

MINUTES

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION Remote Meeting via ZOOM Webinar Platform July 11, 2024

The Georgia Professional Standards Commission (PSC) met on Thursday, July 11, 2024.

Members Present

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

Members Absent

Mark Kauffman

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chair Sirmans called the meeting to order at 4:03 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 / Brandon Seigler) To approve the agenda.

PSC ACTION: Approved

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Sirmans called for approval of the June 13, 2024 minutes.

PSC ACTION: Approved

V. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Matt Arthur gave the following report:

- Congratulations to Abigail Coggin Kedrione Harris. Kedrione will move from Vice-Chair to Chair of the EERC committee and Abigail will be the new Vice Chair.
- The in-person Commission meeting dates have been changed from Thursday, October 10th, and Thursday, December 12th, to Thursday, September 12th, and Thursday, November 14th. Some of the school districts are on fall break in October and December is the end of semester and can be quite

busy for school systems and colleges and universities. Hopefully these changes will make it easier for everyone to attend.

- As a quick update, Georgia was well-represented at the 95th Annual NASDTEC conference, which is the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification, held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. All 50 states belong to NASDTEC as well as other jurisdictions.
- As we have earlier shared, all GACE assessments will transition to a new testing supplier, Evaluation Systems of Pearson (ES), in one year. This means all assessments are changing, including Educator Ethics Assessment, Content Assessments for Teaching, Service, and Leadership Fields, Performance-based Teacher Leadership and Educational Leadership assessments, and the Paraprofessional assessment. I will now share with you a PowerPoint presentation on these changes and answer any questions that you may have.

VI. RULES INITIATION

Anne Marie Fenton presented the rules for initiation. The Initiate packet was emailed to Commissioners last week, which contained two Certification rules; two Educator Preparation rules; and two Professional Practices (or Ethics) rules for their consideration to initiate.

If initiated today and after a 30 day public comment period, these rules will be scheduled for your adoption consideration at the September 12, 2024, Commission meeting, and if adopted, will become effective October 15, 2024. Rules for initiation consideration:

Certification

505-2-.08 PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE - It is proposed that GaPSC Rule 505-2-.08 PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE, dated July 1, 2022, be AMENDED to include Speech-Language Associate as a field for which the Provisional certificate may be issued.

505-2-.151 SPEECH-LANGUAGE ASSOCIATE - It is proposed that GaPSC Rule 505-2-.151 SPEECH-LANGUAGE ASSOCIATE be INITIATED to create a new certification field to align with GaPSC Educator Preparation Rule 505-3-.70 SPEECH-LANGUAGE ASSOCIATE PROGRAM.

Educator Preparation

505-3-.02 EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROVIDER ANNUAL REPORTING AND EVALUATION - It is proposed that GaPSC Rule 505-3-.02 EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROVIDER ANNUAL REPORTING AND EVALUATION dated January 1, 2024, be AMENDED to incorporate a reference to Educator Preparation Provider (EPP) reporting deadlines specified in GaPSC Rule 505-3-.01 REQUIREMENTS AND STANDARDS FOR APPROVING EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROVIDERS AND EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS. Additional changes are made for clarification.

505-3-.08 INNOVATIVE AND EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAMS - It is proposed that GaPSC Rule 505-3-.08 INNOVATIVE AND EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAMS dated May 15, 2014, be REPEALED as this rule is outdated and not compatible with GaPSC data collection and reporting systems.

Professional Practices (Ethics)

505-6-.03 CHANGE OF ADDRESS - It is proposed that GaPSC Rule 505-6-.03 CHANGE OF ADDRESS dated October 15, 2002, be REPEALED as the rule is a restatement of the law and does not add or expound on the law.

505-6-.09 INVESTIGATION INSTITUTED BY SELF-REFERRAL - It is proposed that GaPSC Rule 505-6-.09 INVESTIGATION INSTITUTED BY REFERRAL dated October 15, 2002, be REPEALED as it is a restatement of the law and does not add or expound on the law.

