



GaPSC Quarterly Highlights

4th Quarter, 2022

The mission of the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GaPSC) is to build the best prepared, most qualified, and most ethical education workforce in the nation. This document highlights progress and actions of this state agency during fourth quarter 2022.

A Message from Matt Arthur

I thank you, our educational partners, for your ongoing collaboration and commitment to our shared work of supporting a viable educator pipeline.

In this issue, you will learn about several GaPSC-hosted webinars for Spring 2023. We hope you will take advantage of these and share the information with your colleagues.

We do have some important reminders for you:

- A change in our Ethics process became effective January 1, 2023. Initial applicants with an Ethics case who do not provide the requested documentation within 45 days will have their Ethics case automatically closed. Upon re-applying, the educator must provide the missing documentation for that Ethics issue, as well as for any additional issues that may have arisen.
- There are new ethics complaints forms and processes in place. More information is posted at <https://www.gapsc.com/Ethics/Complaint.aspx>.
- On January 1, 2023, the Certification Division launched a batch renewal process that allows LUAs to submit certificate renewal requests in bulk for their educators, rather than one by one. This new process is more streamlined and efficient for school districts and increases automation efforts for the Certification Division. In one month, over 4,500 certificates have been renewed using batch renewal.
- Candidates completing a traditional, GaTAPP, or endorsement program, need not apply for certification upon program completion. Rather, they should complete Personal Affirmation Questions (PAQs) in their MyPSC account and ensure any applicable transcripts will be sent to the GaPSC. A certification case will automatically open provided that current PAQs and the verification of program completion in the Non-Traditional Reporting System (NTRS) or the Traditional Program Management System (TPMS) are on file.
- Please visit the newly revised certificate upgrade page using the quick link on our homepage at <http://www.gapsc.com> and help us in communicating to educators the importance of using this new page and the Certificate Upgrade Advisor prior to enrolling in an advanced degree program to ensure the selected program will be accepted by GaPSC for a certificate level upgrade.
- We do encourage educators seeking preparation programs, including certification upgrades, to attend a Georgia approved program. Please do advise educators seeking a certificate level upgrade with a Master's degree program in the field of Curriculum and Instruction, Instructional Technology, or Teacher Leadership to attend a Georgia college or university. Those who choose out-of-state universities may not qualify for an upgrade.

It is always important to me to recognize GaPSC's outstanding staff, all of whom work diligently to provide outstanding customer service, helpful technical assistance, and ongoing professional learning. Following are just a few examples of their service in this past calendar year:

- The agency conducted over 185 presentations and professional learning sessions, reaching over 10,608 P-12 school district, school, and educator preparation provider (EPP) staff.
- Certification staff completed over 100,285 certification cases and handled over 102,400 calls and emails.
- Ethics staff closed 2,016 ethics cases.
- Educator Preparation staff facilitated new or continuing approval reviews for a total of 30 program providers. Staff work led to Commission approval of 129 existing initial preparation programs, 9 existing endorsement programs, 15 new initial preparation programs, and 14 new endorsement programs.

We remain strongly dedicated to serving our educators, school districts and schools, EPPs, RESAs, educational partners, and others, and we appreciate your input into our policies and practices, which is critically important to us.

Let's keep working together, and I hope your 2023 is healthy and happy.

Matt

Policy Changes

Substantive policy changes adopted by the Commission at its September 8, 2022, became effective October 15, 2022. These changes are highlighted in the [GaPSC's Quarterly Highlights for 3rd Quarter 2022](#).

Substantive policy changes adopted by the Commission on December 8, 2022, became effective January 1, 2023, as summarized below:

Certification

- 505-2-.191 ELEMENTARY AGRICULTURE EDUCATION (P-5) ENDORSEMENT, was adopted to change the title, revise formatting for consistency, and update the fields to which the endorsement may be added.
- 505-2-.193 COMPUTER SCIENCE MICRO-ENDORSEMENT, was adopted to update requirements for the endorsement in response to revised preparation program standards and rules.

