



GaPSC Quarterly Highlights

2nd 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 second quarter 2023.

A Message from Matt Arthur

As a new academic year launches, I thank you not only for the work you do each and every day, but also for your collaborative partnership with us, which we greatly value. Each of you has such an important and impactful role in effective education in Georgia, and we remain committed to supporting you.

With our state's focus on reading and literacy, we invite you to read the newly adopted Educator Preparation Rule [505-3-.03, Foundations of Reading, Literacy, and Language](#). This new policy, which was informed by a representative task force, establishes the standards educator preparation providers (EPPs) will use to incorporate preparation to teach reading across all teacher preparation programs. The following brief overview of the structure of this new policy may be helpful in understanding its far-reaching impact on initial teaching preparation and what teaching program completers will know and be able to do.

Within the rule, teaching fields are grouped according to certification grade levels or subject areas. Although there are similarities, standards differ for each grouping based on the level of knowledge and skills appropriate for the grade level or subject areas. One level consists of fields that require a deeper knowledge and demonstration of the skills associated with the teaching of reading (e.g., elementary), while the other level consists of fields requiring an awareness of reading fundamentals (e.g., secondary fields). Essentially, all teaching field programs will involve preparation in reading at varying levels.

Within each of the two levels (demonstration or awareness), are groups of teaching fields for which differentiated preparation standards have been established. The program groupings are as follows:

Preparation fields requiring demonstration of knowledge and skills:

- Birth Through Kindergarten and Special Education Preschool
- Elementary Education (P-5), Special Education General Curriculum/Elementary Education (P-5), and Middle Grades Reading
- Special Education (P-12) fields of General Curriculum, Adapted Curriculum, Deaf Education, Physical and Health Disabilities, and Vision Impairment

Preparation fields requiring awareness of knowledge and skills:

- Middle Grades (4-8) teachers of English language arts, mathematics, science, and social science
- Secondary (6-12) fields: Agriculture Education, Business Education, Career & Technical Specializations, Economics Education, English Education, Family and Consumer Sciences Education, Geography Education, Healthcare Science, History Education, Marketing Education, Mathematics Education, Political Science Education, Science Education, and Speech Education
- P-12 fields of Art, Computer Science, Dance, Drama, Engineering and Technology, English to Speakers of Other Languages, Health and Physical Education, Music, and World (formerly Foreign) Languages

GaPSC-approved EPPs are required to implement the new standards by the fall semester of 2024. As all teaching field content standards have changed, so will the GACE. By July 1, 2025, all GACE teaching field content assessments must be aligned with the science of reading and measure different levels of knowledge and application appropriate for the preparation field.

We look forward to your continued input and involvement in this collaborative work to ensure effective literacy education.

I hope you find this *GaPSC Quarterly Highlights* edition helpful, and I wish you the very best in the coming academic year.

Matt

Policy Changes

Substantive policy changes initiated by the Commission on January 12, 2023, and adopted on March 9, 2023, became effective April 15, 2023. These changes are highlighted in the [GaPSC's Quarterly Highlights for 1st Quarter 2023](#).

Substantive policy changes initiated by the Commission on March 9, 2023, and adopted on May 11, 2023, became effective June 15, 2023, for the Educator Preparation rules, and July 1, 2023, for the Certification rule. These changes are highlighted in the [GaPSC's Quarterly Highlights for 1st Quarter 2023](#).

Substantive policy changes were initiated by the Commission on April 13, 2023, adopted on June 8, 2023, and became effective July 1, 2023, as summarized below:

Certification

- The following rules were updated to clarify these certification fields are for strengthened and enhanced competency and are not in-field for any teaching, service, or leadership position.
 - 505-2-.141 CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION
 - 505-2-.142 INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY
 - 505-2-.149 TEACHER LEADERSHIP

