

MINUTES

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION

Remote Meeting via ZOOM Webinar

August 14, 2025

The Georgia Professional Standards Commission (PSC) met on Thursday, August 14, 2025.

Members Present

Jimmy Atkins	Kedrione Harris	Brian Sirmans
Jeanine Bunn	Mark Kauffman	Carol Williams
Jennifer Byrne	Zach Miller	Dr. Judi Wilson
Abigail Coggin	Dr. Holley Roberts	Vonda Woodall
Christy Edwards	Jane Rookard	

Members Absent

Dr. Franklin Perry	Dr. Brandon Seigler
Nathan Lewis	

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: (Kedrione Harris / Christy Edwards) To approve the agenda.

PSC ACTION: Approved

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Sirmans called for approval of the July 10, 2025, minutes.

PSC ACTION: Approved

V. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

The month of August is typically the start of a new school year for the majority of school districts in Georgia and by extension a busy time for Georgia Professional Standards Commission. We want to send our best wishes to all students, teachers and staff, and to administrators and our school systems across the State, for a wonderful school year!

Our first order of business is to officially welcome our newest Commission members just recently appointed and sworn in to office by Governor Kemp. I am going to call on each of the Commissioners by name, ask them to turn their cameras on, and introduce themselves. First on the list is Ms. Angela Byrne, then Ms. Christy Edwards, and last is Mr. Zach Miller. I also have the pleasure of publicly announcing that Ms. Jane Rookard

9/23/2025

Page 2

will be moving into the Vice Chair of the Education Preparation Program Committee. Ms. Byrne will be serving on the Ethics Committee and Mr. Miller and Ms. Edwards will be serving on the Educator Preparation and Certification Committee. I know all of our veteran members join with Chair Sirmans and me as we welcome each of our newest members to the Commission.

As we noted in our last report, we have been sharing information on the development of Ethical Considerations for Appropriate Use of AI by Educators in developing a set of guidance documents. We did discuss this new guidance work at the Summer GAEL conference. Quite a few districts let me know that the information provided important guidance for them. The generative evolution of AI will continue, and our work on this project will also continue as we consider professional development resources for systems to use. We have received feedback from the survey embedded in the document. This information, and more, will be included within the guidance supports to provide users with an ongoing opportunity to suggest any additions or enhancements, and to share helpful resources about avoiding missteps when using AI. To all of our systems, please do continue to share your thoughts via the embedded survey.

Our certification division continues to be busy with a huge rush of applications for initial certification, re-certification, upgrades, etc. with the new GACE scores dropping this month. I'll speak more about this in a moment. Kudos to Dr. Kelli Young and her entire team for their tireless efforts, and their strong customer service with this important work in completing certification responsibilities.

The interview process continues for the new investigator positions, and these recommendations have been submitted to Ms. Fortenberry, our Director of Business Operations. The vetting process is underway, and we hope to have slots filled for the employees to start in September. Mr. Pumphrey and Ms. Fenton (Co-interim Directors) are continuing to keep our Ethics Division moving in the right direction. We will keep you updated on our search process.

The work with SR 237, the recruitment of and retention of educators, is ongoing. We had our first meeting with all agency heads and association leads on July 28. Some great foundational work of narrowing the focus on the group's strategic priorities was done. The Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) facilitated the day's work and then gave us homework to complete in preparation for our next meeting on August 27.

We shared the great news that the GACE implementation came on-line July 1, meeting the established target date. As a reminder the new GACE website is posted at www.gace.es.pearson, which includes costs, information about the new testlet models, preparation materials, FAQs, and more. We look forward to keeping you updated on the GACE as the implementation unfolds. As with any new technology implementation there may be a few "bugs" to work out, but we are pleased with these first steps. As I mentioned earlier, I am pleased to announce that the first GACE scores were posted on August 8. There is a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes to get the scores posted so that Certification and Ed Prep programs can utilize the data. We appreciate everyone's patience as we work with the new process.