Educator Preparation

- 505-3-.02 EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROVIDER ANNUAL REPORTING AND EVALUATION was adopted to reflect the change from consequential to non-consequential Preparation Program Effectiveness Measures.
- The following rules were adopted to include financial literacy standards as required by Senate Bill 220 (2022).
 - 505-3-.23 ECONOMICS EDUCATION PROGRAM
 - 505-3-.27 MATHEMATICS EDUCATION PROGRAM
 - 505-3-.35 BUSINESS EDUCATION PROGRAM (includes updated program standards)
 - 505-3-.38 MARKETING EDUCATION PROGRAM (includes updated program standards)
 - 505-3-.36 FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES EDUCATION PROGRAM (includes updated program standards)
- The following rules were adopted to update program content standards:
 - 505-3-.34 AGRICULTURE EDUCATION PROGRAM
 - 505-3-.37 HEALTHCARE SCIENCE PROGRAM
 - 505-3-.39 ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION PROGRAM
 - 505-3-.40 CAREER AND TECHNICAL SPECIALIZATIONS PROGRAM
 - 505-3-.41 COMPUTER SCIENCE PROGRAM
 - 505-3-.86 COMPUTER SCIENCE ENDORSEMENT PROGRAM
 - 505-3-.88 CULINARY ARTS ENDORSEMENT PROGRAM

Ethics

- 505-6-.01 THE GEORGIA CODE OF ETHICS FOR EDUCATORS was adopted to add sections for sanctions and application procedures.

In addition, the Commission approved new sanction and application case guidance at its December 8, 2022, meeting. A result of the work of the Ethics Task Force, the guidance outlines common violations and corresponding sanctions and required documentation for ethics application cases.

GaPSC rules are available at <https://www.gapsc.com/Commission/Rules/home.aspx>. All Commission meeting minutes are available at <https://www.gapsc.com/Commission/CommissionInfo/Minutes.aspx>.

Enhancements

The following are examples of fourth quarter GaPSC actions aimed at enhancing the quality of our services:

- GaPSC held its 28th annual Certification and Program Officials conference November 3rd and 4th. EPPs, school district and school personnel, and others had choices of 21 sessions across the topics of certification, educator preparation, ethics, and assessment, along with an Educational Leadership strand. The total attendance across all sessions exceeded 785. Session recordings and materials are available at https://www.gapsc.com/EducatorPreparation/Conference_Presentations.aspx. The 29th annual Certification and Program Officials conference is currently scheduled for November 30th-December 1st, 2023.
- Planning began for two separate series of webinars, scheduled for Spring 2023:
 - GaPSC's Ethics Division's five-part webinar series will focus on new complaint forms and processes; conducting effective investigations; examples of misuse of social media; and a two-part segment on appropriate use of social media. Recordings will be posted under Ethics Resources available at https://www.gapsc.com/Ethics/Ethics_Resources.aspx.
 - GaPSC's Educator Preparation Division is offering a six-part webinar series for approved program providers focused on a variety of topics, including orientation for new EPP leaders and faculty; preparing future educators for digital teaching and learning; developing advisory groups; validity and reliability; and disaggregating key assessment data. Contact your GaPSC Education Specialist for details.
- Production began on a four-part video series on Personal Affirmation Questions (PAQs), and additional videos on certification processes are planned. The PAQ series will include the following and will launch in Spring 2023:
 - What Are PAQs?
 - How Do I Submit PAQs?
 - Should I Check YES on PAQs?
 - What Happens If I Answer YES on PAQs?
- The Preparation Program Effectiveness Measures (PPEM) Dashboard was updated to display 2022 data, reflecting the new, non-consequential approach. The PPEMs give EPPs and their programs access to data to inform improvement and provide transparency to the public, including the K-12 education community, about the quality of teachers and leaders produced by each EPP. The ultimate goal of the PPEM is to improve student learning in Georgia through raising the quality of the teachers and leaders responsible for their education.
- The Northwest, Southeast, Athens, and East P-20 Regional Collaboratives convened during fourth quarter. These regional meetings bring together colleges of education, P-12 educators and leaders, and RESAs to improve education in each region. Schedules, agendas, and presentation materials, as well as virtual meeting information, are available at https://www.gapsc.com/EducatorPreparation/P20_Collaborative.aspx.
- Two GaPSC co-hosted Virtual Professional Learning Communities (VPLC) convened fourth quarter:
 - The Georgia Educational Leadership Faculty Association (GELFA)/GaPSC VPLC, designed for state-approved Educational Leadership program providers and their P-12 partners, hosted its second segment of a series on *Preparing, Developing, and Retaining Effective Leaders*. The November convening featured five P-12 principals sharing their perspectives on recruiting and retaining building leaders.
 - The Georgia Teacher Leadership VPLC, designed for Georgia's state-approved teacher leadership program providers and their partners, centered its November convening on examples of district teacher leadership development programs.
- GaPSC continued its focus on components of Governor Kemp's Teacher Pipeline Legislation aimed at helping Georgia's school districts and schools with effective school staffing.
 - The HBCU collaborative met fourth quarter. The HBCU Collaborative examined initiatives and innovative practices aimed at attracting minority male populations in teacher preparation programs and retaining them in the teacher pipeline. Several Georgia HBCU providers discussed initiatives that are being implemented to identify and recruit Black males for the teaching profession. The meeting also featured several Black male candidates who are currently in educator preparation programs, or who have recently completed teacher

