



Educational Leadership Tiered Transition Guidance

January 15th, 2016

Rule [505-2-.153](#)

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1. Introduction

As of January 15, 2016, Georgia Educational Leadership certification now has a tiered structure consisting of Standard Professional Tier I, Standard Professional Tier II, and Performance-Based Professional Tier II. This replaces the Educational Leadership 704, Building Level 706, and System Level 707 fields previously issued, while adding an additional Leadership field (Tier I) for those who wish to hold a leadership position that does not supervise other leaders (e.g., assistant principal at the building level, or curriculum director at the system level).

1a. Tier I and Tier II Comparison:

Tier I	Tier II
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Entry-level leadership certification acceptable for the position of assistant principal or below at building-level, or any position that does not supervise principals at the system-level➤ Not performance-based, issued as Standard Professional➤ Master's degree level program➤ Becomes obsolete upon issuance of Tier II	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Advanced-level leadership certification acceptable for any leadership position at the building or system level➤ Performance-based unless an educator previously held Standard Professional Leadership certification, or obtains Leadership certification through reciprocity, and has not completed an approved performance-based program.➤ Specialist or doctoral degree level program required unless based on reciprocity with a master's degree and 3 years of acceptable experience

1b. When will Tiered Leadership programs become available?

Tier I programs become available beginning summer semester 2016, and will only be offered at the master's degree level, or certification-only for those who hold a master's degree or above. Tier II programs become available beginning summer semester 2017, and will be offered at the specialist and doctoral degree levels, or certification-only for those who hold a specialist degree. Note that Tier I requirements must be completed to be certified in Tier II, unlike the previously independent Building and System Level programs.

1c. Will the completion of Tiered Leadership programs result in a leader level?

Yes, not unlike the previous Building and System Level programs, completion of a Tier I or Tier II Educational Leadership program that results in initial leadership certification through the completion of a higher degree will be accompanied by a leader level. If a leader level is issued, an educator must be in a leadership position to be compensated at the assigned leader level.

1d. Will unapproved out-of-state leadership programs be acceptable towards the addition of Leadership to a valid Georgia certificate?

No, Georgia educators must complete GaPSC-approved Leadership programs. Unapproved out-of-state programs, as well as programs approved by other states, remain ineligible towards the addition of Leadership (Tier I or Tier II) to Georgia certification.

1e. May Georgia educators who were initially certified through reciprocity and denied Leadership, now reapply under the current Educational Leadership rule?

Yes, educators who were initially certified based on reciprocity and now qualify for Tier I may reapply for evaluation. Only application materials submitted at the time of initial certification will be considered. This does not apply to Georgia educators who may have completed unapproved out-of-state leadership programs after becoming certified in Georgia.

1f. May eligible Georgia Educators continue to enroll in Building and System Level programs?

Yes, Building and System Level programs will continue to enroll applicants through spring of 2017, with active participation in coursework being required by that time to qualify for certification. Educators completing these programs will be issued Performance-Based Educational Leadership – Tier II upon completion. Building and System Level program completers are subject to the following GACE assessments: Educational Leadership content assessment, Ethics for Educational Leadership - Program Exit (if a complete application package is not received prior to 7/1/16), and the Performance-Based Assessment for School Leaders (if completing a program on or after 7/1/17).

2. Conversion of Previously Issued Educational Leadership Certification

2a. Existing Georgia Educational Leadership certificates were automatically converted on January 15, 2016 to conform to the new Tiered Educational Leadership structure. Please see the following table outlining the previous field, the tiered equivalent, and the leadership position(s) now applicable:

Leadership Field Prior to 1/15/16	Tiered Leadership Equivalent After 1/15/16	Applicable Leadership Position
Educational Leadership – Field 704	Standard Professional Educational Leadership – Tier II, Field 710	Any at either the building, or system level. Effectively a change in terminology only.
Educational Leadership – Building Level – Field 706	Performance-Based Educational Leadership – Tier II, Field 710	Any at either the building, or system level. Previous Building-Level certificate holders are no longer restricted to the building level.
Educational Leadership – System Level – Field 707	Performance-Based Educational Leadership – Tier II, Field 710	Any at either the building, or system level. Superintendents are now only required to hold Tier II certification.

