MINUTES

In Person Meeting PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION Professional Avenue Suite 1716, Atlanta CA 2022

200 Piedmont Avenue, Suite 1716, Atlanta, GA 30334

September 11, 2025

The Georgia Professional Standards Commission (PSC) met on Thursday, September 11, 2025.

Members Present

Angela Byrne	Mark Kauffman	Brian Sirmans
Abigail Coggin	Zach Miller	Carol Williams
Christy Edwards	Dr. Holley Roberts	Vonda Woodall

Kedrione Harris Jane Rookard

Members Absent

Jimmy Atkins

Jeanine Bunn

Dr. Franklin Perry

Dr. Brandon Seigler

Dr. Judi Wilson

I. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Sirmans called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. <u>VISITORS</u>

Chair Sirmans welcomed the visitors.

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chair Sirmans called for approval of the agenda.

MOTION: (Mark Kauffman / Abigail Coggin) To approve the agenda.

PSC ACTION: Approved

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Sirmans called for approval of the August 14, 2025, minutes.

PSC ACTION: Approved

V. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Dr. Barrow gave the following report:

The month of September has arrived, Labor Day has passed, and the first full month of school is behind most of our school districts. We want to send our congratulations to all students, teachers and staff, to administrators and our school systems across the State, for a great first month of school!

I want to officially welcome all our guests to our meeting. I know the vast majority of all our meetings are held virtually, not just because of the past impact of COVID, but also due to the issues of geographic separation and

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distance. We appreciate all our guests and Commissioners who are present today.

For our three newest Commissioners, this is their first in-person commission meeting. For our veterans, it is our first in-person meeting since my appointment. It is hard to believe that this is the beginning of my ninth month of service as your Executive Secretary of the GaPSC.

I know one of the first things Commissioner Sirmans and I spoke about after my appointment, was the desire to have at least a couple of in-person sessions and I am delighted we have been able to make that happen today. Just as information for our guests, as part of our work, we held a Professional Learning retreat for our commissioners. We introduced our new members to our committee work and provided an update for commissioners with each division sharing about the body of the work currently underway. I trust that everyone feels good about the high quality and volume of work our GaPSC divisions are doing.

For our guests and those who may not have had the chance to meet our newest Commission members, I will introduce them one last time, so they won't be new members anymore. First on the list is Ms. Angela Byrne, next is Ms. Christy Edwards, and last is Mr. Zach Miller. Ms. Byrne is serving on the Ethics Committee and Mr. Miller and Ms. Edwards are serving on the Educator Prep and Certification Committee. I know all veteran members join with Chairman Sirmans and me as we welcome each of our newest members to the Commission.

I first wanted to share with the Commission some information about GaPSC Rule 505-2-.151 Speech Language Associate 9-3-25 • The proposed rule amendment to 505-2-.151 Speech Language Associate is to include the option of a three-year induction certificate to place a certified educator in the role of a Speech Language Associate under the direct supervision of a certified Speech Language Pathologist. The purpose of the proposed amendment is to align this rule with the language in the other rules. Nothing else is proposed to change in the rule, except the threeyear Induction Certificate option. Regarding concerns about lack of preparation: The Induction Certificate rule (505-2-.04) states: "The field of Speech Language Associate requires a bachelor's degree in Speech and Language Pathology or Communication Disorders for issuance of the Three-Year Induction certificate." There are currently only two state-approved program providers for the field of Speech Language Associate. To gain professional certification in this field, educators must still complete a Speech Language Associate program. In the current Speech Language Associate rule that was agreed upon by the task force and adopted by the Commission, there is already a provisional option that allows those using this option to have one year to get enrolled in a program to qualify for an extension to that provisional certificate. So that flexibility is already in the rule. It is always up to the employing district to use the option to meet a need, which in this case does require supervision. Districts have the option of completely waiving certification for a field. Having the induction certificate option ensures the educator has a degree in Speech and Language Pathology or Communication Disorders and will be under the direct supervision of a certified Speech and Language Pathologist we hope to modify when the scores drop to assist Certification with the volume of tests clearance information we receive. 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.

