

## 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, dated April 15, 2021, be AMENDED to include a change in testing providers resulting in new assessment titles, the addition of a new state-required literacy assessments in compliance with The Georgia Early Literacy Act (HB 538) of 2023, removal of the test-in option for the fields of Middle Grades Reading 4-8 and Reading P-12 and changes to both organize format and include information for clarity and consistency.

### Current/Amended Sections(s):

(Additions are underlined in bold type; deletions are marked through.)

(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~~ **literacy** assessments. Special Georgia Requirements, with the exception of the standards of conduct, do not apply to individuals holding Georgia Life certificates.

(2) **GACE 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 ~~(6)~~**(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.
  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 **and literacy** 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.**

- (a) A GaPSC-accepted course in the identification and education of children who have special educational needs is required for issuance of a certificate in any of the following:
1. Teaching fields.
  2. Leadership fields.
  3. Service fields of ~~Media Specialist~~ **School Librarian** and School Counseling.
- (b) The following certificates may be issued prior to completion of the special education requirement (course must be satisfied to renew or convert the certificate):
1. Initial Professional or Induction certificate issued based on interstate reciprocity.
  2. Initial Induction certificate issued based on completion of an out-of-state approved educator preparation program with student teaching/practicum outside of Georgia.
  3. Initial Professional certificate in School Counseling based on holding an acceptable valid state license issued by the Georgia Secretary of State Office.
- (c) The course may be satisfied by the following:
1. Earning three (3) semester hours of college credit with a grade of "B" or better.
    - (i) The grade requirement of "B" or better is effective July 1, 2019, for courses completed on or after this date.
  2. Earning five (5) Georgia professional learning units satisfied through a Georgia public school system or RESA.
  3. Holding valid National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) certification.
  4. Meeting out-of-state experience exemption outlined in section ~~(6)~~**(7)** below.

**(5) GACE Ethics Assessments.**

- (a) A passing score on the GACE ~~Educator~~ Ethics **for Teachers** Assessment is required for the

following:

1. Issuance of a Pre-Service certificate.
  2. Issuance of an initial Clearance certificate to individuals who are not required to hold an in-field certificate as outlined in GaPSC Rule [505-2-.42 CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE](#).
  3. Issuance of a Provisional teaching certificate.
  4. Issuance of an Induction certificate in a teaching field.
  5. Issuance of the International Exchange certificate.
  6. Conversion of a Provisional or Induction Pathway 4 teaching certificate to a **Five-Year Induction or** Professional certificate.
  7. Issuance of an initial three-year Permit.
  8. Conversion to the five-year Permit if the initial Permit was issued on or after October 5, 2017.
- (b) A passing score on the GACE Ethics for ~~Educational Leadership~~ **Leaders** is required for the following:
1. Issuance of a Non-Renewable certificate in Educational Leadership for completion of ~~a~~ **a** **GaPSC**-approved program.
  2. Issuance of an initial professional certificate in Educational Leadership.
  3. Issuance of an initial Superintendent Permit
  4. Conversion to the five-year Permit if the initial Permit was issued on or after October 15, 2017.

**(6) GACE Literacy Assessment(s). An individual applying for certification in Georgia must pass or meet exemption criteria for the aligned literacy assessment(s) appropriate to the teaching field of certification (See GaPSC Rule [505-2-.26 CERTIFICATION AND LICENSURE ASSESSMENTS](#)).**

- (a) **A passing score on the GACE literacy assessment aligned with the field of certification is required for the following:**
1. **Issuance of a Five-Year Induction or Professional certificate in a teaching field if enrolled in a GaPSC-approved or GaPSC-accepted teaching program on or after June 1, 2025 and fulfilling field and clinical experiences in Georgia.**
  2. **Issuance of a Five-Year Induction or Professional teaching certificate by reciprocity after July 1, 2026.**
    - (i) **Out-of-state professional certificate holders applying for initial Georgia certification who have passed a comparable literacy assessment required for issuance of the out-of-state certificate field may exempt the aligned literacy assessment for Georgia.**
  3. **Conversion of the following after July 1, 2025:**

- (i) International Exchange certificate in a teaching field.
  - (ii) Provisional or Permit if enrolled in a GaPSC-approved or GaPSC-accepted teaching program on or after June 1, 2025 and fulfilling field and clinical experiences in Georgia.
4. Extension of an initial three-year Permit in a teaching field.
5. Addition of a new teaching field to an existing Induction or Professional teaching certificate after July 1, 2025 by:
- (i) Passing the required GACE content knowledge assessment with the exception of Elementary Education P-5, Special Education General Curriculum/Elementary Education P-5, Middle Grades Reading 4-8, Reading P-12 and the fields in which no content knowledge assessment is required as outlined in GaPSC Rule [505-2-34 ADD A FIELD](#) or GaPSC Rule [505-2-22 CERTIFICATE BY STATE-APPROVED PROGRAM](#).
  - (ii) Meeting occupational work experience requirements, state-issued licensure, and degree requirements to add Career and Technical Specializations or Healthcare Science as outlined in GaPSC Rule [505-2-90 CAREER AND TECHNICAL SPECIALIZATIONS](#) and GaPSC Rule [505-2-87 HEALTHCARE SCIENCE](#).

**(6)(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 **and Literacy Assessments by meeting the following exemption criteria:** ~~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 (5) of GaPSC Rule [505-2-25 EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS](#).~~

- (a) To be eligible to exempt the content knowledge assessment, Special Education course, and GACE Ethics for Leaders assessment, 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 (5) of GaPSC Rule [505-2-25 EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS](#).**