MOTION: (Jane Rookard / Jeanine Bunn) To amend the current rule in Chapter 505-2- Certification, effective October 15, 2024, as follows: 505-2-.08; initiate the current rule in Chapter 505-2- Certification, effective October 15, 2024, as follows: 505-2-.151; amend the current rule in Chapter 505-3- Educator Preparation Rules, effective October 15, 2024, as follows: 505-3-.02; repeal the current rule in Chapter 505-3- Educator Preparation rule, effective October 15, 2024, as follows: 505-3-.08; and repeal the current rules in Chapter 505-6-Professional Practices, effective October 15, 2024, as follows: 505-6-.03 and 505-6-.09.

PSC ACTION: Approved

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 69 ***Probable Cause*** cases during the July, 2024, meeting and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>
23-10-794	4, 9	Deny
23-11-851	5a6	NPC
24-2-1585	1,5a6, 5a7 (2021-2022)	Reprimand
24-3-1650	1,4,5a6	NPC
24-3-1742	5a2, 5a6	Reprimand
24-4-1879	1,4,5a6,5a7 (2016)	NPC
24-5-2004	1,5a6, 5a7 (2019)	Reprimand
24-5-2139	4, 5a5,5a6	Reprimand
22-3-1200	1, 4, 8, 9	1 year suspension
23-1-836	1, 4, 8, 9	NPC
23-2-1127	2, 9	30 day suspension
23-4-1426	4, 9	NFA
23-4-1428	2, 9	Reprimand
23-5-1568	1, 2, 8, & 9	Revoke
23-7-95	9, 5a7	90 day suspension
23-10-825	4, 9	Revoke

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<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>
23-11-842	4,5a2,5a5,5a6, 8,9	NPC
23-11-883	4, 9	1 year suspension
23-11-987	5, 9	10 day suspension
23-11-988	5, 9	10 day suspension
23-11-1013	2, 9	5 day suspension
23-12-1104	2, 9	Warning
23-12-1122	2, 8, 9, 5a7	1 year suspension
23-12-1191	1,4,5a6,8,9	1 year suspension
24-1-1224	9	90 day suspension
24-1-1233	9	90 day suspension
24-1-1234	9	90 day suspension
24-1-1347	8, 9, 5a2, 5a4	Reprimand
24-2-1424	9	Reprimand
24-2-1541	1,4,5a6, 5a7 (2022) ,8,9	NPC
24-3-1757	1,2,9	CCE
24-3-1761	2, 9	20 day suspension
24-3-1764	2,4,9	Reprimand
24-3-1765	1, 2, 4, & 9	CCE
24-4-1778	1,9	2 year suspension
24-4-1784	2, 9	NPC
24-4-1785	2, 9	NPC
24-4-1789	2,9	Reprimand
24-4-1796	2, 4, 9	NPC
24-4-1798	2,4,9	Reprimand
24-4-1799	2,4,9	10 day suspension
24-4-1800	2,4,9	Reprimand
24-4-1827	1,4,5a6,5a7 (2021-2022),8,9	Reprimand
24-4-1850	2 & 9	Reprimand
24-4-1857	2, 9	10 day suspension
24-4-1859	4, 5, 9	Reprimand
24-4-1866	1, 2, 4, 9	CCE
24-4-1871	4, 9	1 year suspension
24-4-1872	3,9	1 year suspension
24-4-1888	1,4,5a6,5a7 (2010-2022),8,9	NPC
24-4-1900	8,9	NPC
24-4-1902	1, 4, 5, 9	Revoke
24-4-1907	1,9	CCE
24-4-1938	2,9	Reprimand
24-4-1949	1, 9	CCE
24-4-1960	4,9	30 day suspension
24-4-1975	1, 9	CCE
24-5-1990	1,4,5a6,5a7 (2015-2022), 8,9	10 day suspension
24-5-2014	1,4,5a6,5a7 (2007-2022), 8,9	NPC
24-5-2036	5, 9	NPC