We have one of our new investigators already on board and we have another one coming on board next week. Mr. Pumphrey will officially be moving to part time and Ms. Fenton will continue in her Interim Director role. Our Ethics Division continues to move in the right direction. You will hear more in their report shortly.

The work with SR 237 (the recruitment of and retention of educators) is ongoing. We had our second meeting with all agency heads and association leads on August 27. More foundational work of narrowing the focus on the group's

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strategic priorities was done. The Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) facilitated the day's work, and we have four sub-groups addressing the key categories of Leadership, Values, Pathways, and Marketing. Each group will be identifying solutions that can positively impact the four sub-groups. Our next meeting will take place on September 15.

We continue to be pleased with the new GACE implementation. The website includes costs, information about the new testlet models, preparation materials, FAQs, and more. As I mentioned earlier, we are working to modify the drop date for the scores to better facilitate our work in Certification. There is a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes to get the scores posted so that Certification and local Human Resources departments can utilize the data. We appreciate everyone's patience as we work with the new process.

We hope you have found the retreat and our in-person meeting productive. 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 in our next planned in person meeting in January.

VI. RULES PREVIEW AND PROPOSED ADOPTION

Anne Marie Fenton presented the proposed rules for adoption and preview. There were five Certification and three Educator Preparation rules that were initiated at the July Commission meeting. These rules, if adopted, will become effective October 15, 2025. You previously received the Adopt Rules Packet. We received multiple public comments, which you received in a packet. The rules for adoption are as follows:

Certification

Rule 505-2-.27. Certification Application, MyPSC and Test Eligibility Procedures - It is proposed that Rule 505-2-.27. Certification Application, MyPSC and Test Eligibility Procedures, dated July 1, 2022, be AMENDED to remove the option of official transcript submission by employing local units of administration (LUAs). Rule 505-2-.143. School Librarian - It is proposed that Rule 505-2-.143. School Librarian, dated January 1, 2025, be AMENDED to include the Three-Year Induction certificate option. Rule 505-2-.144. School Counseling - It is proposed that Rule 505-2-.144. School Counseling, dated July 1, 2022, be AMENDED to include the Three-Year Induction certificate option. Rule 505-2-.145. School Nutrition Director - It is proposed that Rule 505-2-.145. School Nutrition Director, dated July 1, 2022, be AMENDED to include the Three (3)-Year Induction certificate option. Rule 505-2-.151. Speech-Language Associate - It is proposed that Rule 505-2-.151. Speech-Language Associate, dated October 15, 2024, be AMENDED to include the Three-Year Induction certificate option.

Educator Preparation

Rule 505-3-.90. Gifted In-Field Education Endorsement - It is proposed that Rule 505-3-.90. Gifted In-Field Education Endorsement, dated August 15, 2023, be AMENDED to add program admission requirements based on program type (stand-alone or embedded), and certification requirements for adding the Endorsement. Rule 505-3-.94. STEM Education Endorsement Program - It is proposed that Rule 505-3-.94. STEM Education Endorsement Program, dated July 1, 2021, be AMENDED with the same number and a new name of STEM Education Endorsement, and to update program content standards. 505-3-.97. STEAM Education Endorsement - It is proposed that a new rule, Rule 505-3-.97. STEAM Education Endorsement, be ADOPTED with a new name and new number to allow GaPSC-approved EPPs to offer a STEAM Education Endorsement with the possibility of a STEAM micro-endorsement for candidates holding a STEM Education Endorsement.