preparation programs and are serving as induction level teachers. The HBCU Collaborative is designed to further assist with not only recruitment, but also support of educators from under-represented groups. This initiative is focused on preparation program effectiveness outcomes and exploring new strategies and practices to promote increased program enrollment and completion.

- GaPSC's support of transitioning military veterans and their spouses continued with staff specifically devoted to recruiting these individuals. During the fourth quarter, Military Support staff attended three conferences, as vendors, to promote the program and held eight briefings across four Georgia military bases.

Both the HBCU Collaborative and GaPSC's support of transitioning military veterans and their spouses were featured in the *What's Going On* podcast series of the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC).

- In addition to presenting at statewide conferences, GaPSC staff provided multiple professional learning and technical assistance events to assist EPPs, school districts, and schools as they work with their in-service educators, and EPP faculty as they work with their pre-service educator candidates. GaPSC presented to 1,916 individuals during fourth quarter.

**Examples of GaPSC Support and Professional Learning Events,
excluding the 21 sessions conducted at the GaPSC Certification and
Program Officials Conference
4th Quarter, 2022**

Ethics

2 Aspiring Principals Academy Training Events
Liquidated Damages Round Table Discussion

Certification

3 Virtual Sessions for EPP Candidates
Eight Military Base Briefings

Educator Preparation

2 GaTAPP Meetings
HBCU Collaborative Meeting
RESA Professional Learning Directors Event
4 P-20 Regional Collaborative Convenings
Webinar: Current Legislation on Educator Preparation: Part II

Assessment

Assessment Advisory Panel Meeting
2 Virtual Professional Learning Community (VPLC) Convenings

- Please watch for our communications under [News and Announcements](#) (including our Quarterly Highlights), frequently visit our website as we continue to add new resources, and follow us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/GeorgiaPSC>) and Twitter (https://twitter.com/Ga_PSC).

Support by the Numbers

During fourth quarter of calendar year 2022, GaPSC:

- Answered 9,146 certification calls, totaling 44,718 year to date (YTD).
- Responded to 10,521 certification emails, totaling 57,690 YTD.
- Opened 13,062 certification cases, totaling 98,802 certification cases YTD.
- Completed 14,655 certification cases, totaling 100,288 certification cases YTD.

- Completed 443 ethics cases, totaling 2,016 ethics cases YTD.

Between October 1 and December 31, 2022, GaPSC continued approval for 52 existing programs, approved 2 new endorsement programs, and approved 9 new initial preparation programs. During this quarter, work was conducted on new or continuing approval reviews for a total of 15 program providers.

Need Assistance?

The [GaPSC website](#) provides helpful, detailed information. If you don't find the answers you need on the website, the following contact information may be helpful:

- [Certification](#): Please use the online contact form [here](#).
- [Educator Preparation](#): EPPs are asked to contact their education specialist.
- [Ethics](#): Contact information is provided [here](#).
- [Assessment](#): Contact information is provided [here](#).

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