

505-2-.07 LEAD PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE

Nature of Amendment(s):

Substantive
 Clarification
 Further Definition

Discussion:

It is proposed that GaPSC Rule 505-2-.07 LEAD PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE be INITIATED to establish the Lead Professional tier of Georgia's Educator Tiered Certification structure.

(1) Purpose. The Lead Professional certificate is part of Georgia's tiered teacher certification system and provides a statewide structure to promote, support, and expand opportunities for teacher leadership in grades P-12 to improve effective classroom practice resulting in higher levels of student learning.

(2) Requirements. The Lead Professional certificate is a renewable certificate issued to employed educators meeting the requirements outlined below:

(a) Satisfy one of the following:

1. Hold a valid, Georgia Advanced Professional certificate; or

2. Have a minimum of five (5) years of acceptable educator experience, as defined in GaPSC Rule 505-2-.25 EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS, and hold a Georgia professional teaching certificate and/or an out-of-state professional teaching certificate for a minimum total of five (5) years. Three (3) of the five (5) years of experience must be earned in the state of Georgia within five (5) years preceding the date of application while holding a professional teaching certificate;

(b) Receive "Exemplary" performance on the annual summative performance evaluation while holding a Georgia professional teaching certificate. (The number of "Exemplary" performance evaluations will be determined when sufficient data on the distribution of Teacher Effectiveness Measure [TEM] ratings from the statewide evaluation system, Teacher Keys Effectiveness System [TKES] is available.) No annual performance ratings for the most recent five (5) years of acceptable educator experience should be below the "Satisfactory" or "Proficient" level;

(c) Meet Georgia's Standards of Conduct; and

(d) Hold one of the following:

1. Teacher Leadership Certification;

2. Advanced degree in any teaching field held by the educator beyond an initial preparation program and reflected on the Georgia educator certificate as outlined in GaPSC Rule 505-2-.33 CERTIFICATE UPGRADE and hold an endorsement in one of the following: Teacher Leader, Coaching, or Teacher Support Specialist;

3. Certification in Curriculum and Instruction or Instructional Technology and hold an endorsement in one of the following: Teacher Leader, Coaching or Teacher Support Specialist; or

4. Valid National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) certification and hold an endorsement in one of the following: Teacher Leader, Coaching, or Teacher Support Specialist;

(e) Pass the Teacher Leadership GACE; and

(f) Have the employing Georgia local unit of administration (LUA) request the certificate according to procedures outlined in GaPSC Rule 505-2-.27 CERTIFICATION APPLICATION PROCEDURES.

(3) Implementation.

(a) Requirements outlined in (2)(b) for the Lead Professional certificate will be determined when sufficient data is available on distribution of TEM ratings on TKES. Until data is available and the required number of "Exemplary" ratings determined, the Lead Professional certificate may be issued to educators who have fulfilled all requirements except for receiving "Exemplary" ratings.

(4) Renewal.

(a) The Lead Professional certificate may be renewed by meeting the following requirements:

1. Satisfy professional learning requirements as outlined in GaPSC Rule 505-2-.36 RENEWAL REQUIREMENTS; or

2. Hold a valid National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification; and

3. Have a minimum of one (1) year of successful teaching experience evaluated by TKES, earned within five (5) years of the date of renewal;

4. Attain a minimum number of "Exemplary" performance ratings on the annual summative performance evaluation while holding a Lead Professional certificate. (The number of "Exemplary" performance evaluations will be determined when sufficient data on the distribution of TEM ratings on TKES is available.) No annual performance ratings received during the validity period of the certificate should fall below the "Satisfactory" or "Proficient" level;

5. Meet Georgia Standards of Conduct; and

6. Have the employing Georgia LUA request renewal of the certificate according to procedures outlined in GaPSC Rule 505-2-.27 CERTIFICATION APPLICATION PROCEDURES.

(b) Educators who have received any combination of two (2) "Unsatisfactory," "Ineffective" or "Needs Development" annual performance evaluations in the previous five (5)-year period shall not be entitled to a renewable certificate prior to demonstrating such performance deficiency has been satisfactorily remediated but may apply to the GaPSC for the appropriate non-renewable certificate as defined by the GaPSC. (See GaPSC Rule 505-2-43 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION):

1. Upon successful remediation as outlined in GaPSC Rule 505-2-43 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION, the educator may apply for the appropriate professional certificate if all other renewal requirements are met. The Lead Professional certificate title will be lost.

(c) If an educator has received no more than one (1) "Unsatisfactory," "Ineffective" or "Needs Development" annual performance rating during the validity period of the certificate but fails to meet the requirements outlined in sections (4)(a)3 or 4 above, the educator shall be entitled to the

appropriate professional certificate if all other renewal requirements are met. The Lead Professional title will be lost.

(d) If an educator fails to meet one of the renewal requirements outlined in (4)(a)1 and 2 above, he or she may apply for a one (1)-year Non-Renewable Professional certificate (See GaPSC Rule 505-2-.09 NON-RENEWABLE PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE). Upon completion of the requirement, the educator may apply for the appropriate professional certificate.

(5) Validity.

(a) The standard validity period of the Lead Professional certificate is five (5) years, with the following exceptions:

1. A Lead Professional certificate issued to an educator holding an unexpired renewable professional certificate is only valid for the remaining validity period of the existing professional certificate; and

2. The standard validity period may be decreased by the number of years for which the educator has held a Non-Renewable certificate, including a Waiver certificate, in the same field.

Authority O.C.G.A. 20-2-.200