MOTION: (Mark Kauffman / Jane Rookard) To (1) amend the current rules in Chapter 505-2- Certification, effective October 15, 2025, as follows: 505-2-.27, 505-2-.143, 505-2-.144, 505-2-.145, and 505-2-.151; (2) adopt the current rule in Chapter 505-3- Educator Preparation Rules, effective October 15, 2025, as follows: 505-3-.97; (3) amend the current rules in Chapter 3- Educator Preparation Rules, effective October 15, 2025, as follows: 505-3-.90, and 505-3-.94.

PSC ACTION: Approved

Abstentions: Zach Miller, Angela Byrne, Christy Edwards

RULES Preview

This is the beginning of a new rules cycle with a rules preview today. These previewed rules will come before the Commission at the October 9, 2025, Commission meeting. They will come back to the Commission for their adoption consideration at the December 11, 2025, meeting. If adopted, they will become effective January 15, 2026. Melina Ljuljanovic, previewed the Certification rules and Dr. Penney McRoy previewed the Educator Preparation rules

VII. <u>COMMITTEE REPORTS</u>

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 50 *Probable Cause* cases during September 10, 2025, meeting and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the committee:

CASE	STANDARDS VIOLATED	RECOMMENDATION	EERC RECOMMENDATION
25-4-1688	1,4,5a6	NPC	Accept
25-5-1972	1,4,5a6	Reprimand	Accept
25-6-2074	1,5a6	Reprimand	Accept
25-7-39	1, 4, 5a6	NPC	Accept
25-7-70	1,5a6	Reprimand	Accept
25-7-72	1,5a6	NPC	Accept
25-7-81	1,5a6	Reprimand	Accept
25-7-133	1,4,5a6	Reprimand	Accept
25-7-148	5a6	NPC	Accept
22-9-326	1, 2, 9	Suspension 20 days	Accept
24-11345	1, 9	NPC	Accept
24-4-1953	2, 9	Suspension 1 yr	Accept
24-5-2065	2, 9	NPC	Accept
24-7-114	1	Suspension 1 yr	Accept
24-8-278	2, 9	Suspension 30 days	Accept
24-8-279	4, 9, 10	Suspension 5 days	Accept
24-10-559	1, 5, 9	Revocation	Accept
24-11-869	1, 9	Suspension 2 yrs	Accept
25-1-1126	9	Suspension 90 days	Accept

CASE	STANDARDS VIOLATED	RECOMMENDATION	EERC RECOMMENDATION
25-2-1428	9	NPC	Accept
25-3-1571	1,4,5a6,8,9	CCE	Accept
25-3-1588	1,2,4,9	CCE	Accept
25-4-1700	2,9	Suspension 1 yr	Accept
25-4-1715	2, 9	Suspension 90 days	Accept
25-4-1765	4, 5, 9	Suspension 2 yrs	Accept
25-4-1774	2,9	Suspension 90 days	Accept
25-4-1808	2,7,8,9	Suspension 60 days	Accept
25-4-1826	1, 2, 9	CCE	Accept
25-5-1860	3,9	Suspension 1 yr	Accept
25-5-1894	2, 9	Reprimand	Accept
25-5-1901	1,2,9	Revocation	Accept
25-5-1948	5, 9	Suspension 30 days	Accept
25-5-1973	7, 9	NPC	Accept
25-5-1974	7, 9	NPC	Accept
25-5-1975	7, 9	NPC	Accept
25-5-1990	9	Suspension 20 days	Accept
25-5-2004	2, 9	Suspension 1 yr	Accept
25-5-2006	1, 2, 9	CCE	Accept
25-5-2047	2, 9	NPC	Accept
25-6-2087	1,4,5a6,8,9	Suspension 10 days	Accept
25-6-2089	3, 9	Suspension 1 yr	Accept
25-6-2116	2, 8, 9	NPC	Accept
25-6-2150	9, 10	Suspension 5 days	Accept
25-7-34	1,4,5a6,8,9	Reprimand	Accept
25-7-36	1,4,5a6,8,9	Reprimand	Accept
25-7-50	1, 9	CCE	Accept
25-7-93	1, 4, 9	NPC	Accept
25-7-98	2, 9	Suspension 2 yrs	Accept
25-7-135	1,4,5a6,8,9	CCE	Accept
25-8-201	1,4,5a6, 5a7 (2021) ,8,9	Suspension 20 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:

