NPC
23-8-128	1,4,5a6	NPC
23-8-138	1,5a5,5a6	Deny
23-8-141	5a5, 5a6	Reprimand
23-8-154	4,5a5,5a6	Reprimand
23-8-164	1, 5a6	Reprimand
23-8-217	1, 5a6	Reprimand
22-6-1647	2, 7, 9	Suspension 10 days
23-1-821	1,4,5a6,5a7,8,9	NPC
23-2-1029	2 & 9	NPC
23-3-1187	9	Suspension 90 days
23-3-1237	9	Suspension 90 days
23-3-1238	9	NPC
23-3-1263	1,4,5a6,8,9	Suspension 20 days
23-3-1276	2, 9	Suspension 10 days
23-3-1285	3, 9	Reprimand
23-4-1313	4, 8, 9	Suspension 2 years
23-4-1317	2, 9	Suspension 10 days
23-4-1338	9	Suspension 90 days
23-4-1354	3, 9	Reprimand
23-5-1509	3, 9	Suspension 1 year
23-5-1579	9	Suspension 90 days
23-5-1611	1, 2, 9	Revoke
23-5-1628	2,9	Suspension 30 days
23-5-1632	1,4,8,9	Suspension 20 days
23-5-1644	4, 9	Suspension 90 days
23-5-1663	3,9	Suspension 1 year
23-5-1667	7, 9	Reprimand
23-5-1669	2,9	Suspension 2 years
23-6-1670	2, 9	Suspension 10 days
23-6-1679	5,9	Suspension 1 year
23-6-1685	7,9	Suspension 90 days
23-6-1691	4, 5, 9	Suspension 5 days
23-6-1692	1, 8, 9	Suspension 1 year
23-6-1710	2, 9	Reprimand
23-6-1711	2, 9	Reprimand
23-6-1714	5,9	NPC
23-6-1715	2, 9	Suspension 2 years
23-6-1721	2, 3, 9	Suspension 1 year
23-6-1732	2,5,6,9	Revoke

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
23-6-1738	3, 9	Suspension 1 year
23-6-1767	2,9	Reprimand
23-6-1771	9	Suspension 90 days
23-6-1779	9, 10	Suspension 5 days
23-6-1781	1,9	NPC
23-6-1782	3,9	Suspension 1 year
23-7-8	2, 9	Suspension 20 days
23-7-32	1,4,5a6,8,9	NPC
23-7-33	1,4,5a6,8,9	NPC
23-7-37	2, 4, 9	Reprimand
23-7-40	2, 9	Suspension 10 days
23-7-42	1,4,5a6,8,9	NPC
23-7-46	2, 7, 9	Suspension 10 days
23-7-62	9	Suspension 90 days
23-7-65	9	Suspension 90 days
23-7-88	4, 9	Revoke
23-7-94	1,4,5a6,8,9	NPC
23-7-119	1,4,8,9	Suspension 20 days
23-8-134	9	Suspension 90 days
23-8-210	1,4,8,9	NPC
23-8-219	1,5a6, 8 9	Reprimand

2. Chair Townsend reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 4 *Petitions Issues* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>PREVIOUS SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
23-4-1391	Revocation - 12-23-2016	Deny
23-5-1606	Revocation - 06-11-2015	Deny
23-6-1718	Revocation - 06-05-2018	Grant
23-8-179	Revocation - 05-27-2020	Deny

3. Chair Townsend reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 14 *Settlement Agreements* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATIONS</u>
23-3-1192	Suspension 90 days	Accept
23-3-1272	Suspension 20 days	Accept

<u>CASE</u>	<u>SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATIONS</u>
23-4-1334	Suspension 20 days	Accept
23-4-1409	Reprimand	Accept
23-4-1424	Suspension 30 days	Accept
23-4-1430	Suspension 5 days	Accept
23-4-1434	Suspension 5 days	Accept
23-4-1436	Suspension 20 days	Accept
23-5-1479	Reprimand	Accept
23-5-1549	Suspension 5 days	Accept
23-5-1609	Reprimand	Accept
23-5-1652	Reprimand	Accept
23-5-1662	Suspension 20 days	Accept
23-6-1672	Suspension 1 year	Accept

