

505-2-.106. Academic Content Concentrations

Nature of Amendment(s):

☒ Substantive
☐ Clarification
☐ Further Definition

Discussion:

It is proposed that GaPSC Rule 505-2-.106, Academic Content Concentrations dated April 15, 2019, be AMENDED to clarify that an individual may not obtain the academic content concentration in Special Education Reading solely through passage of an assessment.

Current/Amended Sections(s):

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

(1) Purpose. To serve as a teacher of record in one of five (5) academic content concentrations, Special Education teachers must have the appropriate academic content concentrations designated on their Special Education Certificate. These content concentrations are:

- (a) Special Education Language Arts;
- (b) Special Education Mathematics;
- (c) Special Education Reading;
- (d) Special Education Science; and
- (e) Special Education Social Science.

(2) Cognitive Levels. Each of the academic content concentrations shall be further designated at a specific cognitive level. The cognitive level appropriate for the educator's certificate is based on information contained in the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP). The cognitive levels are:

- (a) P-5;
- (b) 4-8; and
- (c) 6-12.

(3) Academic Content Concentrations. Special Education academic content concentrations with designated cognitive levels shall be listed on the Georgia educator certificate one time only but shall apply to all appropriate Special Education fields that are also designated on the certificate.

(4) Approved Program Recommendation. GaPSC-approved program completers in designated Special Education fields ~~will~~ **may** be recommended for the certificate with ~~at least one~~ academic content concentration(s), ~~at a designated cognitive level of 4-8, which require a minimum of fifteen (15) semester hours of academic content coursework for middle grades (4-8) and a minimum of twenty-one (21) semester hours of academic content coursework for secondary (6-12).~~

(5) To Add Content Concentrations.

- (a) To add an academic content concentration and cognitive level to an existing Special Education certificate, educators may do one of the following:
 - 1. Be recommended for the concentration by a GaPSC-approved program provider; or

2. Pass the appropriate content assessment(s) in the content concentration. The appropriate assessments and corresponding cognitive levels are identified on the GaPSC web site at www.gapsc.com.

(i) **Effective July 1, 2026, the Reading Academic Content Concentration is no longer issued based on a passing assessment score. Only qualifying assessment scores earned before July 1, 2026, may be used to issue the concentration.**

~~(b)~~(ii) For educators who satisfied appropriate content assessment(s) prior to the implementation of this rule, passing scores (regardless of the date the test was taken) will be applied to Special Education academic content concentrations with an effective date on which the content assessment(s) were satisfied or the beginning of the fiscal year, whichever is more recent. For assessment(s) completed after the rule is in effect, the content concentration effective date will be the date on which the assessment requirements were satisfied.

(6) In-Field Statement. Special Education teachers serving in a consultative role must have the appropriate base Special Education certificate issued as Consultative. To be in-field as a teacher of record for an academic content field, the educator's certificate must include the appropriate Special Education field and the appropriate Special Education academic content concentration issued at the appropriate cognitive level. The cognitive level appropriate for the educator's certificate is based on information contained in the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP).

Authority O.C.G.A. § 20-2-200.