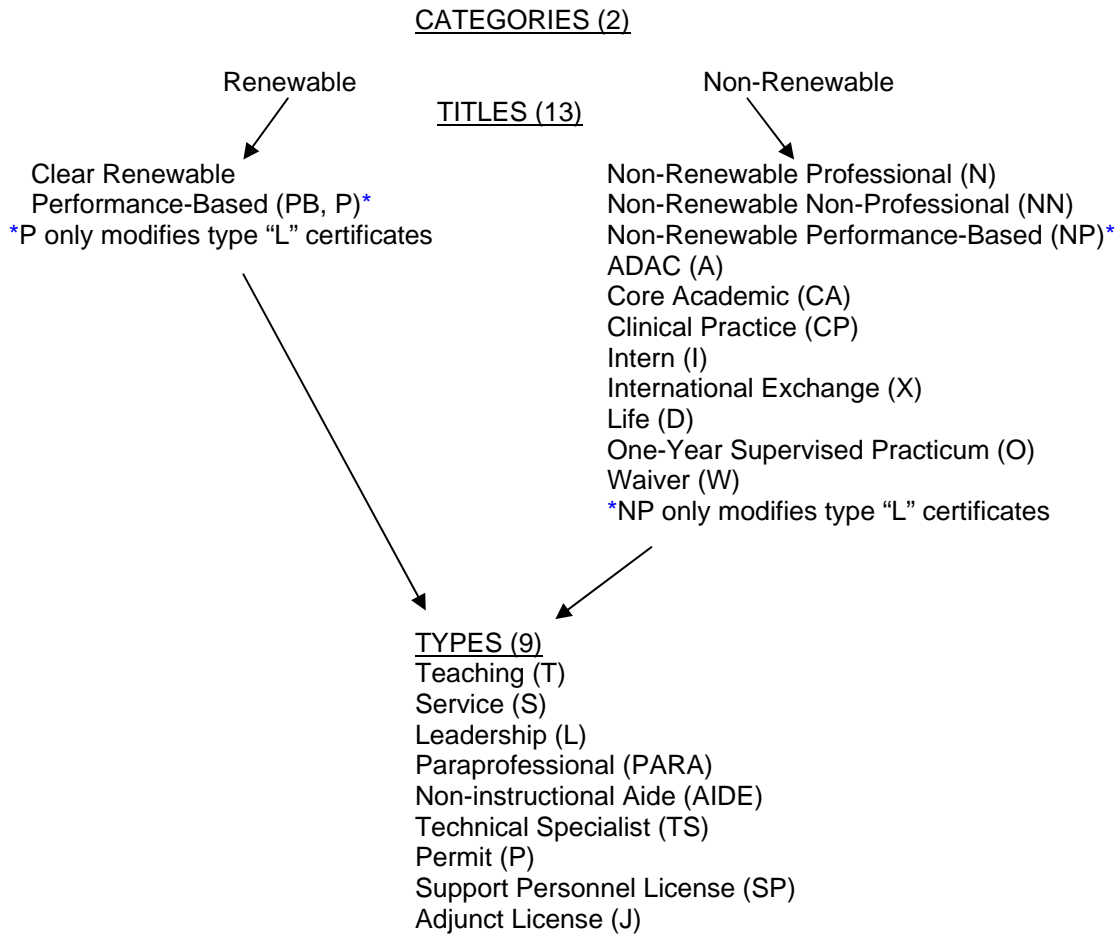


505-2-.02 CLASSIFICATION – CATEGORY, TITLE, TYPE, FIELD, LEVEL

(1) Certification is classified according to category, title, type, field, and level. The commission has authorized the issuance of certificates under the following classification system:



(a) Certificates are grouped under two major categories based upon requirements needed for continued certification. The categories are: Renewable and Non-Renewable. Renewable certificates are valid for 5 years, during which time the educator must satisfy standard renewal requirements outlined in Rule [505-2-.24](#). Non-Renewable certificate validity dates range from 1 to 5 years, depending on the title. During that validity period, the educator must satisfy specified requirements to convert the Non-Renewable to a Clear Renewable certificate.

