

Date: 3-5-09

To: Deans, Superintendents, RESA Directors, Certification Officers

From: David M. Hill, Ph.D.
Director, Educator Preparation Division

Re: New Exemption for Basic Skills Requirement

Dear Colleagues:

The Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GaPSC) has added an additional exemption for the Basic Skills Requirement. Effective immediately, any individual who holds a **masters degree or above from a PSC-accepted accredited institution** is exempt from meeting the Basic Skills Requirement.

The current options for satisfying the Basic Skills Requirement, including the exemptions, are outlined at <http://www.gapsc.com/documentation/basicskillsinfo.asp>

PSC-accepted accredited institutions are those that are accredited by accrediting organizations recognized by either the U.S. Department of Education at <http://ope.ed.gov/accreditation> or The Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) at www.chea.org.

This addition to the basic skills exemption criteria was added in recognition of the knowledge and skills required of an advanced degree and to broaden the range of those who are eligible to enter a GaPSC approved educator preparation program.

Please note that the basic skills requirement must still be met, or exempted, for all educators entering any initial preparation program, including those at the masters level and above.

For any questions beyond what is provided on the GaPSC website, please contact the GaPSC Certification Division at 404-232-2500.

Thank you for your help in sharing this information as appropriate.