

## 505-2-.24 SPECIAL GEORGIA REQUIREMENTS

Nature of Amendment(s):

Substantive  
 Clarification  
 Further Definition

### Discussion:

It is proposed that GaPSC Rule 505-2-.24 SPECIAL GEORGIA REQUIREMENTS, date October 15, 2018, be RESCINDED and that a new rule with the same number be INITIATED to update the experience requirements for out-of-state educators and revise the content knowledge assessment requirement section. These changes will allow issuance of a one-year Induction certificate to Georgia program completers who have not passed the content exam or edTPA, and issuance of a one-year Induction or Nonrenewable certificate to out-of-state program completers who lack the required certification assessments.

**(1) Summary:** All individuals applying for certification in Georgia shall satisfy certain Special Georgia Requirements. These requirements are in the areas of: content knowledge; standards of conduct; special education; ethics assessments; and content pedagogy assessment. Special Georgia Requirements, with the exception of the standards of conduct, do not apply to individuals holding Georgia Life certificates.

**(2) Content Knowledge Assessment(s).** An individual applying for certification in Georgia must pass or meet exemption criteria for content knowledge assessment(s) appropriate to the field of certification and/or any other assessment(s) as required by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GaPSC) (See GaPSC Rule [505-2-.26 CERTIFICATION AND LICENSURE ASSESSMENTS](#)). GACE content assessments have two passing levels: Induction and Professional. All passing scores earned on GACE assessments will be treated as Professional level scores even if the official score report reflects an Induction level score. As of October 15, 2011, Georgia educators who complete out-of-state programs and/or pass out-of-state assessments leading to certification in a new field in another state must pass the appropriate GACE content assessment for Georgia certification in the new field.

(a) An individual may be exempt from passing the GACE content knowledge assessment(s) in the following scenarios:

1. Out-of-state certificate holders applying for initial Georgia certification who satisfy the out-of-state certificate and experience criteria outlined in paragraph (7) below;
2. Out-of-state professional certificate holders applying for initial Georgia certification who have passed the out-of-state content assessment required for issuance of the out-of-state certificate field;
3. Individuals holding valid National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) certification in the specific field, with the exception of the Middle Grades Generalist Field. The NBPTS Middle Grades Generalist field does not exempt the GACE Middle Grades content assessments; or
4. Individuals seeking certification in a field for which the GaPSC has not adopted a content assessment.

(b) Completers of GaPSC-approved programs who have satisfied all program requirements with the exception of the content knowledge assessment(s), and have obtained a valid recommendation from the educator preparation provider (EPP) may be issued a one (1)-year Induction or Non-Renewable Professional certificate, as appropriate, at the request of an employing Georgia local unit of administration (LUA).

(c) Additional information on the required content assessment(s) is available on the GaPSC web site at <https://www.gapsc.com/EducatorPreparation/Assessment/Testing.aspx>.

**(3) Standards of Conduct.** An individual applying for certification in Georgia must comply with the ethical standards of the profession. An FBI background check (fingerprint) is required for employment in Georgia public schools and a Georgia criminal history check is required every five (5) years for certificate renewal. In addition, individuals applying for certification must respond to background check questions on the application form. Individuals applying for or already holding certification who violate standards of conduct may be subject to a GaPSC investigation, which could involve certificate denial, suspension or revocation (See GaPSC Rule [505-2-.30 REFERRAL TO EDUCATOR ETHICS DIVISION](#)).

**(4) Special Education.** Any individual certified in a teaching field, the leadership field of Educational Leadership, the service fields of Media Specialist and School Counseling, or holders of permit certificates shall complete course work approved by the GaPSC (three [3] semester hours of college credit with a grade of "B" or better or five [5] Georgia professional learning units satisfied through a Georgia public school system or RESA) in the identification and education of children who have special educational needs). Holding valid National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) certification will satisfy the special education requirement. Initial Professional or Induction Georgia certificates based on interstate reciprocity or may be issued prior to completion of this requirement; however, the course must be satisfied as part of requirements to renew or convert the certificate. The grade requirement of "B" or better is effective July 1, 2019, for courses completed on or after that date.

**(5) Ethics Assessment.**

(a) Completion of the Georgia Educator Ethics – Program Entry Assessment is required for the following:

1. Issuance of a Pre-Service certificate; and
2. Issuance of a Provisional teaching certificate.

(b) A passing score on the Georgia Educator Ethics – Program Exit Assessment is required for the following:

1. Issuance of an Induction certificate in a teaching field;
2. Conversion of a Provisional teaching certificate to a Professional certificate; and
3. Extension of an initial Permit.

(c) Completion of the Georgia Ethics for Educational Leadership – Program Entry Assessment is required for issuance of a Non-Renewable certificate in educational leadership for completion of an approved program.

(d) A passing score on the Georgia Ethics for Educational Leadership – Program Exit Assessment is required for issuance of an initial professional certificate in educational leadership and to extend an initial Superintendent Permit.

1. Individuals applying by reciprocity will be issued the professional educational leadership certificate and required to pass the assessment for renewal.

**(6) Content Pedagogy Assessment.** A passing score on the GaPSC-approved content pedagogy assessment (edTPA) is required for the following:

(a) Issuance of an Induction certificate to any individual who completed the clinical practice or student teaching requirements of the GaPSC-approved or GaPSC-accepted initial certification program on or after September 1, 2015; and

(b) Conversion of a Provisional teaching certificate held by any individual who completed the clinical practice or student teaching requirements of the GaPSC-approved or GaPSC-accepted initial certification program on or after September 1, 2015.

1. Completers of GaPSC-approved programs who have satisfied all program requirements with the exception of the content pedagogy assessment (edTPA), and have obtained a valid recommendation from the educator preparation provider (EPP) may be issued a one (1)-year Induction or Non-Renewable Professional certificate, as appropriate, at the request of an employing Georgia local unit of administration (LUA).

**(7) Out-of-State Experience Exemption.** Veteran out-of-state educators moving into Georgia may be eligible to exempt all Special Georgia Requirements except the Standards of Conduct. To be eligible, the applicant must hold a valid out-of-state certificate and have a minimum of five (5) full years of successful education experience as defined in section (6) of GaPSC Rule [505-2-.25 EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS](#).

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