



Georgia Professional Standards Commission COVID-19 Certification Guidance

March 19, 2020 - The Georgia Professional Standards Commission is closely monitoring the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) and the anticipated impact to candidates enrolled in educator preparation programs, Georgia educators and educators arriving by reciprocity, local units of administration (LUAs), and educator preparation providers (EPPs). In accordance with recent guidance from our government and public health officials, we recognize that we must remain flexible and adaptable as the situation continues to unfold. Our focus is on providing support during this extraordinary time while taking prudent and practical steps to minimize disruption to the certification process.

It is the responsibility of the educator or educator candidate to meet certification requirements to the best of their ability within the accommodations offered and the process outlined. It is also the responsibility of the individual to be informed and stay abreast of changes to certification accommodations offered by the GaPSC in light of the circumstances with COVID-19. As conditions change, it will be important to refer back to this guidance often as requirements and guidance may change.

The attached [table](#) outlines flexibility that will be provided to individuals encountering interrupted completion of requirements due to COVID-19.

Please note, qualifying for flexibility will require submission of appropriate application material and supporting documentation. A timeline will be established and posted in updated guidance. If certification requirements include the Georgia Educator Ethics – Program Exit or Georgia Ethics for Educational Leadership – Program Exit assessments, they must be passed before issuance of a certificate, as these assessments may be taken online and are available at all times to registered examinees.

We will do our best to work with individuals on submission of documentation. Unfortunately, flexibility is not available for Verification of Lawful Presence. Please seek an online notary if you and all available notaries are self-quarantined.

What can you do now to assist us in implementing flexibility measures?

- Proactively complete the Personal Affirmation Questions, which will facilitate any upcoming automation efforts. Log in to your MyPSC Account at <https://mypsc.gapsc.org/home.aspx>, click on the Personal Affirmations tab on the left side of the page, answer the questions, and save.
- Continue to view our website for up to date information. Questions should be directed to the Certification Division using the email form available [here](#), selecting the following subject: *How Will COVID-19 Affect my Certification?*

In the coming weeks, we will continue to support educators, LUAs, EPPs, and our state agency partners, as we remain committed to our mission to build the best prepared, best qualified and most ethical educator workforce in the nation.

Georgia Professional Standards Commission
Certification Division Team