CASE	PREVIOUS SANCTION	EERC RECOMMENDATION
25-7-104	Revocation - 02/19/2016	Deny
25-7-123	Revocation - 11/25/2005	Grant

3. Chair Harris reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 9 *Settlement Agreements* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	SANCTION	EERC RECOMMENDATION
24-11-889	Suspension 90 days	Accept
25-1-1179	Suspension 90 days	Accept
25-2-1389	Sus 5 days	Accept
25-3-1597	Suspension 90 days	Accept
25-4-1693	Suspension 90 days	Accept
25-4-1743	Reprimand	Accept
25-6-2088	Reprimand	Accept
25-6-2172	Reprimand	Accept
25-7-35	Suspension 10 days	Accept

4. Chair Harris reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 6 *Negotiated Settlement Agreements* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

CASE	NEGOTIATED SANCTION	EERC RECOMMENDATION
24-3-1712	NPC	Accept
24-6-2419	NPC Accept	
24-9-417	Reprimand	Accept
24-11-771	Suspension 5 days	Accept
25-1-1188	Suspension 3 days	Accept
25-2-1406	Reprimand	Accept

- 5. The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the *Preliminary Investigative Determination Report* consisting of 63 new complaints received during the months of August and September 2025.
- 6. 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.

CASE	STANDARDS VIOLATED	SANCTION	EERC RECOMMENDATION
25-7-58	1, 2, 9	VS	Accept

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

PSC ACTION: Approved

8. <u>EXTENSIONS – PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIVE DETERMINATIONS</u>

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the 72 *Extensions - Preliminary Investigative Determinations* consisting of the following:

25-8-285	25-8-294	25-8-303	25-8-312	25-8-323	25-9-332	25-9-366	25-9-375
25-8-286	25-8-295	25-8-304	25-8-313	25-8-324	25-9-333	25-9-367	25-9-376

25-8-287	25-8-296	25-8-305	25-8-314	25-8-325	25-9-334	25-9-368	25-9-377
25-8-288	25-8-297	25-8-306	25-8-315	25-8-326	25-9-335	25-9-369	25-9-378
25-8-289	25-8-298	25-8-307	25-8-316	25-9-327	25-9-344	25-9-370	25-9-379
25-8-290	25-8-299	25-8-308	25-8-317	25-9-328	25-9-359	25-9-371	25-9-380
25-8-291	25-8-300	25-8-309	25-8-318	25-9-329	25-9-363	25-9-372	25-9-381
25-8-292	25-8-301	25-8-310	25-8-319	25-9-330	25-9-364	25-9-373	25-9-382
25-8-293	25-8-302	25-8-311	25-8-321	25-9-331	25-9-365	25-9-374	25-9-383

9. <u>EXTENSIONS - INVESTIGATIONS</u>
The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended granting an *Investigative Extension* to the following 426 cases:

	WRITTEN COMPLAINT EXTENSIONS						
			TITEN COMPLA	INIEXIENSIC	<u> </u>		
23-2-1039	24-6-2281	24-9-367	24-11-826	25-1-1209	25-3-1589	25-4-1804	25-5-1987
23-2-1090	24-6-2299	24-9-370	24-11-832	25-1-1214	25-3-1592	25-4-1805	25-5-1988
23-3-1191	24-6-2313	24-9-372	24-11-842	25-1-1225	25-3-1593	25-4-1814	25-5-1992
23-4-1308	24-6-2318	24-9-384	24-11-848	25-1-1244	25-3-1608	25-4-1817	25-5-1993
23-4-1320	24-6-2339	24-9-418	24-11-854	25-1-1245	25-3-1609	25-4-1823	25-5-1996
23-5-1593	24-6-2340	24-9-425	24-11-858	25-1-1246	25-3-1610	25-4-1824	25-5-1997
24-1-1254	24-6-2348	24-9-429	24-11-867	25-1-1256	25-3-1611	25-4-1831	25-5-2002
24-1-1377	24-6-2349	24-9-433	24-11-878	25-1-1259	25-3-1615	25-4-1832	25-5-2008
24-2-1420	24-6-2350	24-9-479	24-11-881	25-1-1261	25-3-1621	25-4-1833	25-5-2009
24-2-1577	24-6-2351	24-9-480	24-11-892	25-1-1269	25-3-1623	25-4-1835	25-5-2013
24-3-1621	24-6-2355	24-9-493	24-11-893	25-2-1275	25-3-1626	25-4-1838	25-5-2017
24-3-1625	24-6-2371	24-9-507	24-11-894	25-2-1276	25-3-1629	25-5-1844	25-5-2031
24-3-1671	24-6-2374	24-9-510	24-12-920	25-2-1277	25-3-1631	25-5-1845	25-5-2035
24-3-1728	24-6-2398	24-10-526	24-12-943	25-2-1306	25-3-1643	25-5-1846	25-5-2039
24-4-1814	24-6-2405	24-10-528	24-12-946	25-2-1308	25-3-1644	25-5-1854	25-5-2040
24-4-1816	24-6-2421	24-10-545	24-12-948	25-2-1310	25-3-1652	25-5-1859	25-5-2046
24-4-1822	24-6-2429	24-10-558	24-12-966	25-2-1312	25-4-1672	25-5-1861	25-6-2057
24-4-1844	24-6-2437	24-10-563	24-12-969	25-2-1322	25-4-1676	25-5-1863	25-6-2059
24-4-1853	24-7-8	24-10-565	24-12-977	25-2-1330	25-4-1681	25-5-1865	25-6-2061
24-4-1867	24-7-9	24-10-597	24-12-986	25-2-1331	25-4-1684	25-5-1873	25-6-2062
24-4-1891	24-7-31	24-10-617	24-12-987	25-2-1348	25-4-1686	25-5-1875	25-6-2063
24-4-1898	24-7-52	24-10-623	24-12-989	25-2-1357	25-4-1687	25-5-1876	25-6-2064
24-4-1916	24-7-57	24-10-624	24-12-1012	25-2-1363	25-4-1690	25-5-1880	25-6-2065
24-4-1937	24-7-58	24-10-632	24-12-1013	25-2-1368	25-4-1692	25-5-1885	25-6-2086
24-4-1948	24-7-66	24-10-648	24-12-1014	25-2-1384	25-4-1701	25-5-1889	25-6-2114
24-5-1983	24-7-69	24-10-657	24-12-1020	25-2-1391	25-4-1703	25-5-1891	25-6-2120
24-5-2002	24-7-71	24-10-666	24-12-1021	25-2-1403	25-4-1706	25-5-1893	25-6-2121
24-5-2003	24-7-80	24-10-668	24-12-1024	25-2-1413	25-4-1710	25-5-1895	25-6-2132
24-5-2022	24-7-82	24-10-673	24-12-1025	25-2-1420	25-4-1711	25-5-1896	25-6-2133
24-5-2027	24-7-106	24-10-674	25-1-1044	25-2-1424	25-4-1713	25-5-1897	25-6-2138
24-5-2028	24-7-115	24-11-693	25-1-1060	25-2-1425	25-4-1718	25-5-1908	25-6-2146
24-5-2029	24-7-120	24-11-698	25-1-1067	25-2-1426	25-4-1722	25-5-1909	25-6-2147
24-5-2037	24-7-128	24-11-704	25-1-1069	25-2-1429	25-4-1734	25-5-1918	25-6-2148
24-5-2045	24-7-151	24-11-705	25-1-1079	25-2-1436	25-4-1736	25-5-1923	25-6-2157

