

505-2-.44 GEORGIA EDUCATOR ASSESSMENT

Nature of Amendment(s):

Substantive  
 Clarification  
 Further Definition

Discussion:

It is proposed this new rule be INITIATED to outline assessment requirements for educators seeking renewable and non-renewable certification in Georgia. This rule provides clarification regarding the criteria for the Georgia Professional Standards Commission's (GaPSC) acceptance of the state-approved Georgia Assessments for the Certification of Educators (GACE), previous state-approved assessment programs, and assessments for fields in which a GACE does not exist. Reference information for assessment requirements to be considered highly qualified is provided.

**(1) Purpose.** This rule outlines specific assessment requirements for obtaining Renewable and Non-Renewable Georgia certification. The Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GaPSC) administers through a testing Supplier educator assessments required for certification. Candidates seeking admission to a state-approved educator preparation program and other Georgia certification applicants must meet the Basic Skills Requirement, which may be met either by passing the state-approved GACE Basic Skills assessment or by meeting any of the exemption criteria accepted by the GaPSC. Georgia certification applicants must also achieve passing scores on the state-approved/state-accepted content knowledge assessment appropriate to the field(s) of certification. Georgia certification applicants for the **GEORGIA TEACHER ACADEMY FOR PREPARATION AND PEDAGOGY (GaTAPP)** One Year Supervised Practicum pathway are required to complete an additional assessment as required by GaPSC. As of September 1, 2006, the Georgia Assessments for the Certification of Educators™ (GACE) is the state-approved educator certification assessment program in Georgia. GACE assessments include Basic Skills, Content, Professional Pedagogy, and Paraprofessional assessments. All GACE assessments are aligned with state-approved educator preparation program standards, national standards, and the state standards for the P-12 curriculum, which are the Georgia Common Core Performance Standards (GCCPM). Information about the GACE program is available at <http://www.gapsc.com/EducatorPreparation/Assessment/Testing.aspx>. In addition to the GACE, there are state-accepted content assessments including certain foreign language fields for which there is no GACE and Technical Specialists fields.

**(2) Basic Skills Assessment**

(a) The GACE Basic Skills Assessment measures the general knowledge of an educator candidate in the areas of reading, mathematics, and writing at a competency level to be successful in an educator preparation program;

(b) As candidates seeking admission to a state-approved educator preparation program must pass or exempt GACE Basic Skills assessment, verification of satisfying or exempting the GACE Basic Skills Assessment is the responsibility of the program provider and is documented on the Georgia Approved Program Recommendation form used to verify program completion;

(c) GaTAPP candidates (One Year Supervised Practicum, Intern, Core Academic, and Clinical Practice pathways), must pass or exempt the GACE Basic Skills assessment for program admission in order to receive a certificate;

(d) Applicants applying for their initial certificate through completion of a state-approved, out-of-state preparation program or by means of reciprocity are not required to meet the Basic Skills Requirement if the GaPSC determines the certificate presented is a professional certificate;

(e) In order to receive a Non-Renewable Non-Professional teaching certificate or the service certificate fields of Media Specialist, School Social Work, and School Nutrition Director, an applicant must pass or exempt the GACE Basic Skills Assessment;

(f) In order to convert a Non-renewable Non-Professional Technical Specialist certificate to a Clear Renewable certificate, an applicant must pass or exempt the GACE Basic Skills Assessment;

(g) In order to extend an initial Permit, an applicant must pass or exempt the GACE Basic Skills Assessment:

1. JTROC Permit Holders employed prior to July 1, 2004, do not have to meet the Basic Skills Requirement;

(h) Information regarding the Basic Skills requirement and exemption criteria can be accessed at <http://www.gapsc.com/EducatorPreparation/Assessment/BasicSkillsInfo.aspx>; and

(i) Information regarding the GACE Basic Skills Assessment can be accessed at <http://www.gapsc.com/EducatorPreparation/Assessment/Testing.aspx>

### (3) Content Assessment

(a) The GACE content assessments test a variety of content knowledge areas as required for certification. Information on the content assessments required for Georgia certification may be accessed at <http://www.gapsc.com/EducatorPreparation/Assessment/Testing.aspx>;