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>
24-5-2044	1,4,5a6, 5a7 (1988-2015),8,9	NPC
24-5-2046	1,4,5a6,5a7 (2018-2022),8,9	NPC
24-5-2050	4,9	NPC
24-5-2116	4,5a6, 5a7 (2022),8,9	Reprimand
24-5-2136	2,5a6,5a7 (2019-2022),8,9	20 day suspension
24-5-2209	1,4,5a6,8,9	NPC
24-5-2239	1,4,5a6, 5a7 (2014-2022), 8,9	10 day suspension
24-5-2242	5a2,5a6,8,9	Reprimand
24-6-2254	4,5a2,5a6,5a7 (2022) 8,9	90 day suspension

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

<u>CASE</u>	<u>PREVIOUS SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
24-5-2207	Revocation - 04/19/2021	Deny
24-5-2208	Revocation - 04/14/2022	Grant

3. Chair Harris reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 14 *Settlement Agreements* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
23-10-788	Suspension 10 days	Accept
23-10-801	Suspension 5 days	Accept
24-2-1510	Suspension 90 days	Accept
24-3-1668	Reprimand	Accept
24-3-1674	Suspension 90 days	Accept
24-3-1714	Suspension 20 days	Accept
24-3-1731	Reprimand	Accept
24-3-1752	Reprimand	Accept
24-3-1754	Reprimand	Accept
24-4-1829	Reprimand	Accept
24-4-1851	Reprimand	Accept
24-5-1992	Reprimand	Accept
24-5-2005	Reprimand	Accept
24-5-2130	Reprimand	Accept

4. Chair Harris reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 14 *Negotiated Settlement Agreements* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>NEGOTIATED SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
18-11-707	NFA	Accept
19-10-609	NFA	Accept
20-9-279	NFA	Accept
21-7-37	NFA	Accept
22-10-523	NFA	Accept
22-10-559	Reprimand	Accept
23-3-1181	5 days	Accept
23-4-1422	Reprimand	Accept
23-7-71	NPC	Accept
23-8-327	Warning	Accept
23-12-1126	NFA	Accept
24-2-1507	Reprimand	Accept
24-2-1552	NFA	Accept
24-4-1868	10 day suspension	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 23-2-1092	1 year suspension	42 day suspension	Accept
NCO 19-4-1400	Revocation	NFA	Tabled until August
24-7-28	Amended complaint		Investigate
24-5-2030	Correct the subject educator.		Admin Close
23-8-304	Failure to respond.		Hold New App
23-8-412	No effective service.		Hold New App
23-12-1075	Failure to provide requested documents.		Hold New App
24-1-1348	No effective service.		Hold New App
24-1-1350	No effective service.		Hold New App
24-3-1670	No effective service.		Hold New App
24-4-1790	Failure to respond.		Hold New App

6. The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the *Preliminary Investigative Determination Report* consisting of 118 new complaints received during the months of June and July 2024.

7. **EXTENSIONS – PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIVE DETERMINATIONS**

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of 121 **Extensions - Preliminary Investigative Determinations** consisting of the following:

24-6-2325	24-6-2341	24-6-2357	24-6-2397	24-6-2416	24-6-2432	24-7-33	24-7-49
24-6-2326	24-6-2342	24-6-2358	24-6-2398	24-6-2417	24-6-2433	24-7-34	24-7-50
24-6-2327	24-6-2343	24-6-2359	24-6-2399	24-6-2418	24-6-2434	24-7-35	24-7-51

