

MINUTES

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION

Remote Meeting via Zoom Webinar

August 8, 2024

The Georgia Professional Standards Commission (PSC) met on Thursday, August 8, 2024.

Members Present

Jeanine Bunn	Nathan Lewis	Brian Sirmans
Abigail Coggin	Dr. Franklin Perry	Dr. Jennifer Wade
Derek Easterling	Dr. Holley Roberts	Carol Williams
Kedrione Harris	Jane Rookard	Dr. Judi Wilson
Mark Kauffman	Dr. Brandon Seigler	

Members Absent

Vonda Woodall	Jimmy Atkins
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I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chair Sirmans called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and Commissioners answered roll call for attendance.

II. VISITORS

Chair Sirmans welcomed the visitors.

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chair Sirmans called for approval of the agenda.

MOTION: (Dr. Holley Roberts / Dr. Brandon Seigler) To approve the agenda.

PSC ACTION: Approved

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Sirmans called for approval of the July 11, 2024 minutes.

PSC ACTION: Approved

V. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Georgia Association of Educational Leaders (GAEL) invited me to speak at their summer conference. This meeting is attended by over 1,400 Superintendents and other educational leaders from across the state. It was great to see Chair Sirmans and Dr. Perry at the conference.

I am happy to announce that Governor Kemp has reappointed Nathan Lewis, Kedrione Harris, and Jane Rookard to serve another term. Thank you for your continued service and I look forward to collaborating with you on the work ahead.

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At the July Commission meeting we discussed the GACE transition to Evaluation Systems, Pearson as the new testing supplier starting July 1, 2025. As a reminder, we are requesting that educators and those who prepare educators apply or nominate others to serve on test development, fairness review, and standard setting committees. The bottom line is we need educators and EPP faculty to participate in this important process. Thank you in advance for encouraging GACE involvement where you can.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Ethics and Professional Conduct --Recommendations and Actions on Cases

Chair Kedrione Harris of the Educator Ethics Review Committee (EERC), gave a preliminary review of the cases.

1. Chair Harris reported that the Committee reviewed 68 ***Probable Cause*** cases during August 7, 2024, meeting and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
24-4-1839	1,4,5a6, 5a7 (2022)	Reprimand
24-4-1842	1,5a6	Deny
24-4-1961	1,5a6	NPC
24-5-2206	4,5a2,5a6	Reprimand
24-5-2243	1,5a6	NPC
24-6-2271	1,4,5a6	Reprimand
24-6-2364	1,4,5a2,5a4,5a6	Reprimand
20-7-70	1,5a6, 5a7 (2020-2022), 8, 9	NPC
21-12-681	1,2,9	Revoke
22-1-771	1,9	NPC
23-5-1664	5, 9	NPC
23-8-345	9	NPC
23-8-361	1, 8, 9	NPC
23-10-635	1,4,5a6,8,9	Revoke
23-12-1055	2, 9	10 days
23-12-1061	3, 9	1 year
23-12-1146	8, 9	Reprimand
23-12-1170	9	NFA
23-12-1171	2, 9	20 days
24-1-1354	9	90 days
24-2-1417	9	90 days
24-2-1418	9	90 days
24-2-1419	9	90 days
24-2-1425	9	90 days
24-3-1626	1, 4,5, & 9	CCE
24-3-1702	1,4,5a6,5a7 (2-2-),8, 9	Reprimand
24-4-1847	9	NPC