(b) Applicants applying for initial professional certification in Georgia based on reciprocity must pass or meet exemption criteria in (9)(a)2 for content knowledge assessment(s) appropriate to the field of certification prior to the issuance of the Clear Renewable certificate:

1. A Non-Renewable Professional certificate may be issued at the request of an employing Georgia school system to individuals who must satisfy the content assessment;

(c) Georgia-certified educators who complete out-of-state programs leading to certification must pass the Georgia state-approved content assessment; These educators shall not submit a professional out-of-state certificate and content assessment for exemption;

(d) Applicants applying for Non-Renewable Non-Professional certificates must pass the required content assessment applicable to the field prior to issuance of the certificate:

1. For the fields of Special Education, the pre-requisite requirement is the special education academic content concentration(s), which must be verified through an academic degree major or the appropriate academic content assessment(s). The appropriate Special Education field assessment must then be completed before conversion to a Clear Renewable certificate;

(e) Candidates applying for initial certificates issued through the Georgia Teacher Academy for Preparation and Pedagogy (GaTAPP) program may be required to pass the appropriate content and/or Professional Pedagogy assessments, as determined by the program provider, and outlined in Rule 505-3-.05, prior to issuance. Assessments determined not to be required initially must be passed prior to being recommended for Clear Renewable certification by the GaTAPP program provider.

(f) Applicants applying for a Permit must pass the appropriate content assessment(s) prior to issuance;

(g) Applicants applying for an Adjunct license must pass the appropriate GACE content assessment(s) for the field(s) being taught OR hold the appropriate professional licensure for the

profession or field of instructional experience. Refer to the list at [http://devcom/Certification/Downloads/ADJUNCT\\_LICENSE\\_Table\\_of\\_Professions\\_and\\_Licenses](http://devcom/Certification/Downloads/ADJUNCT_LICENSE_Table_of_Professions_and_Licenses); and

(h) Georgia does not have a content assessment for the fields of Audiology (P-12), Dance (P-12), Drama (P-12), School Nutrition Director (P-12), School Social Work (P-12), Speech Education (6-12), Special Education Physical and Health Disabilities (P-12), Special Education Preschool (Ages 3-5), and Special Education Visual Impairment (P-12), and some foreign language fields. In fields for which there is no state-approved, state-accepted content assessment, passing a content assessment for certification is not required. See Rule 505-3-.20 Special Georgia Requirements.

#### **(4) Professional Pedagogy Assessment**

(a) The GACE Professional Pedagogy assessment is designed to assess knowledge and skills in the areas of student development and learning, instruction and assessment, and professional roles and responsibilities. The Professional Pedagogy assessment is required for applicants seeking admission to the GaTAPP One-Year Supervised Practicum (O) pathway to Clear Renewable certification and must be satisfied prior to issuance of the certificate.

#### **(5) Paraprofessional Assessment**

(a) The GACE assessment for paraprofessionals in Georgia covers four areas: reading, writing, mathematics and classroom skills. The Paraprofessional assessment is designed to enable individuals and school districts to satisfy state and federal No Child Left Behind requirements that call for "highly qualified paraprofessionals" in a P-12 setting. These requirements indicate that paraprofessionals working in Title I schools or paid with Title I funds must meet a rigorous standard of quality and demonstrate, through formal state or local assessment, knowledge of and ability to assist in instructing, reading, writing, and mathematics; or knowledge of and ability to assist in instructing, reading readiness, writing readiness, and mathematics readiness, as appropriate.

#### **(6) Educational Leadership Assessment**

(a) The GACE Educational Leadership assessment is designed to assess knowledge and skills for those completing Educational Leadership performance-based programs (programs leading to PL certification at any level) required for educational leaders in Georgia public schools. The GACE Educational Leadership assessment is required even if the educator has previously passed a GaPSC state-approved Educational Leadership assessment (i.e. Praxis, TCT, SLLA).