Chairman Sirmans and I have confirmed having a face-to-face meeting in September where we can host a retreat for the entire Commission to meet our newest members and also provide orientation and training for our group. Details are still being worked out, but Ms. Shaat has pushed out a "Save the Date" notification and the agenda for our September 11th, meeting is being finalized. If you have suggestions for topics that you would like to learn more about, please let me know and we will work to include those requests.

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.

- Chair Harris reported that the Committee reviewed 47 ***Probable Cause*** cases during August 13, 2025, meeting and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
25-4-1709	4	NPC	Accept
25-4-1743	1,5a6	Reprimand	Accept
25-5-1934	1,5a6	NPC	Accept
25-5-1969	1, 4, 5a6	NPC	Accept
25-5-2019	1, 5a6	Reprimand	Accept
25-5-2037	1,4,5a6	NPC	Accept
25-6-2077	5a6	Deny	Accept
25-6-2088	1, 5a6	Reprimand	Accept
25-6-2172	1, 5a6	Reprimand	Accept
25-7-69	1,5a6	NPC	Accept
25-7-71	5a5, 5a6	Deny	Accept
24-4-1685	1,2,4,9	CCE	Accept
24-4-1809	1,4,5a6,8,9	NPC	Accept
24-9-490	9	Revoke	Accept
24-10-640	9	Suspension 90 days	Accept
24-11-870	9	Suspension 90 days	Accept
24-11-889	8	Suspension 90 days	Accept
25-1-1179	9	Suspension 90 days	Accept
25-1-1267	1,4,5a6,8,9	NPC	Accept
25-2-1278	2, 9	Sus 1 year	Accept
25-2-1389	2,4,9	Sus 5 days	Accept
25-3-1518	1,2,9	CCE	Accept
25-3-1525	9	Suspension 90 days	Accept
25-3-1535	9	Suspension 90 days	Accept
25-3-1600	2,9	Sus 1 year	Accept
25-3-1625	3, 9	Suspension 90 days	Accept
25-4-1675	4, 9	Revoke	Accept
25-4-1721	1, 2, 9, 5a6	CCE	Accept
25-4-1763	9	NPC	Accept
25-4-1781	2, 9	Suspension 10 days	Accept
25-4-1789	4, 9	Suspension 30 days	Accept
25-4-1794	4,9,10	Suspension 30 days	Accept
25-5-1843	9	NPC	Accept

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
25-5-1848	1, 9	CCE	Accept
25-5-1872	1, 9	NPC	Accept
25-5-1884	4, 9	Reprimand	Accept
25-5-1886	4, 9	Reprimand	Accept
25-5-1898	2, 9	Suspension 20 days	Accept
25-5-1899	9	Suspension 90 days	Accept
25-5-1901	1,2,9	Revoke	Accept
25-5-1910	1, 2, 4, 9	CCE	Accept
25-5-1940	9	NPC	Accept
25-5-1942	4, 9	Suspension 30 days	Accept
25-5-1965	1,4,5a6,8,9	Reprimand	Accept
25-5-1966	1,4,5a6,8,9	Suspension 10 days	Accept
25-5-2029	5a2,5a6	NPC	Accept
25-7-35	1,4, 5a6, 5a7 (2018-2022),8, 9, 9 (2018-2022), 10 (2018-2022)	Suspension 10 days	Accept

2. Chair Harris reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 3 *Petitions Issues* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>PREVIOUS SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
25-5-2007	Voluntary Surrender, 05-23-2022	Admin Closure
25-5-2043	Denial, 09-12-2013	Grant
25-6-2194	Denial, 03-31-2022	Admin Closure

3. Chair Harris reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 12 *Settlement Agreements* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
24-5-2183	Suspension 10 days	Accept
24-8-349	Suspension 10 days	Accept
24-11-868	Suspension 1 year	Accept
25-1-1123	Suspension 10 days	Accept
25-2-1405	Suspension 10 days	Accept
25-3-1485	Suspension 90 days	Accept
25-3-1599	Reprimand	Accept
25-4-1680	Reprimand	Accept
25-4-1714	Suspension 1 year	Accept