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
24-4-1855	4, 9	90 days
24-4-1894	1,2,5a6,8,9	NFA
24-4-1907	1	CCE
24-4-1924	4, 9	90 days
24-4-1933	8, 9	NPC
24-4-1940	2, 9	Reprimand
24-4-1944	2, 9	5 days
24-4-1945	1, 2, 4, 9, 5a4, 5a6	20 days
24-4-1946	2,4,9	10 days
24-4-1952	2, 9	Reprimand
24-4-1955	2,9	5 days
24-4-1970	2, 4, 9	10 days
24-4-1971	2, 9	Reprimand
24-4-1972	4,9	1 year
24-5-2031	9	NPC
24-5-2032	2, 9	NPC
24-5-2033	9	NPC
24-5-2034	9	NPC
24-5-2035	5, 9	Reprimand
24-5-2049	5, 9	90 days
24-5-2051	9	NPC
24-5-2053	3, 9	Reprimand
24-5-2058	2, 9, 5a7	1 year
24-5-2061	2, 9	Reprimand
24-5-2071	1, 4, 8, 9, 5a4, 5a7	Reprimand
24-5-2072	9	90 days
24-5-2073	9	Reprimand
24-5-2101	2,9	10 days
24-5-2105	6, 9	90 days
24-5-2153	2, 9	NFA
24-5-2156	2, 4, 9	Reprimand
24-5-2187	4, 9	90 days
24-5-2216	1,4,5a6,8,9	20 days
24-6-2250	2, 9	1 year
24-6-2286	1,4,5a6,5a7 (2018-2022),8,9	Reprimand
24-6-2295	2, 9	Reprimand
24-6-2309	2, 9	5 days
24-6-2312	5, 9	20 days
24-6-2317	1, 2, 9	CCE
24-7-16	1,4,5a6,8,9	NPC
24-7-28	9	NPC

2. Chair Harris reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 1 *Petitions Issue* and brought the

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following recommendation on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>PREVIOUS SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
24-6-2362	Denial - April 14, 2016	Grant

3. Chair Harris reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 3 *Negotiated Settlement Agreements* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>NEGOTIATED SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
23-9-609	NFA	Accept
23-10-805	Suspension 25 days	Accept
24-2-1517	Warning	Accept

4. Chair Harris reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 15 *Settlement Agreements* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
22-3-1200	Suspension 1 year	Accept
23-4-1427	Suspension 3 days	Accept
23-11-1013	Suspension 5 days	Accept
24-1-1234	Suspension 90 days	Accept
24-2-1585	Reprimand	Accept
24-3-1742	Reprimand	Accept
24-4-1799	Suspension 10 days	Accept
24-4-1818	Suspension 10 days	Accept
24-4-1827	Reprimand	Accept
24-4-1960	Suspension 30 days	Accept
24-5-2004	Reprimand	Accept
24-5-2116	Reprimand	Accept
24-5-2139	Reprimand	Accept
24-5-2242	Reprimand	Accept
24-6-2254	Suspension 90 days	Accept

5. OTHER BUSINESS

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the *Other Business Report* as follows:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>FINDINGS OF FACTS</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
NCO 19-4-1400	NFA	Accept
23-7-63	No effective service.	Hold New App
23-11-959	No effective service.	Hold New App
24-2-1421	No effective service.	Hold New App

6. The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the ***Preliminary Investigative Determination Report*** consisting of 97 new complaints received during the months of July and August 2024.

7. **VOLUNTARY SURRENDER**

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the 3 ***Voluntary Surrenders*** listed below in which an Educator/Applicant voluntarily accepted a sanction of Revocation or Denial prior to the submission of an investigative case summary for a Probable Cause Determination.

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
24-5-2059	2, 9	Voluntary Surrender	Accept
24-6-2248	1, 2, 4, 9	Voluntary Surrender	Accept

8. **EXTENSIONS – PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIVE DETERMINATIONS**

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the 35 ***Extensions - Preliminary Investigative Determinations*** consisting of the following:

23-4-1373	23-8-280	23-9-478	23-12-1068	23-12-1140	24-3-1613	24-4-1781
23-4-1427	23-8-321	23-9-513	23-12-1076	24-1-1223	24-3-1709	24-4-1782
23-6-1727	23-8-414	23-10-766	23-12-1077	24-2-1536	24-3-1760	24-4-1870
23-8-201	23-8-417	23-10-806	23-12-1102	24-2-1573	24-3-1768	24-4-1912
23-8-243	23-8-421	23-11-945	23-12-1107	24-2-1583	24-3-1771	24-5-2020

9. **EXTENSIONS - INVESTIGATIONS**

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended granting 179 ***Investigative Extension*** to the following 179 cases:

<u>WRITTEN COMPLAINT EXTENSIONS</u>							
22-5-1513	23-12-1089	24-1-1382	24-2-1540	24-3-1711	24-4-1826	24-5-1998	24-5-2218
23-2-1039	23-12-1095	24-1-1395	24-2-1550	24-3-1712	24-4-1836	24-5-1999	24-5-2220
23-2-1090	23-12-1101	24-1-1396	24-2-1571	24-3-1713	24-4-1844	24-5-2002	24-5-2222
23-3-1191	23-12-1174	24-1-1402	24-2-1577	24-3-1723	24-4-1852	24-5-2003	24-5-2223
23-4-1308	23-12-1175	24-2-1420	24-3-1614	24-3-1724	24-4-1853	24-5-2012	24-5-2229
23-4-1320	23-12-1183	24-2-1435	24-3-1615	24-3-1728	24-4-1864	24-5-2016	24-5-2230
23-5-1593	23-11-1002	24-2-1441	24-3-1619	24-3-1734	24-4-1867	24-5-2017	24-5-2236
23-8-367	23-11-1030	24-2-1445	24-3-1621	24-3-1751	24-4-1877	24-5-2018	24-5-2237
23-8-388	23-11-1031	24-2-1446	24-3-1623	24-3-1758	24-4-1878	24-5-2022	24-5-2238
23-8-416	24-1-1217	24-2-1450	24-3-1625	24-3-1763	24-4-1882	24-5-2024	24-6-2259
23-9-551	24-1-1225	24-2-1462	24-3-1636	24-3-1767	24-4-1891	24-5-2025	24-6-2262
23-10-730	24-1-1231	24-2-1466	24-3-1637	24-3-1772	24-4-1893	24-5-2027	24-6-2263
23-10-735	24-1-1237	24-2-1476	24-3-1640	24-3-1773	24-4-1898	24-5-2028	24-6-2266
23-10-776	24-1-1238	24-2-1477	24-3-1641	24-3-1774	24-4-1899	24-5-2045	24-6-2268
23-10-779	24-1-1239	24-2-1478	24-3-1648	24-4-1779	24-4-1901	24-5-2113	24-6-2270

WRITTEN COMPLAINT EXTENSIONS							
23-10-824	24-1-1254	24-2-1481	24-3-1663	24-4-1780	24-4-1903	24-5-2125	24-6-2281
23-10-826	24-1-1274	24-2-1483	24-3-1664	24-4-1795	24-4-1908	24-5-2129	24-6-2284
23-11-876	24-1-1276	24-2-1498	24-3-1671	24-4-1801	24-4-1909	24-5-2140	24-6-2288
23-11-878	24-1-1316	24-2-1511	24-3-1686	24-4-1803	24-4-1916	24-5-2195	
23-11-879	24-1-1362	24-2-1512	24-3-1687	24-4-1809	24-4-1962	24-5-2199	
23-11-960	24-1-1369	24-2-1519	24-3-1688	24-4-1814	24-5-1979	24-5-2213	
23-12-1080	24-1-1377	24-2-1533	24-3-1695	24-4-1816	24-5-1981	24-5-2214	
23-12-1082	24-1-1380	24-2-1535	24-3-1696	24-4-1822	24-5-1983	24-5-2215	

10. **APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION REPORT**

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended to approve a no probable cause determination on 37 cases reflected on the *Applications for Certification Report*.

11. **FINAL DECISION RENDERED BY AN ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE**

The Commission reviewed the *Final Decision* below and recommended to accept the ALJ sanction.

<u>CASE</u>	<u>ORIGINAL SANCTION</u>	<u>ALJ SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
19-4-1478	Revocation	NPC	Accept

12. **FINAL DECISIONS BY OPERATION OF LAW**

The Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed the report which advised of 35 cases that have been closed without an appeal for a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge.

Chair Sirmans called for approval of the Educator Ethics Review Committee report as present by Kedrione Harris.

PSC ACTION: Approved

Abstentions: Derek Easterling – PID Case 24-6-2351, PCE Cases 24-4-1952, 24-4-1970, 24-5-2058, 24-5-2156, 24-5-2187, Dr. Franklin Perry – PCE Case 24-4-1855, Jimmy Atkins PCA Case - 24-4-1842, Jane Rookard, PID Cases 24-6-2338, 24-6-2397, 24-7-33

B. Educator Preparation Standing Committee

Committee Chair, Dr. Holley Roberts, presented the report of the Educator Preparation Standing Committee.

