

## 505-2-.45 MONTESSORI CERTIFICATE

### Nature of Amendment(s):

☒ Substantive  
☐ Clarification  
☐ Further Definition

### Discussion:

It is proposed that GaPSC Rule 505-2-.45 MONTESSORI CERTIFICATE, dated July 1, 2022, be AMENDED to include a change in testing providers resulting in new assessment titles and the addition of new state-required literacy assessments in compliance with The Georgia Early Literacy Act (HB 538) of 2023 along with 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:** Montessori education has over 100 years of history and is practiced in more than 500 public schools across the United States. Both child-centered and highly structured, Montessori education has been shown to increase student achievement while reducing the impact of economic inequity. The Montessori certificate is part of a modified tiered teacher certification system that provides a statewide structure to recognize Montessori teachers and ensure students in **public** Montessori classrooms have access to fully implemented Montessori education.

### **(2) Definitions.**

(a) Montessori Accreditation Counsel for Teacher Education (MACTE) is the international standard setting and accrediting body for Montessori teacher education. The Montessori teacher education program, not the college, school, department, or other administrative unit of the institution, receives MACTE accreditation. MACTE is a member of the Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors (ASPA) and is recognized by the United States Department of Education (ED).

(b) Acceptable Montessori credentials:

1. Professional certificate issued by another state, country or jurisdiction that has signed the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) Interstate Agreement.
2. Montessori certificate or credential issued by a MACTE-accredited education program provider.
3. Verification letter from a MACTE-accredited program documenting credential level, teacher education program, and date of completion.
4. ~~Letter of Equivalency is issued to an individual by a MACTE-accredited teacher education program and verified by MACTE, confirming after a review of the candidate's transcripts and records that the individual's Montessori teaching credential is equivalent to the credential offered by the MACTE-accredited program issuing the letter. A letter of equivalency may be submitted by a Montessori teacher whose credential was earned before the Montessori teacher education program was accredited.~~

**Letter of Equivalency may be accepted if it is issued by a MACTE-accredited teacher education program and verified by MACTE. The Letter of Equivalency must confirm that, after reviewing the candidate's transcripts, records, and**

**Montessori teaching credential, the credential is equivalent to the one offered by the issuing program. Teachers who earned a credential before the program received MACTE accreditation may also submit a Letter of Equivalency.**

**(3) Montessori Fields.**

- (a) Infant – Toddler (ages birth – 3)
- (b) Preschool – K (ages 2 1/2 – 6)
- (c) Elementary I Grades 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> (ages 6 – 9)
- (d) Elementary I – II Grades 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> (ages 6 – 12)
- (e) Secondary I Grades 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> (ages 12 – 15)
  - 1. Secondary I Language Arts & Social Studies
  - 2. Secondary I Science & Mathematics
- (f) Secondary I – II Grades 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> (ages 12 – 18)
  - 1. Secondary II English
  - 2. Secondary II Social Studies
  - 3. Secondary II Science
  - 4. Secondary II Mathematics

**(4) Provisional Requirements** (For individuals transitioning into a career in Montessori education).

- (a) Issuance.
  - 1. Hold a bachelor's degree or higher from a GaPSC-accepted accredited institution.
  - 2. Pass the GACE content assessment.
  - 3. Pass the ~~Georgia Educator~~ **GACE** Ethics **for Teachers** Assessment.
  - 4. Meet Standards of Conduct.
  - 5. Have the employing Georgia local unit of administration request the certificate according to procedures outlined in GaPSC Rule [505-2-.27 CERTIFICATION APPLICATION, MyPSC AND TEST ELIGIBILITY PROCEDURES](#).
  - 6. The Provisional certificate is valid for three (3) years with the following exceptions:
    - (i) Provisional certificates will be issued for one (1) year pending verification of enrollment into a MACTE-accredited Montessori teacher preparation program leading to certification in the Provisional certification field held by the individual. Once enrolled in a MACTE-accredited program, the certificate may be extended for two additional years if requested by the employing local unit of administration

(LUA) and following procedures outlined in GaPSC Rule [505-2-.27 CERTIFICATION APPLICATION, MyPSC AND TEST ELIGIBILITY PROCEDURES](#).

