



GaPSC Quarterly Highlights

1st Quarter, 2023

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 first quarter 2023.

A Message from Matt Arthur

In reflecting on the multiple professional learning offerings in Spring 2023, which are featured in our *GaPSC Quarterly Highlights*, I continue to be amazed at the high level of collaboration across our state between our school districts, schools, educator preparation providers (EPPs), RESAs, educational organizations, and others.

We are very fortunate in Georgia to have an educational community that fosters strong collaborations and forges solid partnerships. As a few examples, the recent five-part Day with GaPSC series was co-hosted by all sixteen RESAs, each working together in regional groupings to provide a forum for GaPSC to deliver certification, educator preparation, ethics, and assessment updates. In addition, GaPSC hosted over twenty instructional webinars, co-hosted five virtual professional learning community meetings, held eleven briefings across four military bases, attended three job fairs, and supported three P20 Collaborative meetings. All these outreach initiatives are aimed at supporting the educator pipeline and are not possible without the input and support of the educational community.

As our state continues its focus on literacy, we recently completed work with a reading task force to closely review and make recommendations regarding standards for preparing teachers to teach reading. The task force recommended that preparation to teach reading be focused on evidence-based strategies shown to improve reading comprehension—an approach commonly known as the science of reading. A second recommendation of the task force was to incorporate preparation to teach reading across all teacher preparation programs, culminating in the development of the proposed Foundations of Reading, Literacy, and Language Rule. This new Educator Preparation Rule (505-3-.03) will come before the Commission for their adoption consideration in June 2023, and, if adopted, it will become effective July 1, 2023. If the new rule is adopted, EPPs will be required to implement the new standards starting in the fall semester of 2024.

We do have some important reminders for you:

- The new teacher surveys sent annually to principals who hire new teachers or leaders from state-approved EPPs are very important. If you received a survey and have not yet completed it, please do so by May 30, 2023. These surveys provide valuable feedback to the EPP that prepared the teacher or leader, and they also inform our Preparation Program Effectiveness Measures (PPEM) Annual Report.
- We encourage you to use the new ethics complaints forms and processes in place. More information is posted at <https://www.gapsc.com/Ethics/Complaint.aspx>.
- 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 continue to 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.

In closing, please join us on our social platforms. Also, watch for the communications we send to you, including our rulemaking notices, and please share them, all of which are posted on our website under [News and Announcements](#).

We remain committed to seeking your input and working collaboratively with you. Thank you again for all you do, and, as always, let us know how we can support you.

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 4th Quarter 2022](#).

Substantive policy changes adopted by the Commission on January 12, 2023, became effective April 15, 2023, as summarized below:

Certification

- 505-2-.39 CERTIFICATION APPEAL was adopted to clarify the requirements for appeal eligibility.

Educator Preparation

- 505-3-.113 FINANCIAL LITERACY ENDORSEMENT was adopted to provide standards and requirements for endorsement programs that will prepare secondary teachers (6-12) to teach financial literacy to students in eleventh (11th) and twelfth (12th) grades, per the requirements set forth in Senate Bill 220, passed in the 2022 legislative session.
- The following rules were adopted to update program content standards:
 - 505-3-.24 ENGLISH EDUCATION PROGRAM
 - 505-3-.54 SPECIAL EDUCATION ADAPTED CURRICULUM PROGRAM
 - 505-3-.55 SPECIAL EDUCATION GENERAL CURRICULUM PROGRAM
 - 505-3-.56 SPECIAL EDUCATION GENERAL CURRICULUM ELEMENTARY EDUCATION PROGRAM
 - 505-3-57 SPECIAL EDUCATION DEAF EDUCATION PROGRAM
 - 505-3-.58 SPECIAL EDUCATION PHYSICAL AND HEALTH DISABILITIES PROGRAM
 - 505-3-60 SPECIAL EDUCATION VISUAL IMPAIRMENT PROGRAM
 - 505-3-83 AUTISM EDUCATION ENDORSEMENT PROGRAM
 - 505-3-.91 INTERVENTION SPECIALIST ENDORSEMENT
 - 505-3-98 SPECIAL EDUCATION DEAF EDUCATION ENDORSEMENT
 - 505-3-.99 SPECIAL EDUCATION PHYSICAL AND HEALTH DISABILITIES ENDORSEMENT
 - 505-3-.101 SPECIAL EDUCATION TRANSITION SPECIALIST ENDORSEMENT
 - 505-3-102 SPECIAL EDUCATION VISUAL IMPAIRMENT ENDORSEMENT

