

505-2-.46 MILITARY SUPPORT CERTIFICATE

Nature of Amendment(s):

Substantive
 Clarification
 Further Definition

Discussion:

It is proposed that Rule 505-2-.45 MILITARY SUPPORT CERTIFICATE be INITIATED to establish a certification structure that will support the Troops to Teachers program and military families relocating to Georgia. This certificate will provide a modified timeline for meeting certification requirements in an effort to ease the transition process.

Current/Amended Sections(s):

(1) **Background.** The GaPSC is committed to assisting transitioning military members and families to the state while supporting the desire to teach and serve in Georgia schools. The Georgia Troops to Teachers (TTT) program will provide support for veterans by facilitating recruitment, program participation and completion, job placement, and retention. In addition, as reciprocity is often a complex and overwhelming process for military families, and rules do not address the unique circumstances of these individuals, it is imperative to reduce the negative impact the certification process creates for military families.

(2) **Purpose.** The Military Support certificate identifies and supports transitioning military veterans and family members, allowing completion of certification requirements on a modified timeline. Once requirements are met, the appropriate certification will be issued to the educator.

(3) **Definitions.**

(a) The term veteran(s) is used to describe active, retired, and transitioning service members.

(b) Military family members are spouses of active and transitioning service members.

(4) **Military Support Fields.**

(a) The Military Support credential will identify the specific certification or licensure area authorized by the credential. Georgia certification fields are listed on the GaPSC web site at www.gapsc.com.

(5) **Induction Requirements (See Rule 505-2-.04 INDUCTION CERTIFICATE).**

(a) The Military Support Induction certificate is issued at the request of an employing local unit of administration (LUA) meeting the requirements outlined in the Induction certificate rule with the exceptions outlined below:

1. **Pathway One (1) and Pathway Two (2):** Individuals submitting documentation of meeting the veteran and military family member definition may request issuance of the certificate without the support of an employing LUA.

2. **Pathway Three (3):** Individuals submitting documentation of meeting the veteran and military family member definition may be issued the certificate prior to completion of Special Georgia

Requirements and must complete outlined requirements prior to the end of the certificate validity period.

(i) Individuals may request issuance of the certificate without the support of an employing LUA.

3. Pathway Four (4): Individuals enrolled in the Georgia Troops to Teachers program have a modified timeline for completion of requirements:

(i) Initial Issuance.

(I) Hold a bachelor's degree or higher from a GaPSC-accepted accredited institution, unless Georgia does not require a bachelor's degree for the specific field. Minimum degree requirements are defined in the applicable teaching or service rule; and

(II) Complete the Georgia Educator Ethics – Program Entry Assessment.

(III) Applicants seeking certification in Career and Technical Specializations must meet eligibility criteria outlined in GaPSC Rule [505-2-.90 CAREER AND TECHNICAL SPECIALIZATIONS](#).

(IV) Applicants seeking certification in Healthcare Science must meet eligibility criteria outlined in GaPSC Rule [505-2-.87 HEALTHCARE SCIENCE](#).

(ii) Year Two Issuance.

(I) Attain a passing score on the GACE content assessment at the Induction level or higher. If no GACE or other GaPSC-approved content assessment is available for the certification field requested, the applicant is exempt from this requirement; and

A. For Special Education certificates, the pre-requisite requirement is the special education academic content concentration(s), which must be verified through an academic degree major or the appropriate GACE content assessment(s). The appropriate Special Education certificate GACE content assessment must then be completed before conversion to a Professional certificate.

(II) Verify enrollment in a GaPSC-approved or GaPSC-accepted educator preparation program leading to certification in the Induction field held by the educator.

(iii) Year Three Issuance.

(I) Attain a passing score on the GaPSC Program Admission assessment or meet exemption criteria outlined in GaPSC Rule [505-2-.26 CERTIFICATION & LICENSURE ASSESSMENTS](#).

(iv) Completion Requirements.