(b) Applicants applying for certification in Educational Leadership in Georgia based on reciprocity must pass the GACE Educational Leadership assessment or meet exemption criteria in (9)(a)2 for content knowledge assessment(s) appropriate to the field of educational leadership prior to the issuance of the Clear Renewable certificate:

1. A Non-Renewable Professional certificate may be issued at the request of an employing Georgia school system to individuals applying for initial certification who must satisfy the content assessment.

#### **(7) Technical Specialist Assessment**

(a) Georgia accepts the National Occupational Competency Testing Institute (NOCTI) exams for six certification areas. Applicants seeking Technical Specialist certification in one of the following Trade and Industrial fields may choose the NOCTI option as outlined in Rule 505-2-.096 Trade and Industrial Education:

- Construction
- Electronic Technology
- Architectural Drawing and Design

Precision Machine Technology  
 Sheet Metal  
 Welding Technology

(b) Applicants seeking Technical Specialist certification in one of the following fields may choose to satisfy the National Construction Career Test (NCCT) option as outlined in Rule 505-2-.096 Trade and Industrial Education:

Construction  
 Sheet Metal  
 Welding

(c) For Technical Specialist fields where there is no test or industry license or certification as outlined in Rule 505-2-.096 Trade and Industrial Education, two years of full-time occupational experience in the field in which the applicant is seeking Non-Renewable Non-Professional Technical Specialist certification is required.

### **(8) Permit Assessment**

(a) **A GACE assessment may not exist for certain foreign language fields.** For these fields, the GaPSC accepts The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Oral Proficiency Test and Written Proficiency Test, depending upon the language.

1. ACTFL offers nationally accepted oral and written language assessments known as the Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) and Writing Proficiency Test (WPT). These assessments are approved in Georgia for Permits and for language certificates for which no other Georgia content assessment has been developed. The OPI and WPT, which must be administered by a certified examiner from ACTFL, is arranged and coordinated by Language Testing International. The validation of passing levels of proficiency is the responsibility of the applicant and the employing school system. Scheduling of the ACTFL assessments should be arranged by the applicant and/or school system. Contact information for scheduling the ACTFL is available at <http://www.languagetesting.com/>.

(i) The ACTFL assessments for Greek are not Greek (Classical), and are therefore are NOT accepted for the Georgia Greek (Classical) Permit or certificate.

(ii) For the Roman-Based Alphabet ACTFL assessments, the passing proficiency level for the Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) and the Writing Proficiency Test (WPT) is "Advanced—Low."

(iii) For the Non-Roman Based Alphabet ACTFL assessments, the passing proficiency level for the Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) and the Writing Proficiency Test (WPT) is "Intermediate—High."

(b) The GaPSC accepted assessments for foreign language fields are as follows:

#### **ROMAN-BASED ALPHABET**

French (GACE )  
 German (GACE)  
 Italian (ACTFL)  
 Latin (GACE)  
 Portuguese (ACTFL)  
 Spanish (GACE)

#### **NON-ROMAN BASED ALPHABET**

Arabic (ACTFL)  
 Chinese (Mandarin) (ACTFL)

Farsi (Persian) (ACTFL)  
 Hebrew (ACTFL)  
 Hindi (ACTFL)  
 Japanese (ACTFL)  
 Korean (ACTFL)  
 Russian (ACTFL)  
 Swahili (ACTFL)  
 Turkish (ACTFL)  
 Urdu (ACTFL)

### **(9) Exemption Criteria**

(a) The GACE Content Assessment may be satisfied or exempted by meeting one of the following:

1. Educators who hold a valid professional out-of-state certificate and who have completed a minimum of three years of full-time, successful teaching experience in a public or accredited nonpublic school (birth through grade 12) in a state other than Georgia are exempted from the content assessment requirements, except in the field of Early Childhood Education. Documented teaching experience must be submitted on the GaPSC Experience Verification Form. Please review the exemption requirement in detail in the Rule 505-2-20 Special Georgia Requirements.

2. Educators who currently hold or have held a professional out-of-state certificate in another state applying for initial Georgia certification and have passed the appropriate content knowledge assessment(s) required in that state for the issuance of that certificate field are exempted from the content assessment requirements.