(b) Titles of certificates identify the subcategories of certificates. The thirteen titles are:

1. Clear Renewable: This certificate indicates that all Special Georgia Requirements and other conditions have been met. The certificate is normally valid for 5 years (with exceptions outlined in Rule [505-2-.03](#)) and standard renewal requirements apply. (Rule [505-2-.03](#))

2. Performance-Based (PB): Performance-Based certificates were issued prior to 1990 under a performance-based evaluation system known as the Teacher Performance Assessment Instrument (TPAI). This title, which applies to most teaching fields and the service field of Speech and Language Pathology, remains in effect for certificates originally issued under the system. The certificate is valid for

5 years and standard renewal requirements apply. Performance-Based certificates are identified by the code letters "PB". (Rule [505-2-.09](#))

3. Performance-Based (P): This certificate type is issued only for the Educational Leadership performance-based programs. In order to be eligible for the certificate, the individual must be employed in a leadership position and have the certificate requested by the employing school system. During the validity period of the certificate, the individual must complete the specific requirements of the performance-based leadership program. Performance-Based leadership certificates are identified by the code letter "P". (Rule [505-2-.300](#).)

4. Non-Renewable Professional: This certificate recognizes initial preparation for certification in the field and is issued at the request of an employing school system under several different circumstances. These include, but are not limited to: former Georgia educators or out-of-state certificate holders who do not meet or exempt Special Georgia Requirements; professional certificate holders assigned to another field who do not meet all certificate requirements for the new field; and certificate holders who must obtain a higher degree level. The certificate is issued for 5 years and cannot be renewed or extended. During the validity period of the certificate, the individual must complete the specific requirements outlined in the PSC correspondence that accompanies the certificate. Non-renewable professional certificates are identified by the code letter "N". (Rule [505-2-.06](#))

5. Non-Renewable Non-Professional: This certificate is issued at the request of an employing school system to applicants who have satisfied minimum content standards but must complete pedagogy and/or Special Georgia Requirements and/or who must obtain a higher degree level. The certificate is issued for 5 years and cannot be renewed or extended. During the validity period of the certificate, the individual must complete the specific requirements outlined in the PSC correspondence that accompanies the certificate. Non-renewable non-professional certificates are identified by the code letters "NN". (Rule [505-2-.30](#))

6. ADAC: This certificate is issued at the request of an employing school system to individuals accepted into an Advanced Degree Alternative Certificate (ADAC) Program. The certificate is issued in 1-year increments for a total of 3 years and cannot be extended beyond that 3 years. During each 1-year validity period the applicant must satisfy specified requirements outlined in the rule and in the PSC correspondence that accompanies the certificate. Advanced Degree Alternative certificates are identified by the code letter "A". (Rule [505-2-.04](#))

7. Core Academic: This certificate is issued at the request of an employing school system to individuals accepted into a Core Academic Preparation Program path for middle grades (4-8) or secondary grades (6-12) only. It is issued for core academic subjects as defined in section 4.01 of the Georgia Implementation Guidelines for Title II-A which is found on the PSC website at: <http://www.gapsc.com/EducatorPreparation/NoChildLeftBehind/Admin/Files/ImpPolicy.pdf>. The certificate is issued for 3 years and cannot be renewed or extended. Core Academic certificates are identified by the code letters "CA". (Rule [505-2-.27](#))

8. Clinical Practice: This certificate is issued at the request of an employing school system to individuals who have held a Georgia Permit at the bachelor's degree or higher, with the exception of JROTC, for a minimum of 3 years, or to individuals who have completed an education program and are eligible for student teaching with the college or university but elected to accept a degree without student teaching. The certificate is issued for 3 years and cannot be renewed or extended. Clinical Practice certificates are identified by the code letters "CP". (Rule [505-2-.28](#))

9. Intern: This certificate is issued at the request of an employing school system to individuals accepted into the Teacher Academy for Preparation and Pedagogy (TAPP). The certificate is issued for 3 years and cannot be renewed or extended. Intern certificates are identified by the code letter "I". (Rule [505-2-.05](#))

