

MINUTES

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION

Remote Meeting via ZOOM Webinar

September 12, 2024

The Georgia Professional Standards Commission (PSC) met on Thursday, September 12, 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	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: (Jeanine Bunn / Kedrione Harris) To approve the agenda.

PSC ACTION: Approved

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Sirmans called for approval of the August 8, 2024, minutes.

PSC ACTION: Approved

V. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

- First, I know you join me in extending our sympathy and support to the students, teachers, leaders, staff, families, and the entire community of Apalachee High School and the Barrow County School System. We honor them and all those who helped and are helping during the tragic event, including first responders, medical teams, and law enforcement.
- We do plan to meet in-person at the November 14th Commission meeting at 10am. This Commission is a vital part of our educational community, and I can't express enough how critical your contribution of

your time, expertise, and experience is to our shared work to support the educator pipeline and I thank all of you for it.

- The GACE development work is moving forward. Committees have met in September and October, and more are scheduled to meet in November and the Spring. Each of these meetings are held in-person. The work on the ethics assessment has already begun with the design team of educators from across the state meeting earlier in August and, again, next week.

Due to the extensiveness of this work, we have an ongoing need for Georgia educators and those who prepare Georgia educators to apply or nominate others to apply to assist us.

- We have two new ethics videos posted on our website since our last meeting and encourage you to view these. These new videos are part of our GaPSC Video series and are aimed at prevention of violations of standards within the Code of Ethics for Educators.

VI. RULES ADOPTION

Anne Marie Fenton presented the rules for adoption and rules for preview that will come before you in October for your initiation consideration. The preview of the rules does not require a vote today.

Adopt Rules - For the rules adoption, at the July 11th Commission meeting, Certification, Educator Preparation, and Ethics rules were initiated by you. No public comment was received. We bring these same rules to you today for your adoption consideration with an effective date of October 15, 2024. You earlier received the rule packet.

MOTION: (Dr. Holley Roberts / Brandon Seigler) To (1) amend the current rule in Chapter 505-2-Certification, effective October 15, 2024, as follows: 505-2-.08; (2) adopt the current rule in Chapter 505-2-Certification, effective October 15, 2024, as follows: 505-2-.151; (3) amend the current rule in Chapter 505-3-Educator Preparation Rules, effective October 15, 2024, as follows: 505-3-.02; (4) repeal the current rule in Chapter 505-3- Educator Preparation rule, effective October 15, 2024, as follows: 505-3-.08; and (5) 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

Rules Preview - Dr. Penney McRoy previewed the Educator Preparation rules and Windy Fortenberry will previewed one Certification rule. These previewed rules will come before the Commission for their initiation consideration at the October 10, 2024, Commission meeting.

Certification

505-2-.143 Media Specialist rule – to align with Ed Prep proposed name change

Educator Preparation

- 505-3-.49 HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM – to align with 2024 Society of Health and Physical Educators (SHAPE America) standards.

- 505-3-.65 MEDIA SPECIALIST PROGRAM – to change the name to School Librarian and align standards.
- 505-3-.73 ALTERNATIVE PREPARATION FOR SPEECH-LANGUAGE ASSOCIATE to establish requirements to support certified Speech Language Pathologists in a school setting.
- 505-3-.78 CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION AND EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP TIER I PROGRAM – to establish requirements for programs at the Master’s or higher degree level resulting in certification in the two fields of Curriculum and Instruction and Educational Leadership Tier I.
- 505-3-.79 TEACHER LEADERSHIP AND EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP TIER I PROGRAM – to establish requirements for programs at the Master’s or higher degree level resulting in certification in the two fields of Teacher Leadership and Educational Leadership Tier I.
- 505-3-.01 REQUIREMENTS AND STANDARDS FOR APPROVING EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROVIDERS AND EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS – to 1) add a definition and requirements for dual-field programs, 2) add Permitted educators with three years of experience to those eligible to serve as cooperating teachers, 3) clarify that courses taken to meet the identification and education of children who have special educational needs requirement must be passed with a grade of B or better, and 4) to clarify that governing board approval is required before seeking GaPSC approval for a new program provider or program. Other formatting corrections and non-substantive wording changes are included for clarity.
- 505-3-.69 SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST PROGRAM - reflects updated requirements adapted from the 2010 and 2020 standards published by National Association of School Psychologists.
- 505-3-.67 SCHOOL COUNSELOR PROGRAM - to incorporate the 2024 program content standards published by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP).