		WR	ITTEN COMPLA	INT EXTENSION	<u>ons</u>		
24-5-2057	24-8-161	24-11-711	25-1-1080	25-3-1441	25-4-1741	25-5-1931	25-6-2163
24-5-2064	24-8-162	24-11-712	25-1-1084	25-3-1445	25-4-1749	25-5-1937	25-6-2170
24-5-2080	24-8-213	24-11-715	25-1-1094	25-3-1452	25-4-1750	25-5-1941	25-6-2171
24-5-2096	24-8-223	24-11-720	25-1-1095	25-3-1453	25-4-1753	25-5-1949	25-6-2175
24-5-2100	24-8-236	24-11-722	25-1-1107	25-3-1461	25-4-1754	25-5-1950	25-6-2176
24-5-2113	24-8-241	24-11-729	25-1-1109	25-3-1469	25-4-1756	25-5-1951	25-6-2195
24-5-2129	24-8-243	24-11-734	25-1-1111	25-3-1478	25-4-1757	25-5-1956	25-7-9
24-5-2140	24-8-276	24-11-740	25-1-1119	25-3-1499	25-4-1767	25-5-1958	25-7-11
24-5-2142	24-8-277	24-11-759	25-1-1125	25-3-1500	25-4-1770	25-5-1959	25-7-19
24-5-2155	24-8-287	24-11-769	25-1-1127	25-3-1508	25-4-1771	25-5-1960	25-7-20
24-5-2180	24-8-294	24-11-778	25-1-1137	25-3-1524	25-4-1772	25-5-1963	25-7-25
24-5-2190	24-8-296	24-11-794	25-1-1138	25-3-1546	25-4-1779	25-5-1964	25-7-37
24-5-2199	24-8-301	24-11-800	25-1-1141	25-3-1548	25-4-1780	25-5-1970	25-7-38
24-5-2213	24-8-304	24-11-802	25-1-1168	25-3-1549	25-4-1783	25-5-1976	25-7-40
24-5-2218	24-8-306	24-11-803	25-1-1170	25-3-1553	25-4-1787	25-5-1977	
24-5-2220	24-8-316	24-11-804	25-1-1174	25-3-1563	25-4-1791	25-5-1980	
24-5-2236	24-8-326	24-11-809	25-1-1180	25-3-1574	25-4-1792	25-5-1981	
24-6-2246	24-8-341	24-11-811	25-1-1181	25-3-1576	25-4-1798	25-5-1982	
24-6-2262	24-9-361	24-11-815	25-1-1204	25-3-1578	25-4-1799	25-5-1983	
24-6-2263	24-9-366	24-11-817	25-1-1208	25-3-1579	25-4-1801	25-5-1985	

10. <u>APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION REPORT</u>

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended to approve a no probable cause determination on 22 cases reflected on the *Applications for Certification Report*.

11. FINAL DECISIONS BY OPERATION OF LAW

The Commission reviewed the report, which advised of 14 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:

CASE	ORIGINAL SANCTION	ALJ SANCTION	EERC RECOMMENDATION
23-7-8	Suspension 20 days	NPC	Accept
24-11-775	Suspension 20 days	Reprimand & professional boundaries course	Accept

Abstentions: Vondal Woodall- PCE 25-6-2116, Abigail Coggin – PCE 25-8-206, Jane Rookard – PIDs – 25-7-129, 25-7-130, PCE 25-6-2150, Zach Miller – PCE – 25-4-1774, Christy Edwards – PCE 24-7-114

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Our next Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, October 9, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. We will meet virtually, and the information will be posted on our website under Commission Information. The Educator Ethics Review Committee will meet virtually at 4:30 pm and the Educator Preparation and Certification Committee meeting will meet virtually at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 8, 2025. Chair Sirmans called for the meeting to be adjourned at 1:55 p.m.