

505-2-.34 ADD A FIELD

Nature of Amendment(s):

☒ Substantive
☐ Clarification
☐ Further Definition

Discussion:

It is proposed that GaPSC Rule 505-2-.04 ADD A FIELD dated January 1, 2020, be AMENDED to include a change in testing providers resulting in new assessment titles, the addition of the 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.

(1) **Summary:** This rule outlines the requirements and procedures for adding teaching, service and leadership fields to Professional and Induction certification.

(2) **Adding a Teaching Field.**

(a) To add any new teaching field to an existing level four (4) or higher Induction or professional teaching certificate, an individual may satisfy one of the following options:

1. Complete a **GaPSC-approved or GaPSC-accepted** certification program in the new field, receive verification of program completion from the program provider per GaPSC Rule **505-2-.22 CERTIFICATION BY STATE-APPROVED PROGRAM**, and complete all applicable Special Georgia Requirements per GaPSC Rule **505-2-.24 SPECIAL GEORGIA REQUIREMENTS**, and pass all required assessments per GaPSC Rule **505-2-.26 CERTIFICATION AND LICENSURE ASSESSMENTS**.

2. Pass the appropriate GACE content assessment(s) in the new field ~~at the induction level or higher, and~~ **effective July 1, 2025, pass the aligned literacy assessment appropriate to the field per GaPSC Rule 505-2-.26 CERTIFICATION AND LICENSURE ASSESSMENTS**, ~~complete all applicable Special Georgia Requirements as outlined in GaPSC Rule 505-2-.24 SPECIAL GEORGIA REQUIREMENTS except for the fields of Special Education General Curriculum/Elementary Education P-5 and Elementary Education P-5. The fields of Special Education General Curriculum/Elementary Education and Elementary Education require completion of (2)(a)1. above. If no state-approved content assessment exists for the field, the individual must complete a state-approved program as outlined in section (2)(a)1. above.~~

(i) **The fields of Special Education General Curriculum/Elementary Education P-5 and Elementary Education P-5, Middle Grades Reading 4-8 and Reading P-12 require completion of (2)(a)1. and 2. above.**

(ii) **If no state-approved content assessment exists for the field, the individual must complete a state-approved program as outlined in section (2)(a)1. above.**

3. To add any Career and Technical Specializations or Healthcare Science field to an Induction or Professional certificate, an individual must complete the occupational experience in the area of specialization. For certain fields, an individual must hold and maintain a valid industry license and satisfy applicable assessments as outlined in GaPSC Rule **505-2-.87 HEALTHCARE SCIENCE** or GaPSC Rule **505-2-.90 CAREER AND TECHNICAL SPECIALIZATIONS**.

- (i) **Effective July 1, 2025, if an individual is adding any Career and Technical Specialization or Healthcare Science field, a passing score on Fundamentals of the Science of Reading GACE literacy assessment is also required.**

- (b) To add any new teaching field to an existing certificate in any service or leadership field, an individual must:

1. Complete a **GaPSC-approved or** GaPSC-accepted ~~state-approved~~ certification program in the new field and receive verification of program completion from the program provider per GaPSC Rule [505-2-.22 CERTIFICATION BY STATE-APPROVED PROGRAM](#) and complete all applicable Special Georgia Requirements per GaPSC Rule [505-2-.24 SPECIAL GEORGIA REQUIREMENTS](#).

(3) Adding a Service Field.

- (a) To add any Service field to any established Professional or Induction certificate, an individual must:

1. Satisfy the requirements as outlined in the individual Service field rule.

(4) Adding a Leadership Field.

- (a) To add any leadership field to an existing Professional or Induction certificate, an individual must:

1. Complete a GaPSC-approved program in the new field and receive verification of program completion from the program provider as outlined in GaPSC Rule [505-2-.153 EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP](#) and complete all applicable Special Georgia Requirements per GaPSC Rule [505-2-.24 SPECIAL GEORGIA REQUIREMENTS](#).
2. To add the Superintendent Certificate field to an existing professional certificate, an individual must meet the requirements outlined in GaPSC Rule [505-2-.154 SUPERINTENDENT CERTIFICATE](#).

(5) Adding Endorsements.

- (a) To add an endorsement to an existing level four (4) or higher Professional certificate, an individual must hold the appropriate teaching, service or leadership type as outlined in the individual endorsement rule and satisfy one of the following options:

1. Complete a **GaPSC- approved or** GaPSC-accepted ~~state-approved~~ certification program in the endorsement field and receive verification of program completion from the program provider per GaPSC Rule [505-2-.22 CERTIFICATION BY STATE-APPROVED PROGRAM](#).

2. Hold a professional out-of-state certificate in the endorsement field.

- (b) The ESOL Endorsement, Online Teaching Endorsement, **School Safety and Anti-Gang Endorsement**, and Dramatic Writing Micro-Endorsement may be added to a valid Permit certificate in specific fields, as outlined in GaPSC Rule [505-2-.10 PERMIT CERTIFICATE](#).

- (c) To add an endorsement field to a valid Induction certificate, an individual must complete the requirements outlined in section (5)(a)1 or 2 above. An Individual will not be eligible for a professional certificate in endorsement fields until conversion of the base certificate to a

Professional certificate.

(6) Adding a Field and Upgrading.

- (a) Georgia educators adding a new field by completion of a higher degree must meet additional requirements to qualify for a certificate level upgrade. In order to qualify for a certificate level upgrade, a Georgia educator must successfully complete the degree program, pass all appropriate GACE content assessments, **aligned literacy assessment for teaching fields,** ~~at the appropriate level,~~ meet all certification requirements, and add the new field to their certificate as outlined in GaPSC Rule [505-2-.33 CERTIFICATE UPGRADE](#).

(7) Restrictions.

- (a) For some certificate fields, state-approved programs are limited in number or restricted in geographic location, making it difficult to meet the hiring needs of local units of administration (LUAs). For these specific situations, as determined by the GaPSC on a case-by-case basis, the GaPSC shall maintain a process for establishing specific course work requirements to add the field based on a transcript review of prescribed courses.
- (b) Endorsements cannot be added to the Induction Pathway 4 or Provisional certificate.

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