Substantive policy changes were initiated by the Commission on March 9, 2023, and posted for a 30-day public comment period. If adopted, the proposed Educator Preparation rules will become effective June 15, 2023, and the proposed Certification rule will become effective July 1, 2023. The proposed rule amendments are summarized below:

Certification

- 505-2-.194 FINANCIAL LITERACY ENDORSEMENT was initiated to allow qualified individuals to teach identified courses in financial literacy.

Educator Preparation

- 505-3-.01 REQUIREMENTS AND STANDARDS FOR APPROVING EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROVIDERS AND EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS was initiated to remove and/or simplify ambiguous terms, to replace the InTASC Model Core Teaching Standards with the Teacher Assessment on Performance Standards (TAPS), and to clarify language related to dyslexia and the teaching of reading.
- 505-3-.05 GEORGIA TEACHER ACADEMY FOR PREPARATION AND PEDAGOGY (GaTAPP) was initiated to remove and/or simplify ambiguous terms.
- 505-3-.06 PEDAGOGY-ONLY PROGRAM was initiated to replace the InTASC Model Core Teaching Standards with the Teacher Assessment on Performance Standards (TAPS)

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 first quarter GaPSC actions aimed at enhancing the quality of our services:

- 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 the first quarter, over 16,000 certificates have been renewed using batch renewal.
- All sixteen Georgia RESAs worked together to co-host a five-part Day with GaPSC series, featuring the latest GaPSC updates, reminders, and resources regarding Certification, Ethics, Educator Preparation, and Assessment. These no-cost sessions are designed for superintendents, deans, chairs, HR directors, and other certification and program officials in school districts, local schools, educator preparation providers, and others whose work intersects that of the GaPSC. Over 430 registered for these informative sessions.
- During 1st quarter, GaPSC published the following guidance:
 - [Common Ethical Violations and Associated Sanctions](#) – outlines the common certificate sanctions for prevalent ethics violations.
 - [Application Case Documentation Requirements](#) – outlines required documentation when educators respond with a “Yes” to Personal Affirmation Questions (PAQs).
 - [GEORGIA STANDARDS FOR THE APPROVAL OF EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROVIDERS AND EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS, Effective Fall 2023](#) – provides the state-approved program approval standards for EPPs.
- GaPSC’s Ethics Division conducted a Spring 2023 webinar series. These informative sessions are listed below, along with the recording links:
 - *Ethics Reporting Process and New Documentation* focuses on new ethics complaint forms and processes, available at <https://vimeo.com/791557956>.
 - *Ensuring Effective Investigations*, available at <https://vimeo.com/795093516>.
 - *Hot Topics: Social Media - Part I*, available at <https://vimeo.com/805723467>.
 - *Hot Topics: Social Media – Part II*, available at <https://vimeo.com/811376931>.
- Building on its four-part Fall 2022 webinar series, GaPSC’s Educator Preparation Division launched its six-part Spring 2023 webinar series for approved program providers focused on a variety of topics. Offerings include:
 - *Orientation to GaPSC: For New EPP Administrators and Faculty*
 - *Online Teaching: Preparing Future Educators for Digital Teaching and Learning*
 - *Developing Sustainable, Actionable Advisory Groups*
 - *Validity and Reliability of Key Assessments: Ensuring EPP-Created Key Assessments are Valid and Reliable*
 - *Disaggregating Information from Key Assessments to Demonstrate Candidates are Effectively Prepared*
 - *Key Assessment Data: Disaggregating Information from Key Assessments to Demonstrate Candidates are Effectively Prepared*
- GaPSC’s Certification Division participated in the following three outreach events this quarter:
 - To prepare LUAs for the new batch renewal process, the Certification Division hosted a webinar to explain the process, review procedures, and answer questions related to batch renewal.
 - Certification staff presented to graduate and undergraduate teacher candidates from an EPP to review certification topics including application procedures, next steps beyond initial certification, and certification upgrade requirements.
 - The 13th annual Certification Outreach for LUAs and EPPs was held and focused on a variety of topics including navigating available resources, reciprocity, Induction certification, CTAE Specializations, and best practices.
- Production continued on a four-part video series on Personal Affirmation Questions (PAQs), and additional videos on certification processes. The PAQ series will include the following and will launch in early May 2023:
 - *What Are PAQs?*