(I) Verify completion of a GaPSC-approved or GaPSC-accepted, state-approved educator preparation program in the field;

(II) Pass the GACE Educator Ethics – Program Exit assessment;

(III) Earn a passing score on the GaPSC-approved content pedagogy assessment; and

(IV) Complete any outstanding industry testing/licensure requirements for Career and Technical Specializations or Healthcare Science as outlined in the appropriate rules.

4. Supplemental Induction certificate fields may be issued at the request of an employing Georgia LUA to individuals holding a valid Military Support Induction Pathway One (1), Two (2), Or Three (3) certificate.

(6) Professional Requirements (See Rule 505-2-.05 PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE).

(a) The Standard Professional Military Support certificate is issued to individuals applying by reciprocity who meet all requirements to qualify for the professional certificate as outlined in the PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE rule and specific certification field rule, and as determined by the GaPSC with the exception of Special Georgia Requirements and employment with a Georgia LUA. Special Georgia Requirements must be completed as part of the professional learning requirements for renewing or converting the certificate.

(7) Non-Renewable (See Rule 505-2-.09 NON-RENEWABLE PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE).

(a) The Non-Renewable Professional Military Support certificate may be issued at the request of an employing LUA to individuals holding a professional Military Support certificate and meeting the eligibility criteria outlined in the NON-RENEWABLE PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE rule.

(8) Add a Field (See Rule 505-2-.34 ADD A FIELD).

(a) Individuals holding the professional Military Support certificate may add a field by meeting the requirements outlined in the ADD A FIELD rule.

(9) Implementation.

(a) Teachers currently enrolled in the Troops to Teachers program and employed by a Georgia LUA must be issued a Military Support Induction certificate beginning October 15, 2018.

(10) Certificate Upgrade.

(a) Individuals holding Military Support certificates are eligible to upgrade their certificate with the exception of the Induction Pathway Four (4) certificate by meeting the requirements outlined in GaPSC Rule [505-2-.33 CERTIFICATE UPGRADE](#). Individuals holding an Induction certificate attained through Pathway Four (4) are not eligible to upgrade to a higher certificate level until conversion to the Induction Pathway 1, 2, 3 or professional certificate and meeting requirements outlined in GaPSC Rule [505-2-.33 CERTIFICATE UPGRADE](#). Initial issuance of the Induction certificate level will be determined as outlined GaPSC [Rule 505-2-.02 CLASSIFICATION](#).

(11) Conversion.

(a) Individuals holding the Military Support certificate may apply to convert the certificate to the Standard or Performance-Based professional certificate upon meeting all certification requirements.

(12) Validity.

(a) The Military Support Induction certificate is valid for three (3) years with the following exceptions:

1. Induction Pathway Four (4) is issued with one-year validity periods for completion of requirements.

2. If an individual is converting from an Induction certificate attained through Pathway Four (4) to an Induction Pathway One (1) or Two (2) certificate, the certificate will be issued with the same end validity date as the original; or

3. If an educator has earned less than three (3) years of acceptable educator experience to convert from the Induction to the Professional certificate, the certificate will be reissued for three (3) additional years in order to meet conversion requirements.

(b) The Professional Military Support certificate is valid for five (5) years.

(c) The Non-Renewable or Supplemental Induction certificate Military Support certificate is valid for one (1) to three (3) years.

(13) Renewal.

(a) The Military Support certificate is non-renewable unless additional time is needed to satisfy the requirements outlined in (12)(a)3. above.

(14) Assessments.

(a) The assessments required for the Military Support certification fields are outlined in Rule 505-2-.26 CERTIFICATION AND LICENSURE ASSESSMENTS.

(15) In-Field Statement. (See GaPSC Rule 505-2-.40 IN-FIELD ASSIGNMENT).

An individual holding the Military Support certificate is in-field to serve in positions as indicated by the certificate or license type and teach specified Georgia curriculum courses aligned to the field of certification. Each state-approved curriculum course, with specified certificate fields that are designated as in-field, may be found under Certification/Curriculum Assignment Policies (CAPs) on the GaPSC web site at www.gapsc.com.

Authority O.C.G.A. 20-2-200