- (I) Individuals who are not enrolled in a MACTE-accredited Montessori teacher preparation program after the initial one-year validity period may be issued a certificate for an additional year upon the request of the employing local unit of administration (LUA). In order to qualify for the remaining year of eligibility, an individual must be enrolled in an approved program. Once enrolled in a MACTE-accredited program, the certificate may be extended for a third year if requested by the employing local unit of administration and following procedures outlined in GaPSC Rule [505-2-.27 CERTIFICATION APPLICATION, MyPSC AND TEST ELIGIBILITY PROCEDURES](#). Should an individual not be enrolled by the third year, a waiver certificate must be requested by the employing local unit of administration (LUA).

(b) Conversion **to a Montessori Professional Certificate.**

1. Complete a MACTE-accredited Montessori teacher preparation program in the field of issuance.
2. Meet the following Special Georgia Requirements:
  - (i) Satisfy the Special Education requirement with a grade of B or better.
  - (ii) ~~Have passed~~ **Pass** the Georgia Educator **GACE** Ethics **for Teachers** assessment.
  - (iii) **Pass the required GACE literacy assessment aligned with the teaching field.**
  - ~~(iii)~~ **(iv)** Meet Standards of Conduct.
3. Earn three years of successful experience while holding the Provisional certificate.
  - (i) If less than three years of experience is earned at the time all other conversion requirements are met, the individual may convert to the Five (5)-Year Induction certificate.
4. ~~Have the certificate requested by the employing Georgia local unit of administration.~~ **Apply for conversion** following procedures outlined in GaPSC Rule [505-2-.27 CERTIFICATION APPLICATION, MyPSC AND TEST ELIGIBILITY PROCEDURES](#).

**(5) Induction Requirements.**

- (a) Five (5)-Year Induction (For individuals lacking experience to qualify for Professional).
1. Issuance.
    - (i) Hold a bachelor's degree or higher from a GaPSC-accepted accredited institution.
    - (ii) Complete a MACTE-accredited program and submit verification of the credential or Letter of Equivalency from the preparation program.
    - (iii) Pass or exempt the **required** GACE content **knowledge** assessment.

(iv) Have passed the **Pass the** GACE Educator Ethics **for Teachers** Assessment.

(v) **Pass the required GACE literacy assessment aligned with the teaching field.**

~~(v)~~**(vi)** Satisfy the Special Education requirement with a grade of B or better.

(I) Individuals applying by reciprocity may be issued the certificate and must complete the requirement in order to convert **or extend** the certificate.

~~(vi)~~**(vii)** Have less than three (3) years of successful experience as outlined in GaPSC Rule [505-2-.25 EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS](#).

~~(vii)~~**(viii)** Apply following procedures outlined in GaPSC Rule [505-2-.27 CERTIFICATION APPLICATION, MyPSC AND TEST ELIGIBILITY PROCEDURES](#).

2. Conversion.

(i) Earn three (3) years of successful experience while holding the Induction certificate, as outlined in GaPSC Rule [505-2-.05 PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE](#).

(I) For individuals applying based on reciprocity, meet the following requirements:

A. Satisfy the Special Education requirement with a grade of B or better.

B. ~~Meet Standards of Conduct.~~

(ii) **Meet Standards of Conduct.**

~~(iii)~~**(iii)** Apply for conversion following procedures outlined in GaPSC Rule [505-2-.27 CERTIFICATION APPLICATION, MyPSC AND TEST ELIGIBILITY PROCEDURES](#).

(b) Three (3)-Year Induction (Teaching out-of-field):

1. Issuance.

(i) Hold a valid Five (5)-Year traditional or Montessori Induction certificate in any teaching field at the bachelor's level or higher.

(ii) Meet Standards of Conduct.

(iii) Have the certificate requested by the employing Georgia local unit of administration following procedures outlined in GaPSC Rule [505-2-.27 CERTIFICATION APPLICATION, MyPSC AND TEST ELIGIBILITY PROCEDURES](#)

2. Conversion.

(i) Complete a MACTE-accredited program and submit verification of the credential or Letter of Equivalency from the preparation program.

(ii) Pass the **required** GACE content **knowledge** assessment.

