

## 505-2-.26 IN-FIELD ASSIGNMENTS

(1) The assignment of educators to positions for which they have been prepared and certified (in-field) is essential for providing the best possible educational programs for the children and youth of Georgia. It is the responsibility of the local school system to assure that personnel assigned to certificated positions hold appropriate Georgia certification and are assigned only within the field (subject area) and grade level associated with the certificate held for each assignment during the school day.

(2) All Georgia state-approved curriculum courses have been reviewed jointly by the Professional Standards Commission and the Department of Education to determine the certificates which are considered in-field for each approved course. This information is available through the Certification/Curriculum Assignment Policies (CAPS) found on the PSC web site at [www.gapsc.com](http://www.gapsc.com).

(3) Endorsements recognize additional expertise that supplements base certificates and enables the holder to be assigned in-field in these additional endorsement areas. Specific information on endorsements is found in PSC Rule [505-2-.12](#).

(4) Several areas of assignment do not require a specific certificate field in order to meet in-field requirements, although a certificate in some field is required. These fields include:

(a) Computer Science – An optional Computer Science Endorsement (6-12) is available to provide strengthened and enhanced competency levels for teaching computer science skills in grades 6-12. However, at the discretion of the employing school system, an individual with a professional, valid teaching certificate in any field is in-field to teach computer science in grades P-12. Note: This use of the term computer science relates to general computer labs, etc., but does NOT include the technology education courses associated with Technology/Career Education outlined in PSC Rule [505-2-.39](#).

(b) Hospital/Homebound – At the discretion of the employing school system, an individual with a professional, valid teaching certificate in any field is in-field to teach hospital/homebound students in grades P-12. However, if a student is absent from school for twenty consecutive days or more, a “highly qualified” teacher must be identified for the core academic subject(s) and must be available as the student’s “teacher of record” for content instruction. The “highly qualified” teacher(s) must supervise content instruction through the use of a collaborative model.

(c) In-School Suspension – Because in-school suspension is typically short term, the student’s regularly assigned content teacher is considered the “teacher of record” and would be expected to supervise instruction through the use of a collaborative model. At the discretion of the employing school system, a certified Paraprofessional OR an individual with a professional, valid certificate in any field is in-field to teach in-school suspension students in grades P-12.

(5) For areas in which the commission does not issue or require a specific certificate, local school systems may employ individuals without certification. Individuals with curriculum and instruction responsibilities must be appropriately certified. If a certificate is held in any field, the individual can be listed on the Georgia Department of Education Certificated Personnel Information (CPI) Report.

(6) Local school systems are authorized to employ individuals to work in pre-kindergarten regular education programs who do not hold Georgia certification.

(7) Some certificate fields for Permits and Technology/Career Education will no longer be issued upon the effective date of this rule. Those pre-existing certificates or Permits that were considered clear renewable will continue to be valid and renewable. For certificates and Permits that were “conditional”, all requirements outlined at the time of issuance must be completed within the designated validity period. If all requirements are not completed by the expiration date, policies established by the current rules must be met. In-field educational services authorized by ALL certificates must meet guidelines established by current rules and the Certification/Curriculum Assignment Policies (CAPS) found on the PSC web site at [www.gapsc.com](http://www.gapsc.com).

(8) The Professional Standards Commission may periodically review the available electronic database files to compare certification records with school system staffing assignments. As appropriate, the results of those reviews will be provided to the school system.

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