

MINUTES

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION

Remote Meeting via ZOOM Webinar

January 9, 2025

The Georgia Professional Standards Commission (PSC) met on Thursday, January 9, 2025.

Members' Present

Jeanine Bunn

Abigail Coggin

Kedrione Harris

Mark Kauffman

Nathan Lewis

Dr. Franklin Perry

Dr. Holley Roberts

Jane Rookard

Dr. Brandon Seigler

Brian Sirmans

Dr. Jennifer Wade

Carol Williams

Dr. Judi Wilson

Vonda Woodall

Members Absent

Jimmy Atkins

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: (Jane Rookard / Nathan Lewis) To approve the agenda.

PSC ACTION: Approved

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Sirmans called for approval of the December 12, 2024, minutes.

PSC ACTION: Approved

V. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Dr. Joseph Barrow gave the following report:

I thank you, again, for your unanimous approval of Governor Kemp's nomination of me as GaPSC's Executive Secretary. I am humbled by it. I also thank and recognize Mr. Matt Arthur for his leadership and service, which are to be commended. I've had a very busy, informative, and enjoyable six days in this new role. I've met with each director individually and collectively and have learned much – especially that there is so much more to learn! Having served in public education for 40 years, I have had many experiences in varying roles at the local school and district level, as well as serving in an educational organization. Having this opportunity to serve in a different role as agency head is refreshing to me professionally and personally. I look forward to bringing my knowledge and expertise from my prior roles to this one – yet know I will gain even more insight as I continue to serve Georgia education in a different way.

As a practitioner and supporter of prospective, new, and veteran educators throughout my career, I do understand and appreciate GaPSC's awesome charge. I have often been brought into an organization to fix something. Coming new into this role, the great news for me is GaPSC already has such a well-known high level of performance, efficiency, and collaboration. The agency is not "broken" and does not require immediate, massive, or emergency course corrections. I thank Matt and GaPSC's excellent staff for this, and I look forward to building on this solid work. The high level of commitment to quality customer service, the strong spirit of collaboration, the deep expertise and experience, and the dedication to ongoing continuous improvement are all highly evident in the staff. I look forward to getting to know and work with each of them, just as I do with you. Just as it is true across this profession, our agency will continue to face challenges, which I prefer to call "opportunities." Building trust with GaPSC staff and with you are important to me. Should we need to make adjustments over time, we will "make haste, slowly" and, as author Stephen Covey notes, "make changes at the speed of trust." To help identify and address potential enhancements, I have developed and will be refining a 90-Day plan. Part of that plan includes completing an environmental scan both internally and externally to learn more about not only what is – perceptions, attitudes, areas for growth, and suggestions about our work, but also what can, could, or should be to maximize our efficiency and service, as well as how we as an agency can contribute to the educator pipeline and effective education across our state. This will be a collaborative process, and I look forward to keeping you informed about the plan, including its progress and results.

As part of my report, I am including only one specific agency item. In the fall, you learned of test development and fairness review committees to help develop our new GACE program, which launches July 1, 2025. As an update, over 50 standard setting committees comprised of Georgia educators and those who prepare Georgia educators are now forming and will begin their work toward the end of January. We are currently seeking educators and program provider faculty to serve on these committees; the information is on our website. The committees' work will help inform your work in setting the passing standard for each GACE assessment. We will start this important process with you later in the Spring across several Commission meetings.

We are currently developing a system that will enhance our systems and services, and we are all looking forward to that work.

In closing, I embrace the agency's mission to "build the best prepared, most qualified, and most ethical education workforce in the nation." I look forward to this responsibility and opportunity and to our work together.

VI. RULES INITIATION

Anne Marie Fenton presented one Certification rule and one Educator Preparation rule which were previewed at the December 12th Commission meeting. The rules listed below came before the Commission today for initiation.

Certification

505-2-.46 MILITARY SUPPORT CERTIFICATE - It is proposed that GaPSC Rule 505-2-.46 MILITARY SUPPORT CERTIFICATE, dated July 1, 2022, be AMENDED to include the professional certificate option based on the revised Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA), 50 U.S.C. §§ 4025a.

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Educator Preparation

505-3-.06 PEDAGOGY-ONLY PROGRAM - It is proposed that GaPSC Rule 505-3-.06 PEDAGOGY-ONLY PROGRAM dated August 15, 2023, be AMENDED to clarify eligible fields and to exclude the field of Middle Grades reading.