4. Chair Townsend reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 24 *Negotiated Settlement Agreements* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>NEGOTIATED SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATIONS</u>
18-11-675	2 years	Accept
19-3-1122	NFA	Accept
19-3-1239	NPC	Accept
19-5-1715	NPC	Accept
19-7-37	NPC	Accept
19-9-406	NPC	Accept
20-3-1354	10 days	Accept
20-10-312	NPC	Accept
21-3-855	Reprimand	Accept
21-5-1113	NPC	Accept
21-9-327	5 days	Accept
22-2-999	Reprimand	Accept
22-4-1264	NPC	Accept
22-5-1548	NPC	Accept
22-6-1686	Reprimand	Accept
22-7-90	NFA	Accept
22-8-143	Reprimand	Accept
22-9-443	Reprimand	Accept
22-11-709	Warning	Accept
22-12-776	Reprimand	Accept
23-2-989	3 days	Accept
23-2-1129	Reprimand	Accept
23-3-1204	3 days	Accept

<u>CASE</u>	<u>NEGOTIATED SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATIONS</u>
23-3-1250	Stay (June 2024)	Accept

5. 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>
23-8-146	Additional complaint	Investigate
22-4-1322	Unable effect service.	Hold New App
22-4-1323	Unable effect service.	Hold New App
23-5-1612	Unable effect service.	Hold New App
23-6-1709	Failure to respond.	Hold New App
23-6-1736	Unable effect service.	Hold New App

6. The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the *Preliminary Investigative Determination Report* consisting of 67 new complaints received during the months of August and September 2023.

7. EXTENSIONS – PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIVE DETERMINATIONS

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the 83 *Extensions - Preliminary Investigative Determinations* consisting of the following:

23-8-224	23-8-235	23-8-343	23-8-354	23-8-398	23-8-409	23-9-450	23-9-492
23-8-225	23-8-236	23-8-344	23-8-356	23-8-399	23-8-410	23-9-451	23-9-493
23-8-226	23-8-237	23-8-345	23-8-357	23-8-400	23-8-411	23-9-452	23-9-494
23-8-227	23-8-238	23-8-346	23-8-358	23-8-401	23-8-415	23-9-454	23-9-496
23-8-228	23-8-239	23-8-347	23-8-360	23-8-402	23-8-430	23-9-455	23-9-497
23-8-229	23-8-240	23-8-348	23-8-361	23-8-403	23-8-431	23-9-465	23-9-498
23-8-230	23-8-241	23-8-349	23-8-362	23-8-404	23-8-432	23-9-475	
23-8-231	23-8-242	23-8-350	23-8-363	23-8-405	23-8-433	23-9-488	
23-8-232	23-8-340	23-8-351	23-8-364	23-8-406	23-9-446	23-9-489	
23-8-233	23-8-341	23-8-352	23-8-365	23-8-407	23-9-447	23-9-490	
23-8-234	23-8-342	23-8-353	23-8-396	23-8-408	23-9-448	23-9-491	

8. EXTENSIONS - INVESTIGATIONS

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended granting an *Investigative Extension* to the following 127 cases:

<u>WRITTEN COMPLAINT EXTENSIONS</u>							
23-1-829	23-2-1090	23-3-1304	23-4-1387	23-5-1476	23-5-1552	23-5-1656	23-6-1733
23-1-844	23-2-1127	23-4-1308	23-4-1389	23-5-1485	23-5-1567	23-5-1660	23-6-1741
23-1-847	23-3-1169	23-4-1316	23-4-1398	23-5-1490	23-5-1568	23-5-1664	23-6-1742