Educator Preparation

- 505-3-.03 FOUNDATIONS OF READING, LITERACY, AND LANGUAGE - specifies standards for preparing teachers to teach reading. GaPSC-approved EPPs will be required to implement these standards by Fall 2024.
- The following rules were adopted to either simplify and/or remove ambiguous terms, update standards, and/or incorporate the applicable standards specified in 505-3-.03 FOUNDATIONS OF READING, LITERACY, AND LANGUAGE.
 - 505-3-.13 BIRTH THROUGH KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM
 - 505-3-.14 ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (P-5) PROGRAM
 - 505-3-.19 MIDDLE GRADES EDUCATION PROGRAM
 - 505-3-.48 WORLD LANGUAGES EDUCATION PROGRAM
 - 505-3-.51 READING EDUCATION PROGRAM
 - 505-3-.59 SPECIAL EDUCATION PRESCHOOL (AGES 3-5) PROGRAM
 - 505-3-.66 LITERACY SPECIALIST PROGRAM
 - 505-3-.76 ALTERNATIVE PREPARATION FOR EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM
 - 505-3-.77 EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM
 - 505-3-.82 BIRTH THROUGH KINDERGARTEN ENDORSEMENT PROGRAM
 - 505-3-.96 READING ENDORSEMENT PROGRAM
 - 505-3-.100 SPECIAL EDUCATION PRESCHOOL (AGES 3-5) ENDORSEMENT PROGRAM

Substantive policy changes were initiated by the Commission on June 8, 2023, and adopted on July 13, 2023. The rules will become effective August 15, 2023. The rule amendments are summarized below:

Professional Practices

- 505-6-.08 STUDENT LOANS was repealed as it is no longer relevant to the work of GaPSC.

Educator Preparation

- The following rule was updated to incorporate reading-related requirements specified in Rule 505-3-.03 FOUNDATIONS OF READING, LITERACY, AND LANGUAGE, and the removal of outdated language.
 - 505-3-.01 REQUIREMENTS AND STANDARDS FOR APPROVING EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROVIDERS AND EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS

- The following rules were adopted to simplify ambiguous terms and incorporate requirements related to the teaching of reading specified in Rule 505-3-.03 FOUNDATIONS OF READING, LITERACY, AND LANGUAGE.
 - 505-3-.05 GEORGIA TEACHER ACADEMY FOR PREPARATION AND PEDAGOGY (GaTAPP)
 - 505-3-.06 PEDAGOGY-ONLY PROGRAM
 - 505-3-.23 ECONOMICS EDUCATION PROGRAM
 - 505-3-.24 ENGLISH EDUCATION PROGRAM
 - 505-3-.25 GEOGRAPHY EDUCATION PROGRAM
 - 505-3-.26 HISTORY EDUCATION PROGRAM
 - 505-3-.27 MATHEMATICS EDUCATION PROGRAM
 - 505-3-.28 POLITICAL SCIENCE EDUCATION PROGRAM
 - 505-3-.29 SCIENCE EDUCATION PROGRAM
 - 505-3-.30 SPEECH EDUCATION PROGRAM
 - 505-3-.34 AGRICULTURE EDUCATION PROGRAM
 - 505-3-.35 BUSINESS EDUCATION PROGRAM
 - 505-3-.36 FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES EDUCATION PROGRAM
 - 505-3-.37 HEALTHCARE SCIENCE PROGRAM
 - 505-3-.38 MARKETING EDUCATION 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-.44 ART EDUCATION PROGRAM
 - 505-3-.45 DANCE EDUCATION PROGRAM
 - 505-3-.46 DRAMA EDUCATION PROGRAM
 - 505-3-.47 ENGLISH TO SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES (ESOL) EDUCATION PROGRAM
 - 505-3-.49 HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM
 - 505-3-.50 MUSIC 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 IMPAIRMENTS PROGRAM
- The following rules were adopted to simplify ambiguous terms.
 - 505-3-.83 AUTISM EDUCATION ENDORSEMENT
 - 505-3-.89 ENGLISH TO SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES (ESOL) ENDORSEMENT
 - 505-3-.90 GIFTED IN-FIELD EDUCATION ENDORSEMENT
 - 505-3-.92 K-5 MATHEMATICS ENDORSEMENT
 - 505-3-.93 K-5 SCIENCE ENDORSEMENT
 - 505-3-.95 ONLINE TEACHING 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
 - 505-3-.103 MULTI-TIERED SYSTEM OF SUPPORTS FACILITATOR ENDORSEMENT
 - 505-3-.104 TEACHER LEADER ENDORSEMENT
 - 505-3-.107 DUAL IMMERSION ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (P-5) ENDORSEMENT
 - 505-3-.108 PERSONALIZED LEARNING ENDORSEMENT
 - 505-3-.110 URBAN EDUCATION ENDORSEMENT
 - 505-3-.112 DYSLEXIA ENDORSEMENT