3. Non-renewable Educational Leadership

3a. Non-renewable Educational Leadership certification remains available for issuance at the request of an employing Georgia Local Unit of Administration (LUA) to educators meeting the following requirements:

Non-renewable Educational Leadership Certificate Type	Issuance Requirements	Conversion Requirements	Validity Period
Tier I (appropriate only for leaders who do not supervise other leaders, e.g. assistant principal)	Bachelor's degree or higher, Ethics for Educational Leadership – Program Entry	Master's level approved program, content test, Ethics for Educational Leadership – Program Exit	3 years
Tier II (appropriate only for leaders who supervise other leaders, e.g. principal. Tier II will not be issued for positions where Tier I is appropriate)	Tier I certification, Ethics for Educational Leadership – Program Entry (if not complete, or exempt through the completion of Exit)	Specialist or doctoral level program, content test (unless met or exempt), Ethics for Educational Leadership – Program Exit (if not complete), Performance-based Assessment (if completing after 7/1/17)	3 years
Tier I & Tier II (appropriate only for leaders who supervise other leaders, e.g. principal. Tier II will not be issued for positions where Tier I is appropriate)	Master's degree or higher, Ethics for Educational Leadership – Program Entry	Specialist or doctoral level program, content test, Ethics for Educational Leadership – Program Exit, Performance-based Assessment for School Leaders (if completing after 7/1/17)	3 years initially, with 3 additional years available at the request of an employing LUA upon meeting the requirements of an approved Tier I program.

3b. How does the transition to Tiered Leadership affect previously issued Non-renewable Performance Based Educational Leadership certification?

Previously issued 5-year, Non-renewable Performance-Based Educational Leadership certificates at either the Building or System Level prior to January 15, 2016, will be honored for the remaining validity.

4. Educational Leadership Reciprocity

4a. Reciprocity remains in effect for out-of-state Educational Leadership certificate holders, with Tier I now available to those who would not have qualified for Leadership under the previous rule. The following illustrates the differences between the previous and current Educational Leadership Rule:

Educational Leadership Reciprocity Prior to January 15, 2016	Educational Leadership Reciprocity Effective January 15, 2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Specialist and doctoral level leadership programs led to Standard Professional Educational Leadership – 704 field certification➤ Master’s level leadership programs led to 704 field certification only if completed by December 15, 2010, or if accompanied by 3 years of acceptable leadership experience➤ Educational Leadership content assessment or exemption was required for initial issuance unless a 1-year Non-renewable was being requested by a Georgia LUA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Specialist and doctoral level leadership programs result in Standard Professional Educational Leadership – Tier II certification➤ Master’s level leadership programs result in Educational Leadership – Tier I certification unless accompanied by 3 years of acceptable leadership experience.➤ Educational Leadership content assessment may be completed prior to an educator’s first certificate renewal, along with any other applicable Special Georgia Requirements

4b. How does an out-of-state educator who completed a master’s level Educational Leadership program qualify for Tier II?

Out-of-state educators professionally certified in Educational Leadership through a master’s-level program must have completed 3 years of acceptable leadership experience to qualify for Educational Leadership – Tier II certification.

4c. What is considered acceptable out-of-state leadership experience?

Full-time, satisfactory rated experience accrued at an acceptable institution in a leadership position that required government-issued Educational Leadership certification. For further details, please review the [Experience Requirements rule](#). Educational leadership experience may be accepted from any year previous to application towards the issuance of Tier II. For exemption of [Special Georgia Requirements](#), experience submitted must be within 5 years prior to application.

4d. Will a higher, non-leadership degree qualify an out-of-state educator with a master’s-level leadership program and less than 3 years of experience for Tier II certification?

No, eligibility for Educational Leadership is determined by using the leadership program only. For example, an out-of-state educator who completed a master’s level leadership program, and an unrelated specialist, would be subject to experience requirements towards Tier II certification.

4e. May out-of-state educators professionally certified in Educational Leadership who did not complete a leadership content test, exceptional child course, or other Special Georgia Requirement, qualify for initial Georgia Educational Leadership certification?

Yes, Special Georgia Requirements may be completed prior to first certification renewal.