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 70 ***Probable Cause*** cases during the September 11, 2024, 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>
24-3-1619	3, 9	Deny	Accept
24-5-2217	1, 4, 5a6	Reprimand	Accept
24-6-2252	1, 5a6	NPC	Accept
24-6-2260	1,4,5a6, 5a7 (2020-2022)	NPC	Accept
24-6-2422	2, 9	Deny	Accept
24-7-4	1,5a6	NPC	Accept
24-7-62	5a6, 5a7 (2022)	NPC	Accept
24-7-77	1,5a6	NPC	Accept
24-7-119	5a6	NPC	Accept

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
24-7-145	1,4,5a2,5a6	NPC	Accept
24-7-152	1,5a6	Reprimand	Accept
23-10-735	1,4,5a6, 8,9	Revoke	Accept
23-10-776	5a2,5a6	Revoke	Accept
23-10-826	1,4,5a6,8,9	NPC	Accept
23-11-878	1,4,5a6,8,9	Revoke	Accept
23-11-1031	1,4,5a6,8,9	Suspension 10 days	Accept
24-1-1225	1, 9	NJ	Accept
24-1-1231	4, 9	Suspension 10 days	Accept
24-1-1237	1, 9	CCE	Accept
24-1-1238	3, 9	Suspension 10 days	Accept
24-1-1239	3, 4, 9	Suspension 1 year	Accept
24-1-1369	3, 9	Suspension 1 year	Accept
24-2-1422	9	Reprimand	Accept
24-2-1441	9	Suspension 10 days	Accept
24-2-1443	9	Suspension 90 days	Accept
24-2-1478	1,4,5a6,8,9	Suspension 1 year	Accept
24-2-1540	1,4,5a6,5a7 (2019-2022),8,9	NPC	Accept
24-3-1614	4, 5, 9	Suspension 30 days	Accept
24-3-1636	9	Suspension 90 days	Accept
24-3-1751	1,4,5a6,8,9	Suspension 20 days	Accept
24-3-1759	3, 9	Reprimand	Accept
24-4-1908	1, 8, 9	NPC	Accept
24-4-1939	9	Suspension 30 days	Accept
24-4-1943	1, 2, 9	Suspension 30 days + 6 months monitoring	Accept
24-4-1958	8, 9	NPC	Accept
24-5-2012	1,4,5a6,8,9	Revoke	Accept
24-5-2112	7,9	NPC	Accept
24-5-2150	5, 9	Suspension30 days	Accept
24-5-2165	4, 9	NPC	Accept
24-5-2173	1, 4, 5, 9	Suspension 1 year	Accept
24-5-2176	9	Reprimand	Accept
24-5-2222	5a2, 5a6, 5a7 (2017-2022),8,9	Suspension 1 year	Accept
24-5-2225	5, 9	Suspension 90 days	Accept
24-5-2227	1, 2, 9	Revoke	Accept
24-6-2249	2, 8, 9	Reprimand	Accept
24-6-2268	1,4 (2004), 5a7 (2004), 9 (2004),	NPC	Accept
24-6-2311	2, 9	Suspension 5 days	Accept
24-6-2321	2, 9	Reprimand	Accept
24-6-2322	9	Suspension ension10 days	Accept
24-6-2329	3, 9	Suspension 90 days	Accept
24-6-2331	2, 9	Reprimand	Accept
24-6-2334	2, 9	Reprimand	Accept

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
24-6-2336	1, 2, 9	CCE	Accept
24-6-2354	3, 4, 9	Suspension 1 year	Accept
24-6-2370	1,4,5a6,8,9	Revoke	Accept
24-6-2397	2, 9	Suspension 20 days	Accept
24-6-2410	2, 8, 9	Suspension 90 days	Accept
24-6-2411	2, 9	Suspension 30 days	Accept
24-6-2435	2, 4, 9	NPC	Accept
24-6-2436	4, 9	Suspension 5 days	Accept
24-6-2442	3, 9	Reprimand	Accept
24-7-15	1, 5a6	Reprimand	Accept
24-7-25	1,4,5a6,5a7 (2022), 8,9	Reprimand	Accept
24-7-61	1,4,5a6,8,9	Suspension 10 days	Accept
24-7-64	1,4,5a6,8,9	Suspension 20 days	Accept
24-7-78	1,4,5a6,8,9	NPC	Accept
24-7-131	1,4,5a7,8,9	NPC	Accept
24-7-143	1,4,5a6,8,9	NPC	Accept
24-8-186	1 4 5a5	Suspension 20 days	Accept
24-8-214	1,4,5a6, 5a7 (2020-2022), 8,9	Suspension 10 days	Accept