10. International Exchange Certificate: This certificate is issued at the request of an employing school system to educators certified in other nations who wish to teach in Georgia schools for up to three

years and cannot be renewed or extended. These certificates are identified by the code letter "X". (Rule [505-2-.08](#))

11. Life: Life certificates were issued prior to July 1, 1974 to educators eligible under requirements in place at that time. Once issued, the life status remains in effect without any renewal requirements for an unlimited time for the fields in which it was issued. Applications for higher certificate levels (upgrades) do not alter the life status for fields previously issued. No new life certificates shall be issued nor shall any new fields be added to life certificate holders with the life title. Considered non-renewable because no renewal requirements must be met, life certificates are identified by the code letter "D." (Rule [505-2-.09](#))

12. One-Year Supervised Practicum: This certificate is issued at the request of an employing school system to individuals accepted into the One-Year Supervised Practicum Program path. The certificate is issued for 3 years and cannot be renewed or extended. The One-Year Supervised Practicum certificate is identified by the code letter "O". (Rule [505-2-.29](#))

13. Waiver: At the request of an employing school system and at the discretion of the PSC, this certificate is issued to individuals who have not satisfied all certification requirements. Valid for a 1-year period, the Waiver certificate is non-renewable and is identified by the code letter "W". (Rule [505-2-.07](#))

(c) Types of certification identify nine school personnel functions: teaching, service, leadership, paraprofessional, non-instructional aide, technical specialist (for selected Technology/Career Education fields only), permitted personnel, support personnel, and adjunct.

1. Teaching certificates are issued in fields that prepare an individual to teach the subject matter offered as a part of the school curriculum. These certificates are identified by the letter "T."

2. Service certificates are issued in fields that prepare an individual to provide support services to students, school personnel and school operations. These certificates are identified by the letter "S."

3. Leadership certificates are issued in fields that prepare an individual to administer or supervise a school system, school, or school program. These certificates are identified by the letter "L." Based on O.C.G.A. 20-2-200, HB 455 and the GaPSC/GaDOE HB 455 Guidelines document, educators completing a leadership degree that meets Georgia leadership certification requirements are subject to the following regarding placement on the salary schedule:

(i) An educator who earns a leadership degree, as defined in the HB 455 Guidelines document, from a PSC approved program on or after July 1, 2010, must be in a leadership position to be placed on the salary schedule for compensation. Any educator who has earned a leadership degree on or before June 30, 2010, will be paid/continue to be paid at the highest degree level held.

(l) "Earned" is defined as a completed degree, as indicated on the official higher education institution transcript.

(II) Leadership degrees that are earned by June 30, 2010 will be grandfathered if they meet Georgia leadership certification requirements. If an educator holds a leadership degree that is grandfathered, and after June 30, 2010, earns another leadership degree, the leadership degree earned after June 30, 2010, will not be grandfathered.

(III) The grandfathering provision for leadership degrees applies to both out-of-state and in-state educators.

(ii) Effective July 1, 2010, the GaPSC will provide the name of any educator earning a degree impacted by HB 455 to the LEA. The LEA, working within the parameters of the definition of a leadership position as outlined in the HB 455 Guidelines document, will determine which educators will or will not receive salary upgrades relative to the completion of an advanced degree in leadership.

4. Paraprofessional certificates are issued to eligible individuals hired as paraprofessionals. The Paraprofessional certificate has no assigned Level. These certificates are identified by the letters "PARA".

5. Non-instructional Aide certificates are issued to eligible individuals hired to perform routine non-instructional tasks. The Non-instructional aide certificate has no assigned level. These certificates are identified by the letters "AIDE". (See Rule [505-2-.14](#) for requirements).

6. Technical Specialist certificates are issued to eligible individuals in the Technology/Career Education areas of Trade & Industry Education and Healthcare Science & Technology Education. These certificates may be issued to individuals who hold high school diplomas/GED or Associate Degrees, as well as those with bachelor's degrees or higher. See Rule [505-2-.39](#) for specific eligibility requirements. These certificates are identified by the letters "TS".