WRITTEN COMPLAINT EXTENSIONS							
23-1-848	23-3-1171	23-4-1320	23-4-1406	23-5-1491	23-5-1575	23-6-1677	23-6-1744
23-1-865	23-3-1181	23-4-1321	23-4-1408	23-5-1494	23-5-1576	23-6-1678	23-6-1758
23-2-943	23-3-1191	23-4-1333	23-4-1415	23-5-1516	23-5-1585	23-6-1681	23-6-1766
23-2-947	23-3-1215	23-4-1336	23-4-1421	23-5-1517	23-5-1586	23-6-1683	23-7-14
23-2-948	23-3-1235	23-4-1337	23-4-1426	23-5-1519	23-5-1589	23-6-1697	23-7-19
23-2-960	23-3-1236	23-4-1344	23-4-1427	23-5-1522	23-5-1593	23-6-1701	23-7-21
23-2-1008	23-3-1245	23-4-1348	23-4-1428	23-5-1523	23-5-1607	23-6-1707	23-7-23
23-2-1012	23-3-1249	23-4-1355	23-4-1432	23-5-1528	23-5-1608	23-6-1712	23-7-25
23-2-1027	23-3-1255	23-4-1362	23-4-1433	23-5-1533	23-5-1613	23-6-1716	23-7-27
23-2-1039	23-3-1264	23-4-1363	23-5-1442	23-5-1534	23-5-1629	23-6-1717	23-7-35
23-2-1048	23-3-1280	23-4-1366	23-5-1446	23-5-1541	23-5-1648	23-6-1718	23-7-36
23-2-1054	23-3-1283	23-4-1372	23-5-1466	23-5-1544	23-5-1649	23-6-1727	23-7-50
23-2-1084	23-3-1293	23-4-1373	23-5-1470	23-5-1547	23-5-1654	23-6-1729	

9. **APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION REPORT**

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended to approve a no probable cause determination on 29 cases reflected on the *Applications for Certification Report*.

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

The Commission reviewed the report, which advised of 17 cases now closed without an appeal for a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge.

Chair Sirmans called for approval of the Educator Ethics Review Committee report as present by Chair Beth Townsend.

PSC ACTION: Approv

Abstentions: Vonda Woodall – PCS # 23-8-134, Derek Easterling – PIDs # 23-7-105, 23-7-114, 23-8-315, 23-8-330, 23-8-331, PCA # 23-7-75, PCE # 23-7-8, 23-7-46, 23-8-210, Dr. Jennifer Wade - PID # 23-8-199, Jimmy Atkins – NCO 21-9-327, Jordan Frobos – NCO # 21-5-1113, Abigail Coggin – PIDs # 23-8-231, 23-8-232, 23-8-233, 23-8-234, 23-8-235, PCE # 23-3-1187, Kedrione Harris – PCE # 23-6-1714, Jane Rookard – PID # 23-7-107, PCA # 23-7-22, PCE # 23-5-1611, 23-6-1670, NCO # 22-8-143, Beth Townsend – PIDs # 23-8-156, 23-8-218, NCO # 19-3-1122

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B. Educator Preparation Standing Committee

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

- Fulton County Schools – The Committee recommends Developmental Approval for the Educator Preparation Provider (EPP), and the Georgia Teacher Academy for Preparation and Pedagogy (GaTAPP) Program reviewed during the Fall 2023 Developmental Approval Review.
- Henry County Schools - The Committee recommends Continuing Approval with Conditions for the EPP, the ESOL Endorsement, and the Gifted In-field Endorsement reviewed during the Spring 2023 Continuing Approval Review. The Committee recommends the submission of a progress report due September 13, 2024, addressing the not met standards and areas for improvement from the Spring 2023 Continuing Approval Review.

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-Truett-McConnell University – The Committee recommends Developmental Approval for the Dyslexia Endorsement.

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

PSC ACTION: Approved

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Our next Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, October 12, 2023, at 4 pm. We will meet remotely and the information will be posted on our website under Commission Information. The Educator Ethics Review Committee and Educator Preparation and Certification Committee meeting will meet on Wednesday, October 11, at 4:00 pm. Chair Sirmans called for the meeting to be adjourned at 4:32 p.m.

PSC ACTION: Approved