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>
24-7-29	Denial - June 2, 2022	Grant
24-7-117	Suspension 2 years - Sept. 25, 2023-2025	Deny

3. 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 RECOMMEND</u>
23-12-1061	Suspension 1 year	Accept
23-12-1104	Warning	Accept
24-3-1702	Reprimand	Accept
24-4-1839	Reprimand	Accept
24-4-1945	Suspension 20 days	Accept
24-4-1955	Suspension 5 days	Accept
24-5-1990	Suspension 10 days	Accept
24-5-2035	Reprimand	Accept
24-5-2053	Reprimand	Accept
24-5-2061	Reprimand	Accept
24-5-2073	Reprimand	Accept

<u>CASE</u>	<u>SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMEND</u>
24-6-2250	Suspension 1 year	Accept
24-6-2271	Reprimand	Accept
24-6-2286	Reprimand	Accept
24-6-2364	Reprimand	Accept

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

<u>CASE</u>	<u>NEGOTIATED SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
19-1-808	NFA	Accept
22-2-996	Warning	Accept
22-3-1174	Reprimand	Accept
22-6-1655	40 days	Accept
23-6-1683	7 days	Accept
23-6-1779	NFA	Accept
23-12-1103	Reprimand	Accept
23-12-1143	NFA	Accept
23-12-1149	Warning	Accept
24-1-1353	Reprimand	Accept
24-3-1630	Reprimand	Accept
24-3-1693	NFA	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>
24-2-1550	Failure to provide requested docs.	Hold New App
24-3-1686	No effective service.	Hold New App
24-5-2108	No effective service.	Hold New App

6. The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the *Preliminary Investigative Determination Report* consisting of 106 new complaints received during the months of August and September 2024.

7. **VOLUNTARY SURRENDER**

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of *1 Voluntary Surrender* 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>
24-5-2185	5, 9	Voluntary Surrender	Accept

8. **EXTENSIONS – PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIVE DETERMINATIONS**

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the **73 Extensions - Preliminary Investigative Determinations** consisting of the following:

24-8-182	24-8-278	24-8-349	24-9-381	24-9-391	24-9-401	24-9-415	24-9-430
24-8-269	24-8-279	24-9-355	24-9-382	24-9-392	24-9-402	24-9-418	24-9-431
24-8-270	24-8-280	24-9-358	24-9-383	24-9-393	24-9-403	24-9-420	24-9-432
24-8-271	24-8-281	24-9-365	24-9-384	24-9-394	24-9-404	24-9-421	
24-8-272	24-8-282	24-9-368	24-9-385	24-9-395	24-9-405	24-9-423	
24-8-273	24-8-283	24-9-369	24-9-386	24-9-396	24-9-406	24-9-424	
24-8-274	24-8-284	24-9-375	24-9-387	24-9-397	24-9-407	24-9-425	
24-8-275	24-8-343	24-9-376	24-9-388	24-9-398	24-9-408	24-9-426	
24-8-276	24-8-347	24-9-379	24-9-389	24-9-399	24-9-409	24-9-428	
24-8-277	24-8-348	24-9-380	24-9-390	24-9-400	24-9-410	24-9-429	

9. **EXTENSIONS - INVESTIGATIONS**

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended granting an **Investigative Extension** to the following 194 cases:

