Summary of Proposed Changes to GaPSC Educator Preparation Rules

October 8, 2026, Initiation

December 10, 2026, Proposed Adoption

Public Comment Period: November 2, 2026, through December 1, 2026

At the October 8, 2026, Commission meeting, rulemaking was initiated for the Educator Preparation rules listed below. A summary of proposed rule changes is provided below. The proposed rules will be available on the GaPSC website at: **http://www.gapsc.com/Commission/Rules/home.aspx.**

The public comment period for these rules is open from November 2, 2026, through December 1, 2026. Written comments related to these rules must be addressed to GaPSC Executive Secretary, Dr. Joseph C. Barrow, Jr. and may be submitted via e-mail (**RulesComments@GaPSC.com**) or via regular mail (200 Piedmont Avenue, Suite 1716, Atlanta, Georgia 30334-9032). Commissioners will consider formal adoption of proposed rule amendments during their regular meeting on December 10, 2026. If you have questions about the proposed amendments, please contact Penney McRoy at penney.mcroy@gapsc.com.

Proposed Educator Preparation Rule Changes		
Rule #	**Rule Name**	**Summary**
505-3-.01	Requirements and Standards for Approving Educator Preparation Providers and Educator Preparation Programs	Amendments are proposed to add a number of new definitions, clarify the definitions of field and clinical experiences terms, and update definitions of other existing terms; further clarify the types of out-of-state organizations eligible to seek GaPSC approval; define and establish requirements for consortium programs; clarify expectations for EPP monitoring of candidate performance in programs; require EPPs to ensure programs prepare candidates to meet the needs of all P-12 students, including those who are identified as gifted, at-risk, special education, and English language learners; allow middle grades programs offered at the baccalaureate degree level to require one, rather than two content area concentrations; add Georgia Department of Corrections sites and Georgia Network for Educational and Therapeutic Support (GNETS) sites as acceptable field and clinical placements; clarify field experience requirements for educators who are employed as a teacher of record while enrolled in a teacher preparation program; remove outdated assessment requirements; and clarify requirements related to the Ethics Assessment. Other, non-substantive changes are proposed to clarify existing language.
505-3-.02	Educator Preparation Provider Annual Reporting and Evaluation	Amendments are proposed to comply with the requirements delineated in the Excellent Teacher Preparation Act (HB1107). Proposed amendments will expand the Preparation Program Effectiveness Measures, and the resulting changes will be published in January 2028.
505-3-.05	Georgia Teacher Academy for Preparation and Pedagogy (GaTAPP)	Amendments are proposed to add the GaTAPP Expedition process as a method of determining candidate eligibility to progress more quickly through the program, to add Georgia Department of Corrections sites as an accepted employment setting, and to clarify accreditation requirements for employment sites.

Proposed Educator Preparation Rule Changes		
Rule #	**Rule Name**	**Summary**
505-3-.19	Middle Grades Education Program	Amendments are proposed to allow programs offered at the baccalaureate degree level to require one, rather than two content area concentrations; and to revise the mathematics standards to comply with the requirements delineated in the Math Matters Act (HB1030). The revised standards will ensure teachers of middle grades mathematics are prepared to use evidence-based math instruction aligned with the four strands of mathematical proficiency defined in the law, to provide effective instruction and interventions for students who need intervention, and to use student data to make instructional decisions.
505-3-.76	Alternative Preparation for Educational Leadership	Amendments are proposed to collapse the two-tiered preparation structure to one, and to incorporate updated program content standards and program requirements recommended by a GaPSC task force comprised of subject matter experts and practitioners. Also included are transition options for holders of Tier I Certification and timelines for phasing out existing programs.
505-3-.77	Educational Leadership Program	Amendments are proposed to collapse the two-tiered structure to one, and to incorporate updated program content standards and program requirements recommended by a GaPSC task force comprised of subject matter experts and practitioners. Also included are transition options for holders of Tier I Certification and timelines for phasing out existing programs.
505-3-.115	Literacy Coaching Endorsement	This proposed new endorsement rule satisfies requirements set forth in the Georgia Early Literacy Act of 2026 (HB1193) and will establish a competency-based program for preparing educators to serve as literacy coaches in P-12 schools. Unlike other endorsement programs, a passing score on a standardized assessment will be required to earn the endorsement.