MOTION: (Jeanine Bunn / Dr. Holley Roberts) To (1) amend the current rule in Chapter 505-2- Certification, effective April 15, 2025, as follows: 505-2-.46; and (2) amend the current rule in Chapter 505-3- Educator Preparation Rules, effective April 15, 2025, as follows: 505-3-.06.

PSC ACTION: Approved

The rules will be posted for a 30-day public comment period and then come back to Commissioners for their adoption consideration at the March 13th Commission meeting, with an effective date of April 15, 2025.

VII. 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 46 ***Probable Cause*** cases during January 8, 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>
24-7-118	1, 4, 5a6, 5a7 (2022)	NPC	NPC
24-9-457	4,5a6, 8	NPC	NPC
24-10-514	4, 9	Deny	Deny
24-11-810	5a2, 5a6	Reprimand	Reprimand
24-3-1763	2, 9	Suspension 30 days	Suspension 90 days
24-4-1795	8, 9	Suspension 5 days	Suspension 5 days
24-4-1803	9, 10	Suspension 10 days	Suspension 10 days
24-4-1903	3, 9	Suspension 1 yr	Susp 1 yr
24-5-2147	9, 10	Suspension 20 days	Suspension 20 days
24-5-2201	4, 9	NPC	NPC
24-6-2415	9	Reprimand	Reprimand
24-7-138	9	NPC	NPC
24-8-246	9	Suspension 90 days	Suspension 90 days
24-8-249	9	Suspension 90 days	Suspension 90 days
24-9-403	3,9	NFA	NFA
24-9-501	1,2,9,5a6	Suspension 5 days	Suspension 5 days
24-9-506	4, 9	Suspension 20 days	Suspension 20 days
24-9-513	3, 9	NFA	NFA

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
24-10-525	1,4,5a6, 5a7 (2006-2022), 8, 9, 10(2006-2022)	NPC	NPC
24-10-538	1,4,5a6,5a7 (2000- 2024),8,9,	Reprimand	Reprimand
24-10-541	3,9	Reprimand	Reprimand
24-10-548	9	Suspension 30 days	Suspension 30 days
24-10-552	2, 4, 7, 8, 9	NPC	NPC
24-10-553	9	Suspension 90 days	Suspension 90 days
24-10-560	9	NPC	NPC
24-10-562	2,9	Suspension 20 days	Suspension 20 days
24-10-566	2, 9	Suspension 1 yr	Suspension 1 yr
24-10-567	3, 9	Reprimand	Reprimand
24-10-569	2, 4, 7, 8, 9	NPC	NPC
24-10-576	9	Reprimand	Reprimand
24-10-577	9	NPC	NPC
24-10-578	9	Suspension 90 days	Suspension 90 days
24-10-604	5a2,5a7	NPC	NPC
24-10-611	9	NPC	NPC
24-10-618	2, 9	Suspension 5 days	Suspension 5 days
24-10-620	4,9	Suspension 20 days	Suspension 20 days
24-10-625	9	Suspension 90 days	Suspension 90 days
24-10-626	9	Suspension 90 days	Suspension 90 days
24-10-631	9	Suspension 90 days	Suspension 90 days
24-10-647	2,4,9	Susp 10 days	Suspension 10 days
24-10-650	4, 8, 9	NPC	NPC
24-10-651	2, 9	NPC	NPC
24-10-658	1,4,5a6,5a7 (2022),8,9	Reprimand	Reprimand
24-10-676	1,4,5a6,8,9	Reprimand	Reprimand
24-11-733	9	Suspension 90 days	Suspension 90 days
23-11-944	1, 4, 9	Suspension 1 yr	Suspension 1 yr

2. Chair Harris reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 1 *Petitions Issue* and brought the following recommendation on behalf of the Committee:

<u>Case</u>	<u>PREVIOUS SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
24-10-653	Revocation	Grant

3. Chair Harris reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 11 *Settlement Agreements* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>SANCTION</u>
22-9-317	Suspend 1 year
23-11-956	Reprimand
24-2-1571	Suspend 1 year
24-5-2102	Suspend 20 contract days
24-5-2228	Suspend 30 contract days
24-7-48	Reprimand
24-8-179	Suspend 90 contract days
24-8-347	Suspend 10 contract days
24-9-455	Reprimand
24-10-522	Suspend 10 contract days
24-11-696	Reprimand

4. **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>
OB 24-11-777	Additional facts uncovered during investigation, request permission to investigate new allegations.	Investigate
OB 23-10-824	School system response was appropriate for confirmable allegations. No probable cause to take further action.	NPC
24-3-1688	Unable to affect service.	HNA

5. The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the *Preliminary Investigative Determination Report* consisting of 100 new complaints received during the months of November and December 2024.