<u>WRITTEN COMPLAINT EXTENSIONS</u>							
22-5-1513	24-1-1362	24-2-1577	24-3-1772	24-4-1903	24-5-2037	24-5-2160	24-6-2284
23-2-1039	24-1-1377	24-3-1615	24-3-1773	24-4-1909	24-5-2040	24-5-2168	24-6-2290
23-2-1090	24-1-1380	24-3-1621	24-3-1774	24-4-1916	24-5-2042	24-5-2169	24-6-2292
23-3-1191	24-1-1382	24-3-1623	24-4-1779	24-4-1932	24-5-2045	24-5-2170	24-6-2299
23-4-1308	24-1-1395	24-3-1625	24-4-1780	24-4-1935	24-5-2052	24-5-2175	24-6-2305
23-4-1320	24-1-1396	24-3-1637	24-4-1795	24-4-1937	24-5-2057	24-5-2180	24-6-2313
23-5-1593	24-1-1402	24-3-1641	24-4-1801	24-4-1941	24-5-2062	24-5-2183	24-6-2316
23-8-367	24-2-1420	24-3-1648	24-4-1803	24-4-1948	24-5-2063	24-5-2190	24-6-2318
23-8-388	24-2-1435	24-3-1663	24-4-1809	24-4-1953	24-5-2064	24-5-2195	24-6-2319
23-8-416	24-2-1445	24-3-1664	24-4-1814	24-4-1962	24-5-2065	24-5-2199	24-6-2320
23-9-551	24-2-1446	24-3-1671	24-4-1816	24-4-1969	24-5-2067	24-5-2201	24-6-2323
23-10-730	24-2-1450	24-3-1687	24-4-1822	24-5-1981	24-5-2069	24-5-2213	24-6-2324
23-10-824	24-2-1462	24-3-1688	24-4-1836	24-5-1983	24-5-2080	24-5-2214	24-6-2371
23-11-1002	24-2-1466	24-3-1695	24-4-1844	24-5-1998	24-5-2092	24-5-2218	24-6-2374
23-12-1080	24-2-1476	24-3-1696	24-4-1852	24-5-1999	24-5-2096	24-5-2220	24-6-2377
23-12-1082	24-2-1477	24-3-1711	24-4-1853	24-5-2002	24-5-2100	24-5-2223	24-6-2385
23-12-1089	24-2-1481	24-3-1712	24-4-1864	24-5-2003	24-5-2102	24-5-2228	24-7-8
23-12-1101	24-2-1483	24-3-1713	24-4-1867	24-5-2016	24-5-2113	24-5-2236	24-7-9
23-12-1174	24-2-1498	24-3-1723	24-4-1877	24-5-2017	24-5-2125	24-5-2237	24-7-24
23-12-1183	24-2-1511	24-3-1724	24-4-1882	24-5-2018	24-5-2129	24-6-2246	
24-1-1217	24-2-1512	24-3-1728	24-4-1891	24-5-2022	24-5-2140	24-6-2262	
24-1-1254	24-2-1519	24-3-1734	24-4-1893	24-5-2025	24-5-2142	24-6-2263	
24-1-1274	24-2-1533	24-3-1758	24-4-1898	24-5-2027	24-5-2144	24-6-2273	
24-1-1276	24-2-1535	24-3-1763	24-4-1899	24-5-2028	24-5-2147	24-6-2280	
24-1-1316	24-2-1571	24-3-1767	24-4-1901	24-5-2029	24-5-2155	24-6-2281	

10. APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION REPORT

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended to approve a no probable cause determination on 35 cases reflected on the *Applications for Certification Report*.

11. FINAL DECISIONS BY OPERATION OF LAW

The Commission reviewed the report, which advised of 15 cases now closed without an appeal for a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge.

12. FINAL DECISIONS RENDERED BY AN ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended to accept the ALJ's sanction on the following:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>ORIGINAL SANCTION</u>	<u>ALJ SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
22-2-976	Suspension 2 years	NPC	Accept

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

PSC ACTION: Approved

Abstentions: Derek Easterling-PID case 24-8-171, NCO case 24-1-1353, Jeanine Bunn-PCA case 24-3-1619, Jimmy Atkins-PCE case 24-7-64, Abigail Coggin-PID case 24-8-260, Jane Rookard-PCE cases 24-5-2012, 24-5-2176, 24-6-2249, 24-6-2397

B. Educator Preparation Standing Committee

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

Fort Valley State University – As a result of incremental progress evident in the August 14, 2021, Progress Report, the Committee recommends the areas for improvement (AFIs) remain in Standard 5.2 and Standard 5.3 for the EPP. The Committee recommends the submission of a progress report due March 11, 2025, addressing the remaining AFIs in Standard 5.2 and Standard 5.3. The progress report should include the analysis of data from the inter-rater reliability of assessments to demonstrate validity and reliability. The progress report should also include data from the quality assurance plan, demonstrating how the EPP uses results for program improvement. The progress report should articulate how the EPP assures continuous improvement.

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, October 10, 2024, at 4 pm. We will meet remotely and the information will be posted on our website under Commission Information. The Educator Ethics Review

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Committee will meet at 4:30 pm and the Educator Preparation and Certification Committee will meet at 4:00 pm on Wednesday, October 9, 2024. Chair Sirmans called for the meeting to be adjourned at 4:29 p.m.

PSC ACTION: Approved