24-6-2328	24-6-2344	24-6-2360	24-6-2400	24-6-2419	24-6-2435	24-7-36	24-7-52
24-6-2329	24-6-2345	24-6-2361	24-6-2401	24-6-2420	24-6-2436	24-7-37	24-7-53
24-6-2330	24-6-2346	24-6-2368	24-6-2402	24-6-2421	24-6-2437	24-7-38	24-7-54
24-6-2331	24-6-2347	24-6-2382	24-6-2403	24-6-2422	24-6-2438	24-7-39	24-7-55
24-6-2332	24-6-2348	24-6-2387	24-6-2404	24-6-2423	24-6-2439	24-7-40	24-7-56
24-6-2333	24-6-2349	24-6-2388	24-6-2405	24-6-2424	24-6-2440	24-7-41	24-7-57
24-6-2334	24-6-2350	24-6-2389	24-6-2406	24-6-2425	24-6-2441	24-7-42	
24-6-2335	24-6-2351	24-6-2391	24-6-2407	24-6-2426	24-6-2442	24-7-43	
24-6-2336	24-6-2352	24-6-2392	24-6-2408	24-6-2427	24-6-2443	24-7-44	
24-6-2337	24-6-2353	24-6-2393	24-6-2409	24-6-2428	24-6-2444	24-7-45	
24-6-2338	24-6-2354	24-6-2394	24-6-2410	24-6-2429	24-7-28	24-7-46	
24-6-2339	24-6-2355	24-6-2395	24-6-2411	24-6-2430	24-7-31	24-7-47	
24-6-2340	24-6-2356	24-6-2396	24-6-2415	24-6-2431	24-7-32	24-7-48	

8. EXTENSIONS - INVESTIGATIONS

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended granting an *Investigative Extension* to the following 201 cases:

WRITTEN COMPLAINT EXTENSIONS							
22-5-1513	23-12-1089	24-1-1239	24-2-1466	24-3-1640	24-3-1759	24-4-1853	24-5-1981
23-10-635	23-12-1095	24-1-1254	24-2-1476	24-3-1641	24-3-1763	24-4-1855	24-5-1983
23-10-730	23-12-1101	24-1-1274	24-2-1477	24-3-1648	24-3-1767	24-4-1864	24-5-1995
23-10-735	23-12-1146	24-1-1276	24-2-1478	24-3-1663	24-3-1772	24-4-1867	24-5-1998
23-10-739	23-12-1170	24-1-1316	24-2-1481	24-3-1664	24-3-1773	24-4-1877	24-5-1999
23-10-749	23-12-1171	24-1-1362	24-2-1483	24-3-1671	24-3-1774	24-4-1878	24-5-2000
23-10-776	23-12-1174	24-1-1369	24-2-1493	24-3-1686	24-3-1777	24-4-1882	24-5-2002
23-10-779	23-12-1175	24-1-1377	24-2-1498	24-3-1687	24-4-1779	24-4-1883	24-5-2003
23-10-824	23-12-1183	24-1-1380	24-2-1511	24-3-1688	24-4-1780	24-4-1891	24-5-2010
23-10-826	23-2-1039	24-1-1382	24-2-1512	24-3-1695	24-4-1795	24-4-1893	24-5-2012
23-11-876	23-2-1090	24-1-1395	24-2-1519	24-3-1696	24-4-1801	24-4-1894	24-5-2016
23-11-878	23-3-1191	24-1-1396	24-2-1533	24-3-1702	24-4-1803	24-4-1895	24-5-2017
23-11-879	23-4-1308	24-1-1402	24-2-1535	24-3-1703	24-4-1809	24-4-1896	24-5-2018
23-11-927	23-4-1320	24-2-1418	24-2-1540	24-3-1711	24-4-1810	24-4-1898	24-5-2022
23-11-960	23-5-1593	24-2-1419	24-2-1550	24-3-1712	24-4-1814	24-4-1899	24-5-2024
23-11-988	23-5-1664	24-2-1420	24-2-1571	24-3-1713	24-4-1816	24-4-1901	24-5-2025
23-11-1002	23-7-63	24-2-1421	24-2-1577	24-3-1723	24-4-1822	24-4-1903	24-5-2027
23-11-1030	23-8-367	24-2-1422	24-3-1614	24-3-1724	24-4-1823	24-4-1908	24-5-2028
23-11-1031	23-8-388	24-2-1425	24-3-1615	24-3-1728	24-4-1826	24-4-1909	24-5-2045
23-11-1033	23-8-416	24-2-1435	24-3-1619	24-3-1734	24-4-1835	24-4-1916	
23-11-1038	23-9-551	24-2-1441	24-3-1621	24-3-1738	24-4-1836	24-4-1920	
23-11-1053	24-1-1217	24-2-1443	24-3-1623	24-3-1741	24-4-1839	24-4-1961	
23-12-1055	24-1-1225	24-2-1445	24-3-1625	24-3-1746	24-4-1842	24-4-1962	
23-12-1061	24-1-1231	24-2-1446	24-3-1626	24-3-1747	24-4-1844	24-5-1976	
23-12-1080	24-1-1237	24-2-1450	24-3-1636	24-3-1751	24-4-1847	24-5-1979	
23-12-1082	24-1-1238	24-2-1462	24-3-1637	24-3-1758	24-4-1852	24-5-1980	