6. **EXTENSIONS – PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIVE DETERMINATIONS**

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the 63 *Extensions - Preliminary Investigative Determinations* consisting of the following:

24-12-1038	25-1-1065	25-1-1073	25-1-1081	25-1-1089	25-1-1097	25-1-1105	25-1-1113
25-1-1058	25-1-1066	25-1-1074	25-1-1082	25-1-1090	25-1-1098	25-1-1106	25-1-1114
25-1-1059	25-1-1067	25-1-1075	25-1-1083	25-1-1091	25-1-1099	25-1-1107	25-1-1115
25-1-1060	25-1-1068	25-1-1076	25-1-1084	25-1-1092	25-1-1100	25-1-1108	25-1-1116
25-1-1061	25-1-1069	25-1-1077	25-1-1085	25-1-1093	25-1-1101	25-1-1109	25-1-1117
25-1-1062	25-1-1070	25-1-1078	25-1-1086	25-1-1094	25-1-1102	25-1-1110	25-1-1118
25-1-1063	25-1-1071	25-1-1079	25-1-1087	25-1-1095	25-1-1103	25-1-1111	25-1-1119
25-1-1064	25-1-1072	25-1-1080	25-1-1088	25-1-1096	25-1-1104	25-1-1112	

7. **EXTENSIONS - INVESTIGATIONS**

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended granting an *Investigative Extension* to the following 248 cases:

WRITTEN COMPLAINT EXTENSIONS							
22-5-1513	24-4-1779	24-5-2029	24-6-2318	24-6-2430	24-8-210	24-8-319	24-10-527
23-2-1039	24-4-1809	24-5-2017	24-6-2290	24-7-9	24-8-213	24-8-348	24-10-532
23-2-1090	24-4-1816	24-5-2045	24-6-2305	24-7-8	24-8-219	24-8-317	24-10-526
23-3-1191	24-4-1814	24-5-2057	24-6-2273	24-7-31	24-8-208	24-9-361	24-10-535
23-4-1308	24-4-1822	24-5-2065	24-6-2313	24-7-36	24-8-223	24-9-362	24-10-594
23-4-1320	24-4-1844	24-5-2067	24-6-2284	24-7-57	24-8-243	24-9-370	24-10-584
23-5-1593	24-4-1853	24-5-2064	24-6-2299	24-7-56	24-8-239	24-9-372	24-10-588
23-10-824	24-4-1867	24-5-2096	24-6-2281	24-7-51	24-8-236	24-9-366	24-10-597
24-1-1254	24-4-1891	24-5-2092	24-6-2280	24-7-52	24-8-241	24-9-367	24-10-603
24-1-1377	24-4-1882	24-5-2100	24-6-2332	24-7-58	24-8-252	24-9-371	24-10-653
24-2-1420	24-4-1898	24-5-2080	24-6-2333	24-7-66	24-8-272	24-9-380	24-10-666
24-2-1498	24-4-1909	24-5-2113	24-6-2348	24-7-71	24-8-276	24-9-384	24-10-668
24-2-1481	24-4-1916	24-5-2125	24-6-2355	24-7-69	24-8-277	24-9-385	24-10-657
24-2-1477	24-4-1901	24-5-2129	24-6-2339	24-7-82	24-8-279	24-9-402	24-10-665
24-2-1577	24-4-1937	24-5-2142	24-6-2350	24-7-80	24-8-278	24-9-418	24-10-677
24-3-1625	24-4-1941	24-5-2140	24-6-2340	24-7-83	24-8-283	24-9-429	24-10-675
24-3-1621	24-4-1935	24-5-2144	24-6-2349	24-7-114	24-8-282	24-9-414	24-10-680
24-3-1637	24-4-1953	24-5-2155	24-6-2351	24-7-115	24-8-280	24-9-425	24-10-673
24-3-1648	24-4-1948	24-5-2169	24-6-2371	24-7-97	24-8-297	24-9-411	24-10-679
24-3-1664	24-4-1969	24-5-2183	24-6-2374	24-7-106	24-8-301	24-9-433	24-10-681
24-3-1663	24-4-1962	24-5-2180	24-6-2377	24-7-98	24-8-293	24-9-450	24-10-674
24-3-1671	24-5-2003	24-5-2190	24-6-2398	24-7-107	24-8-294	24-9-451	24-10-678
24-3-1687	24-5-2002	24-5-2223	24-6-2405	24-7-151	24-8-315	24-9-443	24-11-693
24-3-1711	24-5-1998	24-5-2213	24-6-2417	24-7-142	24-8-287	24-9-446	24-11-697
24-3-1724	24-5-1983	24-5-2199	24-6-2419	24-7-120	24-8-296	24-9-478	
24-3-1728	24-5-2037	24-5-2218	24-6-2429	24-7-134	24-8-306	24-9-496	
24-3-1695	24-5-2016	24-5-2214	24-6-2437	24-7-128	24-8-304	24-9-480	
24-3-1723	24-5-2028	24-5-2220	24-6-2439	24-7-155	24-8-349	24-9-482	
24-3-1712	24-5-2027	24-5-2236	24-6-2421	24-8-162	24-8-316	24-9-479	
24-3-1734	24-5-2040	24-6-2246	24-6-2427	24-8-166	24-8-341	24-9-490	
24-3-1696	24-5-2018	24-6-2263	24-6-2440	24-8-161	24-8-322	24-9-493	
24-3-1758	24-5-2022	24-6-2262	24-6-2416	24-8-172	24-8-326	24-10-528	

