

MINUTES

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION

Remote Meeting via TEAMS Platform

March 30, 2022

The Georgia Professional Standards Commission (PSC) met on Wednesday, March 30, 2022.

Members Present

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

Members Absent

Dr. Brandon Seigler	Dr. Steve Barker
Dr. Karla Hull	Jimmy Atkins

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chair Sirmans called the meeting to order at 4:04 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/ Dr. Holley Roberts) To approve the agenda.

PSC ACTION: Approved

IV. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Matt Arthur told the Commissioners that this Special Commission meeting was called to recommend the removal of the Program Admission Assessment (PAA) requirement and the minimum GPA requirement for admission into state-approved educator preparation programs and issuance of a Provisional certificate. As an agency we must look at ways that we can address the teacher shortage in our state. We believe that program admission requirements stand in the way of prospective educators enrolling in Georgia certification programs and seeking Provisional certification. We believe that admission decisions, including a minimum GPA requirement, should be the responsibility of the educator preparation provider, not the state agency. Our focus should be on preparation program outputs - what new teachers should know and be able to do, not program admission.

Dr. Kelli Young, Director of Certification, gave a presentation on the benefits which included the following:

- School systems will be able to request Provisional or extend Permit certificates rather than requesting Waiver certificates, which will allow more career-switchers and Paraprofessionals to enter the profession

and reduce the number of Waiver requests. She also shared the number of educators that hold Permit and Waiver certificates.

- Those who would be on Waiver Certificates can be accepted into programs and begin receiving training and support from a GA EPP.
- School systems will not need to utilize strategic waivers, which supports individuals meeting requirements to become professionally certified and remaining in the profession.
- Fewer Georgians will seek training outside the state, in programs over which we have no regulatory authority.

Chair Brian Sirmans spoke briefly about the positive benefits that this change would have in South Georgia. He also gave a real life example of someone who was a college professor and wanted to teach in the high school and his struggles with passing the math portion of Program Admission Assessment.

Matt asked Commissioners for their input and questions. He heard from Derek Easterling and Dr. Holley Roberts.

V. RULES ADOPTION

Anne Marie Fenton presented the rules. On Thursday, March 24, 2022, Commissioners received a rules initiation packet for their consideration to initiate today, Wednesday, March 30, 2022. The packet included the rule amendments necessary to remove the PAA and minimum GPA requirement as program admission requirements, effective July 1, 2022. The Initiate packet contained 11 Certification proposed rule amendments, and two Educator Preparation proposed rule amendments. If initiated, these rules will be scheduled for your adoption consideration, after a 30 day public comment period, at the May 12th Commission meeting, and if adopted will have an effective date of July 1, 2022.

Certification Rules

505-2-.08 PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE-It is proposed that GaPSC Rule 505-2-.08 PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE, dated January 1, 2021, be AMENDED to eliminate the minimum GPA and GACE Program Admission Assessment requirements for Provisional certificate eligibility.

505-2-.10 PERMIT-It is proposed that GaPSC Rule 505-2-.10 PERMIT, dated January 1, 2021, be AMENDED to eliminate the GACE Program Admission Assessment requirement for extension of a Permit.

505-2-.45 MONTESSORI CERTIFICATE-It is proposed that GaPSC Rule 505-2-.45 MONTESSORI CERTIFICATE, dated January 1, 2021, be AMENDED to GACE Program Admission Assessment as a requirement for certification.

505-2-.26 CERTIFICATION AND LICENSURE ASSESSMENTS-It is proposed that GaPSC Rule 505-2-.26 CERTIFICATION AND LICENSURE ASSESSMNETS, dated July 1, 2020, be AMENDED to eliminate the GACE Program Admission Assessment as a requirement for certification.

505-2-.46 MILITARY SUPPORT CERTIFICATE-It is proposed that GaPSC Rule 505-2-.46 MILITARY SUPPORT CERTIFICATE, dated July 1, 2020, be AMENDED to eliminate the GACE Program Admission Assessment as a requirement for issuance of the third year Military Support Provisional certificate.

505-2-.87 HEALTHCARE SCIENCE-It is proposed that GaPSC Rule 505-2-.87 HEALTHCARE SCIENCE, dated January 1, 2021, be AMENDED to eliminate the GACE Program Admission Assessment as a requirement certification in Healthcare Science.

505-2-.90 CAREER AND TECHNICAL SPECIALIZATIONS-It is proposed that GaPSC Rule 505-2-.90 CAREER AND TECHNICAL SPECIALIZATIONS, dated January 1, 2022, be AMENDED to eliminate the GACE Program Admission Assessment as a requirement for certification in any career and technical specialization.

505-2-.143 MEDIA SPECIALIST-It is proposed that GaPSC Rule 505-2-.143 MEDIA SPECIALIST, dated January 1, 2020, be AMENDED to eliminate the GACE Program Admission Assessment as a requirement for issuance of the Provisional certificate in Media Specialist.

505-2-.144 SCHOOL COUNSELING-It is proposed that GaPSC Rule 505-2-.144 SCHOOL COUNSELING, dated January 1, 2020, be AMENDED to eliminate the GACE Program Admission Assessment as a requirement for issuance of the Provisional certificate in School Counseling.

505-2-.145 SCHOOL NUTRITION DIRECTOR-It is proposed that GaPSC Rule 505-2-.145 SCHOOL NUTRITION DIRECTOR, dated January 1, 2020, be AMENDED to eliminate the GACE Program Admission Assessment as a requirement for issuance of the Provisional certificate in School Nutrition Director.

505-2-.147 SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK-It is proposed that GaPSC Rule 505-2-.147 SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK, dated January 1, 2020, be AMENDED to eliminate the GACE Program Admission Assessment as a requirement for certification in School Social Work.

Educator Preparation Rules

505-3-.01 REQUIREMENTS AND STANDARDS FOR APPROVING EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROVIDERS AND EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS-It is proposed that GaPSC Educator Preparation Rule 505-3-.01, REQUIREMENTS AND STANDARDS FOR APPROVING EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROVIDERS AND EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS, effective January 1, 2022, be AMENDED to remove the program admission requirements of a minimum GPA of 2.5 and a passing score on the Program Admission Assessment. Also included are educator preparation provider (EPP) reporting deadlines for entering newly enrolled candidates.

505-3-.05 GEORGIA TEACHER ACADEMY FOR PREPARATION AND PEDAGOGY (GaTAPP)-It is proposed that GaPSC Educator Preparation Rule 505-3-.05, GEORGIA TEACHER ACADEMY FOR PREPARATION AND PEDAGOGY (GaTAPP), effective January 1, 2021, be AMENDED to remove the program admission requirements of a minimum GPA of 2.5 and a passing score on the Program Admission Assessment.

Anne Marie asked the Commissioners if they had any questions. Hearing none, she turned it over to Chair Sirmans.

MOTION: (Derek Easterling / Beth Townsend) To: (1) amend the current rules in Chapter 505-2-Certification, effective July 1, 2022, as follows: 505-2-.08, .10, .26, .45, 46, 87, .90, .143, .144, 145, and .147;

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(2) amend the current rules in Chapter 505-3- Educator Preparation Rules, effective July 1, 2022, as follows:
505-3-.01, and -.05.

PSC ACTION: Approved

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Our next Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, April 14th, 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/Certification Standing Committee meeting will meet on Wednesday, April 13th, at 4:00 pm. Chair Sirmans called for the meeting to be adjourned at 5:04 p.m.