



Professional Standards Commission
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Deborah Wilkes
Chair

F. D. Toth
Executive Secretary

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 12, 2007
TO: System Superintendents, Human Resource Directors, RESA Directors
FROM: F.D. Toth, Ph.D.
SUBJECT: Foreign Language Permit / Certificate Supplemental Information

1. On September 1, 2006, several PSC Certification Rules became effective with updated requirements in the areas of foreign language. These rules, 505-2-.10 and rules 505-2-.126 through 505-2-.139, aligned certification fields with the Georgia DOE-approved foreign language curriculum and adopted new assessment requirements for foreign language permits. One DOE-approved foreign language field, American Sign Language, remains under review and development for the preparation and certification rules.
2. PSC Rule 505-2-.10 now requires completion of both the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) and Writing Proficiency Test (WPT) as eligibility requirements for the Permit. These tests are administered by Language Testing International, with registration and study information available from the link provided in the PSC rule. At the time the rule was passed, ACTFL did not yet have the WPT in place for the languages of Hebrew, Korean and Swahili. For those three language fields only, it was determined to issue permits based on completion of the OPI until the written assessments became available. Effective December 20, 2006, the WPT for Korean officially became available. Applications for Korean Permits received prior to that date will be based on the OPI, however applications received after that date must include documentation for both the OPI and WPT. The PSC will continue to monitor the development of WPTs in the other two language fields.
3. The intent of Georgia certification assessments is for applicants completing Georgia state-approved foreign language programs in French, Spanish, and German to take the GACE assessment. The GACE assessment in Latin will be available in 2007 and will replace the PRAXIS II in Latin at that time. Native speakers applying for a Permit in French, Spanish, or German may complete either the GACE assessment or the ACTFL OPI and WPT. The PSC will also accept the ACTFL OPI and WPT as the "appropriate content assessments" for the other language fields.
4. PSC Rule 505-2-.25 ADD A FIELD TO AN EXISTING CERTIFICATE, para.. (2)(a), enables an educator holding a Clear Renewable teaching certificate to add an additional teaching field by passing the "appropriate content test". In accordance with this rule, educators holding a Clear Renewable teaching certificate who satisfy the ACTFL OPI and WPT in a foreign language field will, upon application, be issued a foreign language teaching certificate in the new field.