8. **APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION REPORT**

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended to approve a no probable cause determination on 11 cases reflected on the *Applications for Certification Report*.

9. **NEGOTIATED CONSENT ORDER FROM ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE**

Chair Harris reported that the Committee reviewed 9 *Negotiated Consent Orders* cases during the January 8, 2025, meeting and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>NEGOTIATED SANCTION</u>		<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
18-6-1721	Suspension 90 days	NFA	Accept

<u>CASE</u>	<u>NEGOTIATED SANCTION</u>		<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
19-5-1586	Suspension 1 yr	NPC/NFA	NFA
21-11-525	Suspension 2 yrs	Suspension 1 yr	Accept
22-5-1537	Suspension 90 days	Suspension 10 days	Accept
22-10-606	Suspension 90 days	NPC/NFA	NPC
23-7-98	Reprimand	NFA	Discuss
23-8-403	Suspension 20 days	Suspension 10 days	Accept
24-2-1441	Suspension 10 days	Suspension 10 days	Accept
24-4-1789	Reprimand	NFA	Accept

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

The Commission reviewed the report, which advised of 19 cases now closed without an appeal for a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge.

11. **VOLUNTARY SURRENDER**

The Commission reviewed the report, which had 1 *Voluntary Surrender*.

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

PSC ACTION: Approved

Abstentions: Kedrione Harris PID 24-10-567, Abigail Coggin NCO 24-10-541, Jane Rookard PIDs 24-11-872, 24-12-915

B. Educator Preparation Standing Committee

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

- Brenau University – The Committee recommends Developmental Approval for the Speech-Language Associate Program (P-12) [Baccalaureate Degree].
- Clark Atlanta University – The Committee recommends Developmental Approval for the Computer Science Endorsement Program.
- Henry County Schools – As a result of incremental progress evident in the September 17, 2024, Progress Report, the Committee recommends all areas for improvement (AFIs) and unmet standards cited during the Spring 2023 Continuing Approval Review remain for the Educator Preparation Provider (EPP). The Committee recommends the submission of a progress report due October 8, 2025, addressing the remaining AFIs and unmet standards. The progress report should include performance data for the candidates that are enrolled in the Educator Preparation Provider (EPP). The progress report should provide evidence of the analysis of data from key assessments to demonstrate how the EPP uses data to inform operational effectiveness, and track candidate progress over time. The progress report should also indicate how the EPP assures a systematic and sequenced process for tracking field experiences in the Gifted In-field Endorsement program.
- Truett-McConnell University – The Committee recommends granting the request for a one-year deferral of the Fall 2026 Continuing Approval Review to Fall 2027 for the EPP.

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

PSC ACTION: Approved

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Our next Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, February 13, 2025, at 4 pm. 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, February 12, 2025. Chair Sirmans called for the meeting to be adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

PSC ACTION: Approved