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

- The [Preparing Ethical Paraprofessionals](#) video launched to assist RESA's in promoting and sharing the value of the Paraprofessional Ethics Modules with their partner districts and their paraprofessionals. The video focuses on the importance of paraprofessionals, the need for the modules, an overview of module content, and feedback from those who have completed the training. These instructional modules are available through each RESA.
- Enhancements made to GaPSC's call center routing resulted in a reduction of the average abandon rate by 57% and the average talk time by 26%. Examples of enhancements include, but are not limited to, routing calls to the appropriate call center staff on first selection rather than requiring a transfer or escalation.
- The Ethics Division continued its targeted focus on closing old cases and decreasing the number of extended cases, all of which allows increased time to focus on current cases. These efforts resulted in a 69% decrease of extended cases in FY23 over FY22.
- Work began on the *2023-24 Avoiding Ethical Missteps: Georgia's Code of Ethics for Educators* PowerPoint made available annually to EPPs and school districts to use when conducting ethics training. This instructional resource is now available at [GaPSC - Resources](#).
- A *Guidelines for Breach of Contract* document was developed to provide further information regarding Standard 9: Professional Conduct of the Code of Ethics for Educators and is available at [GaPSC - Resources](#).
- The Certification Division launched the automated conversion of Induction certificates, eliminating the need for educators and their employing districts to apply for certificate conversion. Since implementation, over 3,300 Induction certificates have been automatically converted.
- The [Guidance for Interpreting and Implementing Rule 505-3-.01 Requirements and Standards for Approving Educator Preparation Providers and Educator Preparation Programs \(Rule Effective Date June 15, 2023\)](#), was updated to reflect recent amendments and published.
- Work began on two guidance documents for EPPs, which are now posted.
 - [Foundations of Reading, Literacy, and Language Implementation Guide for Educator Preparation Providers](#)
 - [Guidance for Program Approval Standards 2023 \(Standards Effective for Summative Reviews in Fall, 2023\) Version 5](#)
- The [GaPSC's Video Series](#) launched. The list of currently available titles include:
 - Personal Affirmation Questions (PAQ) Series:
 - *What Are PAQs?; How Do I Submit PAQs?; Should I Check YES on PAQs?; What Happens If I Answer YES on PAQs?*
 - Certification Logistics:
 - *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*
- GaPSC's support of transitioning military veterans and their spouses continued with staff specifically devoted to recruiting these individuals. During the second quarter, Military Support staff attended one conference and four military sponsored events, as a vendor to promote the program, and held 16 briefings across five Georgia military bases.
- The Southeast, Southwest, Athens, and West P-20 Regional Collaboratives convened during second 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.

- 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 1,099 individuals during second quarter.

**Examples of GaPSC Support and Professional Learning Events
2nd Quarter, 2023**

Ethics
1 Breach of Contract Training

Certification
5 Certification Training Events

Educator Preparation
2 GaTAPP Meetings
RESA Professional Learning Directors Event
4 P-20 Regional Collaborative Convenings
1 Endorsement-only Webinar

- 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 11,676 certification calls, totaling 23,911 year to date (YTD)
- Responded to 14,660 certification emails, totaling 28,984 YTD
- Opened 29,568 certification cases, totaling 65,614 YTD
- Completed 26,724 certification cases, totaling 62,467 YTD
- Completed 530 ethics cases, totaling 940 YTD

Between April 1 and June 30, 2023, GaPSC continued approval for 16 existing programs, and approved 6 new endorsement programs. During this quarter, work was conducted on new or continuing approval reviews for a total of 9 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](#).

Stay Connected

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- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GeorgiaPSC/>
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