7. Permits are issued at the request of an employing school system to individuals with specific experience in the teaching fields of performing arts (music, dance, drama), foreign language (for native speakers) and the educational leadership positions of superintendent or building principal. See Rule [505-2-.10](#) for specific eligibility requirements. This certificate is identified by the letter "P".

8. Support Personnel Licenses are issued at the request of an employing school system to individuals who serve in positions of leadership over support functions in the local school system. Such positions include but are not limited to: finance, transportation, public relations, personnel, staff development, facilities, planning, evaluation, research, assessment, and technology coordination. See Rule [505-2-.13](#) for requirements. The Support Personnel License has no assigned level. These licenses are issued for 5 years and are renewable. These licenses are identified by the letters "SP". (See Rule [505-2-.13](#))

9. Adjunct Licenses are issued at the request of an employing school system to individuals with specific knowledge, skills, and experience in an engineering, medical, dental, pharmaceutical, veterinarian, legal, accounting, or arts profession, or any other professional position approved by the Professional Standards Commission (PSC) OR who has instructional experience in a branch of the U.S. military (except for JROTC), or in a PSC-accepted accredited college or university. Holders of this certificate are eligible to provide instruction in the core academic subjects in grades 6-12 only, as defined in Section 4.01 of Georgia Implementation Guidelines for Title II-A and is found on the PSC website at: <http://www.gapsc.com/EducatorPreparation/NoChildLeftBehind/Admin/Files/ImpPolicy.pdf>. These licenses are issued for 1 year and are renewable. They are identified by the letter "J". (See Rule [505-2-.40](#))

d) Fields identify the specific teaching subject, service function, or leadership function authorized by the certificate. Georgia certificate fields are listed on the PSC web site at www.gapsc.com.

e) The Level assigned to a certificate indicates the highest degree level recognized by the PSC that has been awarded to the certificate holder. College hours beyond a degree are not used to assign the level. Only the highest degree awarded on an official transcript from a PSC-accepted accredited institution is used to determine the single level that is assigned to all certificate fields held by that educator. See Sections (c) 3. (i) and (ii) above for information related to certification and salary schedule compensation as they apply to Educational Leadership ONLY.

1. General requirements for recognizing certificate levels of education are:

(i) Level One - (Selected Technology/Career Education fields only) completion of a high school diploma or the GED equivalent.

(ii) Level Two - (Selected Technology/Career Education fields only) completion of an associate's degree or one of the following options:

(I) 54 semester hours of acceptable college credit;

(II) a two-year program consisting of a minimum of 2,000 clock hours through a regionally accredited postsecondary vocational/technical school in the field in which certification is requested;

(III) a minimum of 27 semester hours of acceptable college credit or university credit and a minimum of 1,000 clock hours through an accredited vocational/technical school in the field in which certification is requested.

(iii) Level Four - completion of a bachelor's degree or the commission's determined degree equivalent.

(iv) Level Five - completion of a master's degree or the commission's determined degree equivalent.

(v) Level Six - completion of an education specialist's degree or the commission's determined degree equivalent as found on the PSC website at http://www.gapsc.com/Certification/Documents/cert_lvls_degrees.asp; OR completion of a minimum of 36 semester hours of coursework required for a level seven doctoral degree and successful completion of the oral and/or written comprehensive examinations or the institution's determined equivalent.

(vi) Level Seven - completion of a Ph.D. or Ed.D. degree or the commission's determined degree equivalent.

2. The assignment of a certification level to various degrees is contingent on a valid certificate field being held and the degree being awarded on an official transcript from a PSC-accepted accredited institution (Rule [505-2-.22](#)). Certificate levels that are assigned to various degrees and majors may be found on the PSC web site at www.gapsc.com.

3. Degrees with "doctoral" or "doctorate" or "master's" in the degree title are not automatically equivalent to a specific degree level and may result in a determination ranging from level four to level seven. The PSC is responsible for determining what level is assigned to a specific degree.

4. The certificate level, as defined in Georgia, is not a part of the NASDTEC Interstate Agreement and, therefore, does not transfer from state-to-state.

[Authority O.C.G.A. 20-2-200](#)