- *How Do I Submit PAQs?*
- *Should I Check YES on PAQs?*
- *What Happens If I Answer YES on PAQs?*

Examples of additional Certification video selections coming soon include:

- *How to Register for MyPSC*
 - *How to Reset Your Password*
 - *What if Your Name Changes*
 - *How to Check the Status of your Application and Upload Documentation*
 - *How to Claim Testing Eligibility*
 - *How to Submit Applications*
 - *How to Register for GACE Assessments*
 - *About Certificate Upgrades*
- In addition to presenting at statewide conferences, GaPSC staff provided multiple professional learning and technical assistance events to assist school districts, schools, and EPPs as they work with their in-service educators, and EPP faculty as they work with their pre-service educator candidates. GaPSC presented to 1,931 individuals during first quarter.

**Examples of GaPSC Support and Professional Learning Events
1st Quarter, 2023**

Ethics
 4 Ethics Webinars
 HR Institute Presentation
 2 Paraprofessional Ethics Modules Implementation Meetings

Certification
 3 Virtual Sessions for EPP Candidates
 Batch Renewal Webinar
 4 Certification Outreach Sessions
 3 Job Fairs

Educator Preparation
 3 GaTAPP Meetings
 HBCU Collaborative Meeting
 RESA Professional Learning Directors Event
 3 P-20 Regional Collaborative Convenings
 3 Technical Assistance Webinars

Assessment
 Assessment Advisory Panel Meeting
 5 Virtual Professional Learning Community (VPLC) Convenings
 3 Title II/HEOA Webinars

- 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.
 - This spring the HBCU Collaborative met and continued highlighting innovations and initiatives underway at Georgia HBCUs. The focus of the spring convening was on quality assurance and the important role of partnerships with P-12 school districts. In addition, the HBCU Collaborative members heard updates about the HBCU Senate Study Committee initiatives, including the creation of an HBCU Innovation and Economic Prosperity Planning Districts Commission. Representatives of the HBCU Virtual Collaborative attended two events this spring at the Georgia State Capitol hosted by the HBCU Senate Study Committee,

including an HBCU study report press conference on February 9th, and the HBCU Heritage Day at the Capitol on March 20th.

- GaPSC's support of transitioning military veterans and their spouses continued with staff specifically devoted to recruiting these individuals. During the first quarter, Military Support staff attended one conference and two military sponsored events, as a vendor to promote the program, and held eleven briefings across four Georgia military bases.
- The East, Northeast, and Metro P-20 Regional Collaboratives convened during first 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.
- 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 first quarter of calendar year 2023, GaPSC:

- Answered 12,235 certification calls
- Responded to 14,324 certification emails
- Opened 36,046 certification cases
- Completed 35,743 certification cases
- Completed 410 ethics cases

Between January 1 and March 31, 2023, GaPSC approved nine new endorsement programs and one new initial preparation program. During this quarter, work was conducted on new or continuing approval reviews for a total of seven 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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