<u>CASE</u>	<u>SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
25-5-1921	Reprimand	Accept
25-5-1968	Reprimand	Accept
25-6-2056	Reprimand	Accept

4. Chair Harris reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 10 *Negotiated Settlement Agreements* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>NEGOTIATED SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
18-5-1452	Suspension 20 days	Accept
19-11-710	Suspension 1 year	Accept
23-5-1517	NPC	Accept
24-2-1474	Suspension 5 days	Accept
24-3-1615	NPC	Accept
24-3-1723	NFA	Accept
24-10-548	Suspension 10 days	Accept
24-11-886	Suspension 3 days	Accept
24-12-949	Warning	Accept
25-1-1142	Warning	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>
25-5-1874	Unable effect service.	Hold New App
25-5-2006	Supplemental complaint	Investigate
25-5-2010	Supplemental complaint	Investigate

6. The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the *Preliminary Investigative Determination Report* consisting of 129 new complaints received during the months of July and August 2025.

7. VOLUNTARY SURRENDER/VOLUNTARY DENIAL

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the 2 *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 RECOMMENDTION</u>
25-4-1761	3, 4, 9	Voluntary Surrender	Accept
25-5-1961	2, 9	Voluntary Surrender	Accept

8. EXTENSIONS – PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIVE DETERMINATIONS

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the 96 *Extensions - Preliminary Investigative Determinations* consisting of the following:

25-6-2153	25-6-2188	25-6-2202	25-7-3	25-7-51	25-7-129	25-8-178	25-8-208
25-6-2154	25-6-2189	25-6-2203	25-7-30	25-7-52	25-7-130	25-8-179	25-8-211
25-6-2177	25-6-2190	25-6-2204	25-7-31	25-7-53	25-7-165	25-8-180	25-8-212
25-6-2178	25-6-2191	25-6-2205	25-7-32	25-7-54	25-7-166	25-8-181	25-8-213
25-6-2179	25-6-2192	25-6-2206	25-7-42	25-7-55	25-7-168	25-8-182	25-8-214
25-6-2180	25-6-2193	25-6-2207	25-7-43	25-7-56	25-7-169	25-8-183	25-8-215
25-6-2181	25-6-2196	25-6-2208	25-7-44	25-7-122	25-7-170	25-8-184	25-8-216
25-6-2182	25-6-2197	25-6-2209	25-7-45	25-7-124	25-8-172	25-8-198	25-8-217
25-6-2183	25-6-2198	25-6-2210	25-7-46	25-7-125	25-8-173	25-8-204	25-8-218
25-6-2184	25-6-2199	25-6-2212	25-7-47	25-7-126	25-8-174	25-8-205	25-8-219
25-6-2186	25-6-2200	25-7-1	25-7-48	25-7-127	25-8-175	25-8-206	25-8-220
25-6-2187	25-6-2201	25-7-2	25-7-50	25-7-128	25-8-176	25-8-207	

9. EXTENSIONS - INVESTIGATIONS

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended granting an *Investigative Extension* to the following 403 cases:

WRITTEN COMPLAINT EXTENSIONS							
23-2-1039	24-5-2218	24-8-277	24-11-712	25-1-1067	25-2-1403	25-4-1684	25-4-1833
23-2-1090	24-5-2220	24-8-278	24-11-715	25-1-1069	25-2-1413	25-4-1686	25-4-1835
23-3-1191	24-5-2236	24-8-287	24-11-720	25-1-1079	25-2-1420	25-4-1687	25-4-1838
23-4-1308	24-6-2246	24-8-294	24-11-722	25-1-1080	25-2-1424	25-4-1688	25-5-1844
23-4-1320	24-6-2262	24-8-296	24-11-729	25-1-1084	25-2-1425	25-4-1690	25-5-1845
23-5-1593	24-6-2263	24-8-301	24-11-734	25-1-1094	25-2-1426	25-4-1692	25-5-1846
24-1-1254	24-6-2281	24-8-304	24-11-740	25-1-1095	25-2-1428	25-4-1700	25-5-1854
24-1-1377	24-6-2299	24-8-306	24-11-759	25-1-1107	25-2-1429	25-4-1701	25-5-1859
24-2-1420	24-6-2313	24-8-316	24-11-769	25-1-1109	25-2-1436	25-4-1703	25-5-1860
24-2-1577	24-6-2318	24-8-326	24-11-778	25-1-1111	25-3-1441	25-4-1706	25-5-1861
24-3-1621	24-6-2332	24-8-341	24-11-794	25-1-1119	25-3-1445	25-4-1710	25-5-1862
24-3-1625	24-6-2339	24-9-361	24-11-800	25-1-1125	25-3-1452	25-4-1711	25-5-1863
24-3-1671	24-6-2340	24-9-366	24-11-802	25-1-1126	25-3-1453	25-4-1713	25-5-1865
24-3-1728	24-6-2348	24-9-367	24-11-803	25-1-1127	25-3-1461	25-4-1718	25-5-1873
24-4-1814	24-6-2349	24-9-370	24-11-804	25-1-1137	25-3-1469	25-4-1722	25-5-1875
24-4-1816	24-6-2350	24-9-372	24-11-809	25-1-1138	25-3-1478	25-4-1734	25-5-1876
24-4-1822	24-6-2351	24-9-384	24-11-811	25-1-1141	25-3-1499	25-4-1736	25-5-1880
24-4-1844	24-6-2355	24-9-418	24-11-815	25-1-1168	25-3-1500	25-4-1741	25-5-1885
24-4-1853	24-6-2371	24-9-425	24-11-817	25-1-1170	25-3-1508	25-4-1747	25-5-1889
24-4-1867	24-6-2374	24-9-429	24-11-826	25-1-1174	25-3-1524	25-4-1749	25-5-1891
24-4-1891	24-6-2398	24-9-433	24-11-829	25-1-1180	25-3-1546	25-4-1750	25-5-1893
24-4-1898	24-6-2405	24-9-450	24-11-832	25-1-1181	25-3-1548	25-4-1753	25-5-1895
24-4-1916	24-6-2421	24-9-479	24-11-842	25-1-1204	25-3-1549	25-4-1754	25-5-1896
24-4-1937	24-6-2429	24-9-480	24-11-848	25-1-1208	25-3-1553	25-4-1756	25-5-1897