- (iii) **Pass the required GACE literacy assessment aligned with the teaching field.**
  - ~~(iii)~~(iv) Satisfy the Special Education requirement with a grade of B or better.
  - ~~(iv)~~(v) Meet Standards of Conduct.
  - ~~(v)~~(vi) Apply **for conversion** following procedures outlined in GaPSC Rule [505-2-.27 CERTIFICATION APPLICATION, MyPSC AND TEST ELIGIBILITY PROCEDURES](#).
- (c) One (1)-Year Induction (Issued to individuals who have met all requirements for the Five (5)-Year Induction certificate but have not passed the content **knowledge and/or literacy** assessments).
- 1. Issuance.
    - ~~(i)~~ Issued to individuals meeting all requirements for the Five (5)-Year Induction certificate with the exception of the GACE content assessment.
    - ~~(ii)~~(i) Have passed **Pass** the GACE Educator Ethics **for Teachers** Assessment.
    - ~~(iii)~~(ii) Must be requested by the employing Georgia local unit of administration following procedures outlined in GaPSC Rule [505-2-.27 CERTIFICATION APPLICATION, MyPSC AND TEST ELIGIBILITY PROCEDURES](#).
  - 2. Conversion
    - (i) Pass or exempt the required GACE content **knowledge** assessment.
    - (ii) **Pass the required GACE literacy assessment aligned with the teaching field.**
    - (iii) Apply **for conversion** following procedures outlined in GaPSC Rule [505-2-.27 CERTIFICATION APPLICATION, MyPSC AND TEST ELIGIBILITY PROCEDURES](#).
- (d) The Standard Professional certificate or Performance-Based Montessori certificate will be issued based on meeting experience requirements outlined in GaPSC Rule [505-2-.05 PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE](#).
- (e) The Induction Montessori certificate is not issued for service fields (See GaPSC Rules [505-2-.140-.149](#)) or leadership fields (See GaPSC Rule [505-2-.153 EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP](#)).
- (6) Professional Requirements** (For individuals with three (3) or more years of educator experience).
- (a) Issuance.
    - 1. Hold a bachelor's degree or higher from a GaPSC-accepted accredited institution.
    - 2. Complete a MACTE-accredited program and submit verification of the credential or Letter of Equivalency from the preparation program.
    - 3. Pass or exempt the required GACE content **knowledge** assessment.

4. **Pass or exempt the required GACE literacy assessment aligned with the teaching field(s).**
  - 4.5. Satisfy the Special Education requirement with a grade of B or better.
    - (i) Individuals applying by reciprocity may be issued the certificate and must complete the requirement in order to ~~convert~~ **renew** the certificate.
  - ~~5.6.~~ Have a minimum of three (3) years of successful experience as outlined in GaPSC Rule [505-2-25 EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS](#).
  - ~~6.7.~~ Meet Standards of Conduct.
  - ~~7.8.~~ Apply for certification following procedures outlined in GaPSC Rule [505-2-27 CERTIFICATION APPLICATION, MyPSC AND TEST ELIGIBILITY PROCEDURES](#).
- (b) Renewal.
1. Meet requirements outlined in GaPSC Rule [505-2-36 RENEWAL REQUIREMENTS](#).
  2. Meet Standards of Conduct.
  3. Individuals who received certification based on reciprocity must satisfy the Special Education requirement with a grade of B or better.
  4. Apply for certification following procedures outlined in GaPSC Rule [505-2-27 CERTIFICATION APPLICATION, MyPSC AND TEST ELIGIBILITY PROCEDURES](#).
- (c) The Standard Professional certificate or Performance-Based Montessori certificate will be issued based on meeting experience requirements outlined in GaPSC Rule [505-2-05 PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE](#).
- (7) Non-Renewable Requirements.**
- (a) One (1)-Year Non-Renewable Professional Montessori Certificate may be issued at the request of a Georgia local unit of administration to an individual who holds an expired Georgia Professional Montessori certificate but has not met standard renewal requirements outlined in GaPSC Rule [505-2-36 RENEWAL REQUIREMENTS](#).
  - (b) One (1)-Year Non-Renewable Professional Montessori Certificate may be issued at the request of a Georgia local unit of administration to an individual who meets requirements for the Professional certificate but has not passed the **GACE** content **knowledge and/or literacy** assessments.
  - (c) Three (3)-year Non-Renewable Professional Issued to individuals who hold a valid professional (~~non-Montessori~~) certificate and are assigned to teach out-of-field.
    1. Issuance.
      - (i) Hold a valid ~~Five (5)-Year~~ **Standard or Performance-Based** Professional certificate.
      - (ii) Have the certificate requested by the employing Georgia local unit of administration following procedures outlined in GaPSC Rule [505-2-27](#)