Clarke County School District – As a result of satisfactory progress evident in the June 10, 2024, Progress Report, the Committee recommends the removal of the Areas for Improvement (AFIs) in Standard 1.1 and Standard 1.2 cited during the Spring 2021 Continuing Approval Review for the ESOL Endorsement.

Additionally, while incremental progress is evident in the June 10, 2024, Progress Report, the Committee recommends the following stipulations be reclassified as AFIs for the EPP.

- Standard 5.1
- Standard 5.2

- Standard 5.3

The Committee recommends the submission of a progress report due August 7, 2025, addressing the reclassified AFIs in **Standard 5.1, Standard 5.3, and Standard 5.5**. The progress report should include actual data, and an explanation of how the EPP uses these data to assure change is ongoing and results in improvement. The progress report should include data analyzed during advisory board meetings, and data to substantiate how the EPP assures performance in meeting its goals. The progress report should explain how quality assurance is monitored and measured by the EPP through the analysis of data.

Clayton State University - As a result of satisfactory progress evident in the April 18, 2024, Progress Report, the Committee recommends the removal of the following AFIs for the EPP, History, and Biology Programs.

- Standard 4.2 (EPP)
- Standard 1.1 and 1.2 (Biology Education)
- Standard 1.1 and 1.2 (History Education)

Additionally, as a result of incremental progress evident in the April 18, 2024, Progress Report, the Committee recommends the AFIs in Standard 6.6 remain for the Music Education Program, and the ESOL Endorsement.

The Committee recommends the submission of a progress report due February 7, 2025, addressing the remaining AFIs in Standard 6.6 for Music Education and the ESOL Endorsement. The progress report should include evidence of a systematic process for assuring all candidates have quality field-based learning experiences across all grade bands. The progress report should describe the process by which the EPP assures candidates complete required field experiences and grade bands.

Cobb County School District – As a result of satisfactory progress evident in the April 3, 2024, Progress Report, the Committee recommends the removal of the AFIs in Standard 2.2 and Standard 5.5 cited during the Fall 2022 Continuing Approval Review for the EPP. Additionally, as a result of incremental progress evident in the April 3, 2024, Progress Report, the Committee recommends the stipulation in Standard 5.1 be reclassified as an AFI, and that the reclassified AFI in Standard 5.1, and the AFI in Standard 5.3 remain.

The Committee recommends the submission of a progress report due August 7, 2025, addressing the reclassified AFI in **Standard 5.1**, and remaining AFI in **Standard 5.3**. The progress report should include actual data that the Quality Assurance Team uses to determine candidate success, and the data the EPP uses to determine areas for continuous improvement. The progress report should identify performance goals, and include data to substantiate how the EPP assures performance in meeting its goals. The progress report should explain how quality assurance is monitored and measured by the EPP through the analysis of data.

Morehouse College – As a result of satisfactory progress evident in the February 9, 2024, Progress Report, the Committee recommends the removal of the AFI in Standard 5.2 cited during the Spring 2022 Developmental Approval Review for the EPP.

2024 GaPSC Standards for the Approval of Educator Preparation Providers and Educator Preparation Programs – The Committee recommends adoption of the following additions to Standard 6.7.

- Standard 6.7.1: Tier 1 Educational Leadership – In non-traditional Alternative Preparation for Educational Leadership programs, clinical practice shall be job-embedded, as candidates must be employed in a leadership position for at least a half day every day for a minimum of a 12 month cycle.

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- Standard 7.6.2: Tier II Educational Leadership – In non-traditional Alternative Preparation for Leadership programs, the extended residency shall be job- embedded, as candidates must be employed in a leadership position for at least a half day every day for a minimum of a 12 month cycle.

Chair Sirmans called for approval of the Educator Preparation and Certification Committee report as presented by Chair Dr. Roberts.

PSC ACTION: Approved

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Our next Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, September 12, 2024, at 10 am. We will meet remotely and the information will be posted on our website under Commission Information. The Educator Ethics Review Committee will meet at 4:30 pm and the Educator Preparation and Certification Committee will meet at 4:00 pm on Wednesday, September 11, 2024. Chair Sirmans called for the meeting to be adjourned at 4:46 p.m.

PSC ACTION: Approved