3. Educators holding a valid National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) certification in the specific certificate field, with the exception of the Middle Grades Generalist field are exempted from the content assessment requirement. The NBPTS Middle Grades Generalist field does not exempt the Georgia Middle Grades content assessments.

### **(10) Previous State-Approved Assessments**

(a) Georgia honors passing scores on previous state-approved assessments that are dated during the validity period for those assessments. Following are the previous state-approved assessments:

1. Georgia Teacher Certification Test (TCT)

(i) The TCT was the first content assessment required for Georgia certification effective July 1, 1978, and through June 30, 1997;

(ii) Individuals who obtained a passing score on the Special Education Professional Knowledge TCT assessment at the time it was required now meet the assessment certification requirement for Special Education Adapted Curriculum Consultative (P-12) and Special Education General Curriculum Consultative (P-12); and

(iii) The GaPSC will accept passing scores on a TCT assessment taken in a Broadfield area (Science or Social Science) to award certification in the comparable field currently issued.

2. Praxis Series

(i) The Praxis Series replaced the TCT effective July 1, 1997.

(ii) For Georgia certification candidates in the field of Speech and Language Pathology, the Praxis II Speech and Language Pathology Assessment (Test 0330) will remain the required assessment as it is

accepted for national licensing with the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). The passing score may be found at <http://www.gapsc.com/EducatorPreparation/Assessment/passingscores.aspx>.

(iii) The GaPSC accepts a passing score on the Praxis Paraprofessional Assessment taken before June 30, 2007.

(iv) The GaPSC accepts passing scores on the required Georgia Praxis assessment in Educational Leadership (Test 0410) on or before March 15, 2008, and

(vii) The GaPSC accepts passing scores on the Georgia required Praxis Paraprofessional Assessment taken before June 30, 2007.

3. The GACE replaced the Praxis Series for most fields on September 1, 2006; however, the GaPSC accepts passing scores on the required Georgia Praxis assessment taken in its entirety on or before March 5, 2007, except in the field of performance-based Educational Leadership. The GACE Performance-Based Educational Leadership is required for educators completing performance-based educational leadership programs [See 6(a) and 6(b)].

#### 4. The School Leaders Licensure Assessment

(i) The GaPSC accepts passing scores on the Praxis School Leaders Licensure Assessment (Test 1010) taken on or after July 1, 2005, through March 15, 2008.

#### 5. Georgia Paraprofessional Assessment

(i) The Georgia Paraprofessional Assessment was administered July 2002 and November 2002, and was replaced by the Praxis Paraprofessional Assessment.

### **(11) Duplicate Score Reports**

(a) The GaPSC, as a courtesy to the state's educators, can provide certain official test score information for those assessments whose scores are otherwise not retrievable, and verification of highly qualified status. The GaPSC does not charge for the retrieval, validation, mailing of the score, or highly qualified documentation. Complete information on how to request test scores and verify highly qualified status can be accessed at <http://www.gapsc.com/EducatorPreparation/Assessment/testScoreRequest.aspx>

#### 1. Test Scores available from GaPSC:

(i) Teacher Certification Test (TCT) and Georgia Paraprofessional assessments regardless of score report date.

(ii) Praxis I and Praxis II assessments with a score report dated more than ten (10) years ago.

2. For Praxis scores with the past ten (10) years, contact the administering agency, Educational Testing Service (ETS). Complete contact information is provided at <http://www.gapsc.com/EducatorPreparation/Assessment/testScoreRequest.aspx>

3. For any GACE scores, examinees must contact the appropriate testing Supplier for the GACE program. Complete contact information is provided at <http://www.gapsc.com/EducatorPreparation/Assessment/testScoreRequest.aspx>

### **(12) Highly Qualified Assessment Requirements**

(a) For complete highly qualified requirements, including assessment, please refer to Section II of the Title II, Part A LEA Handbook available at <http://www.gapsc.com/EducatorPreparation/NoChildLeftBehind/home.aspx>

(b) For highly qualified questions beyond what is provided in the Title II, Part A LEA Handbook, please refer to the appropriate contact information provided at <http://www.gapsc.com/EducatorPreparation/NoChildLeftBehind/home.aspx>

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