9. **APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION REPORT**

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended to approve a no probable cause determination on 23 cases reflected on the *Applications for Certification Report*.

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

The Commission reviewed the report, which advised of 16 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 Harris.

PSC ACTION: Approved

Abstentions: Derek Easterling-PID Cases 24-5-2103, 24-5-2150, 24-5-2152, 24-5-2156, 24-5-2162, 24-5-2181, 24-5-2184, 24-5-2185, 24-5-2186, 24-5-2187, 24-5-2225, 24-6-2277, 24-6-2319, PCE Cases 24-4-1426, 24-4-1428, 24-4-1938, Jeanine Bunn-PCA Case 23-11-851, Dr. Franklin Perry PID Cases-24-5-2109, 24-5-2110, 24-5-2111, Jimmy Atkins-PCE Cases 24-4-1778, 24-5-2116, Jane Rookard-PID Cases-24-5-2176, 24-6-2177, 24-5-2178, 24-5-2179, 24-6-2316, PCE Cases-24-4-1798, 24-4-1799

B. Educator Preparation Standing Committee

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

1. Young Harris College-As a result of satisfactory progress evident in the March 15, 2024, Progress Report, the Committee recommends the removal of the following Areas for Improvement (AFIs) cited during the Spring 2023 Continuing Approval Review.

- Standard 1.1
- Standard 1.2
- Standard 1.3
- Standard 1.4
- Standard 3.3

Additionally, the Committee recommends removal of the AFIs in Standard 1.1, Standard 1.2, Standard 1.3, and Standard 1.4 for the following programs.

- Biology Education (6-12)
- Elementary Education (P-5)
- English Education (6-12)
- History Education (6-12)
- Mathematics Education (6-12)
- Music Education (P-12)
- Science Education (Broad Field)

While incremental progress is evident in the March 15, 2024, Progress Report, the Committee recommends the AFI in Standard 4.1 remains, and that Standard 2, Standard 4, and Standard 5 remain Not Met for the EPP. The Committee recommends the following stipulations be reclassified as AFs

- Standard 2.1
- Standard 2.2
- Standard 2.3

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- Standard 4.2
- Standard 4.3
- Standard 5.1
- Standard 5.2
- Standard 5.3
- Standard 5.4

The Committee also recommends the stipulation in Standard 6.5 be reclassified as an AFI for the following programs:

- Biology Education (6-12)
- Elementary Education (P-5)
- English Education (6-12)
- History Education (6-12)
- Mathematics Education (6-12)
- Music Education (P-12)
- Science (Broad Field)

The Committee recommends the submission of a progress report due June 30, 2025, addressing all reclassified and remaining Areas for Improvement and Not Met standards. The progress report should move beyond the mention of plans to show progress and implementation as evidenced by the inclusion of data. The progress report should explicitly identify a systematic and regular process for how the EPP establishes and assesses goals, strategies, and ultimate performance and impact as related to EPP quality assurance and continuous improvement. In addition to the inclusion of data, the progress report should provide a more clear indication of how the EPP assures a systematic process for candidate placement in required grade bands.

2. Okefenokee RESA - The Committee recommends Developmental Approval for the Elementary Agriculture Education (P-5) Endorsement.

3. Southwest Georgia RESA-The Committee recommends Developmental Approval for the Dyslexia Endorsement.

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

PSC ACTION: Approved

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Our next Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, August 8, 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 Educator Preparation and Certification Committee meeting will meet at 4 pm on Wednesday, August 7th. Chair Sirmans called for the meeting to be adjourned at 4:36 p.m.

PSC ACTION: Approved