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2. Conversion.
    - (i) Complete a MACTE-accredited program and submit verification of the credential or Letter of Equivalency from the preparation program.
    - (ii) ~~Attain a passing score on~~ **Pass** the **required** GACE content **knowledge** assessment.
    - (iii) **Pass the required GACE literacy assessment aligned with the teaching field.**
    - ~~(iii)~~**(iv)** Satisfy the Special Education requirement with a grade of B or better.
    - ~~(iv)~~**(v)** Meet Standards of Conduct.
    - ~~(v)~~**(vi)** Apply for ~~certification~~ **conversion** following procedures outlined in GaPSC Rule [505-2-.27 CERTIFICATION APPLICATION, MyPSC AND TEST ELIGIBILITY PROCEDURES](#).
  3. The Standard Professional certificate or Performance-Based certificate will be issued based on meeting experience requirements outlined in GaPSC Rule [505-2-.05 PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE](#).
- (8) To Add the Field** (See GaPSC Rule [505-2-.34 ADD A FIELD](#)).
- (a) To add a Montessori teaching certificate to an **existing level four (4) or higher Induction or Professional certificate**, an individual must ~~meet~~ **satisfy** the following:
    1. Hold a bachelor's degree or higher from a GaPSC accepted accredited institution.
    2. Complete a MACTE-accredited program and submit verification of the credential or Letter of Equivalency from the preparation program.
    3. Pass **or exempt** the GACE Educator Ethics **for Teachers** Assessment.
    - 4. Pass the required GACE content knowledge assessment.**
    - 5. Pass the required GACE literacy assessment aligned with the teaching field.**
    - ~~4.6.~~ Satisfy the Special Education requirement with a grade of B or better.
    - ~~5-7.~~ Meet Standards of Conduct.
    - ~~6-8.~~ Apply for conversion following procedures outlined in GaPSC Rule [505-2-.27 CERTIFICATION APPLICATION, MyPSC AND TEST ELIGIBILITY PROCEDURES](#).
- (9) Implementation.**
- (a) Individuals currently employed in a public Montessori classroom must hold a valid Montessori certificate by July 1, 2021.
  - (b) A legacy period is provided to protect individuals currently employed in Georgia public

Montessori classrooms prior to the initial effective date of the rule. In order to qualify for Montessori certification under this legacy provision, individuals must meet the following conditions prior to July 1, 2018:

1. Employed in a public Montessori classroom while holding an acceptable GaPSC certificate.
  2. Earned one or more years of satisfactory Montessori teaching experience in a Georgia public school, as outlined in GaPSC Rule [505-2-.25 EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS](#).
  3. Completed a Montessori diploma program outlined by the employing school system and submit verification from the employing school system at the time of application.
- (c) Legacy Montessori teachers will not be required to complete a MACTE-accredited program but must meet all other eligibility requirements.
- (d) Qualifying individuals currently employed in a private Montessori classroom~~s~~ are eligible for the Montessori certificate. Experience earned to convert from an Induction Montessori to the Professional Montessori certificate must be earned from a school holding acceptable GaPSC-accreditation as outlined in GaPSC Rule [505-2-.25 EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS](#).

**(10) Additional Certificate Titles Issued in the Field.**

- (a) International Exchange Certificate (See GaPSC Rule [505-2-.11 INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE CERTIFICATE](#)).
- (b) Retired Educator (See GaPSC Rule [505-2-.44 RETIRED EDUCATOR](#)).

**(11) To Upgrade the Level** (See GaPSC Rule [505-2-.33 CERTIFICATE UPGRADE](#)).

**(12) Exemption Criteria.**

- (a) Individuals enrolled in a program prior to June 1, 2025, are exempt from the GACE literacy assessment unless adding a field.**
- (b) Individuals applying by reciprocity may exempt the GACE content or literacy assessments by meeting requirements outlined in GaPSC Rule 505-2-.26 CERTIFICATION AND LICENSURE ASSESSMENTS.**
- (c) Individuals applying by reciprocity may exempt the GACE Ethics for Teachers assessment with three (3) or more years of successful educator experience as outlined in GaPSC Rule 505-2-.26 CERTIFICATION AND LICENSURE ASSESSMENTS.**

- ~~(12)~~(13) In-Field Statement** (See GaPSC Rule [505-2-.40 IN-FIELD ASSIGNMENT](#)). An individual holding the Montessori certificate is in-field to teach in the field and age group of issuance in a Montessori classroom. Holding the Montessori certificate is not in-field to teach in a traditional (non-Montessori) classroom.