WRITTEN COMPLAINT EXTENSIONS							
24-4-1948	24-6-2437	24-9-493	24-11-854	25-1-1209	25-3-1563	25-4-1757	25-5-1908
24-4-1953	24-7-8	24-9-507	24-11-858	25-1-1210	25-3-1571	25-4-1765	25-5-1909
24-5-1983	24-7-9	24-9-510	24-11-867	25-1-1214	25-3-1574	25-4-1767	25-5-1918
24-5-2002	24-7-31	24-10-526	24-11-878	25-1-1225	25-3-1576	25-4-1770	25-5-1923
24-5-2003	24-7-52	24-10-528	24-11-881	25-1-1244	25-3-1578	25-4-1771	25-5-1931
24-5-2016	24-7-57	24-10-545	24-11-892	25-1-1245	25-3-1579	25-4-1772	25-5-1937
24-5-2022	24-7-58	24-10-558	24-11-893	25-1-1246	25-3-1589	25-4-1779	25-5-1941
24-5-2027	24-7-66	24-10-559	24-11-894	25-1-1256	25-3-1592	25-4-1780	25-5-1963
24-5-2028	24-7-69	24-10-563	24-12-920	25-1-1259	25-3-1593	25-4-1783	25-5-1964
24-5-2029	24-7-71	24-10-565	24-12-943	25-1-1261	25-3-1595	25-4-1787	25-5-1970
24-5-2037	24-7-80	24-10-597	24-12-946	25-1-1269	25-3-1608	25-4-1788	25-5-2031
24-5-2045	24-7-82	24-10-617	24-12-948	25-2-1275	25-3-1609	25-4-1791	25-5-2033
24-5-2057	24-7-106	24-10-623	24-12-966	25-2-1276	25-3-1610	25-4-1792	25-5-2035
24-5-2064	24-7-107	24-10-624	24-12-969	25-2-1277	25-3-1611	25-4-1798	25-6-2058
24-5-2065	24-7-115	24-10-632	24-12-977	25-2-1306	25-3-1615	25-4-1799	25-6-2059
24-5-2080	24-7-120	24-10-648	24-12-986	25-2-1308	25-3-1621	25-4-1801	25-6-2061
24-5-2096	24-7-128	24-10-649	24-12-987	25-2-1310	25-3-1623	25-4-1804	25-6-2062
24-5-2100	24-7-142	24-10-657	24-12-989	25-2-1312	25-3-1626	25-4-1805	25-6-2063
24-5-2113	24-7-151	24-10-666	24-12-1012	25-2-1322	25-3-1629	25-4-1806	25-6-2064
24-5-2129	24-8-161	24-10-668	24-12-1013	25-2-1330	25-3-1631	25-4-1808	25-6-2086
24-5-2140	24-8-162	24-10-673	24-12-1014	25-2-1331	25-3-1643	25-4-1814	25-6-2087
24-5-2142	24-8-213	24-10-674	24-12-1020	25-2-1348	25-3-1644	25-4-1817	25-6-2105
24-5-2155	24-8-223	24-11-693	24-12-1021	25-2-1357	25-3-1652	25-4-1823	
24-5-2180	24-8-236	24-11-698	24-12-1024	25-2-1363	25-4-1663	25-4-1824	
24-5-2190	24-8-241	24-11-704	24-12-1025	25-2-1368	25-4-1672	25-4-1826	
24-5-2199	24-8-243	24-11-705	25-1-1044	25-2-1384	25-4-1676	25-4-1831	
24-5-2213	24-8-276	24-11-711	25-1-1060	25-2-1391	25-4-1681	25-4-1832	

10. APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION REPORT

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended to approve a no probable cause determination on 25 cases reflected on the *Applications for Certification Report*.

11. FINAL DECISIONS BY OPERATION OF LAW

The Commission reviewed the report, which advised of 21 cases now 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 Chair Kedrione Harris.

PSC ACTION: Approved

Abstentions: Kedrione Harris – PID Cases 25-5-1940 and 25-6-2107, Angela Byrne, Christy Edwards, Zach Miller – Abstained from all cases

We will vote on 7 additional Preliminary Investigation Determination cases. The case numbers are 25-7-115 through 25-7-121. These cases were included in the EERC materials that Kimberly Anderson sent to you on August 1st and in the EERC Final Recommendations report that was sent yesterday.

9/23/2025

Page 8

MOTION: (Carol Williams / Abigail Coggin) To approve the recommendation from the EERC committee to approve Preliminary Investigation Determination cases 25-7-115 through 25-7-121.

PSC ACTION: Approved

Abstentions: Angela Byrne, Christy Edwards, Zach Miller - Cases 25-7-115 through 25-7-121

B. Educator Preparation Standing Committee

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

Okefenokee RESA – The committee recommends granting the request for a one-year deferral of the Spring 2027 Continuing Approval Review to Spring 2028.

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

PSC ACTION: Approved

Abstentions: Angela Byrne, Christy Edwards, Zach Miller

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Our next Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, September 11, 2025, at 1 pm. We will meet in-person 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 10, 2025. Chair Sirmans called for the meeting to be adjourned at 4:21 p.m.

PSC ACTION: Approved