



GaPSC Quarterly Highlights

3rd 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 third quarter 2022.

A Message from Matt Arthur

To each of you, and as always, thank you for the work you do every day, not only in your own contexts, but also in collaboration with us. As representatives of educator preparation providers (EPPs), school districts and schools, RESAs, educational organizations, state agencies, and others, you have such an important and impactful role in ensuring effective education in Georgia, and we must all continue to work together to support the educator pipeline.

As part of that collaboration, we rely on you to help us communicate information to your colleagues, partners, and others. We need your assistance, please, in sharing several reminders.

- GaTAPP programs can provide an Elementary Certification-only option for teachers certified in other fields. The program is about half the cost of the full GaTAPP program and typically takes a year to complete. Teachers who already hold the Reading Endorsement can finish faster.
- Paraprofessionals who hold a bachelor's or higher degree are eligible for the GaTAPP program or a certification-only university program. These individuals can keep their jobs while pursuing teacher certification. Several program providers are modifying their schedules to better accommodate working paraprofessionals.
- Paraprofessional Ethics Modules, aimed at helping avoid ethical missteps, are available at each of Georgia's RESAs.
- Candidates completing clinical practice in a Georgia school must hold a Pre-Service certificate unless they hold a valid Professional, Induction, Provisional, Permit, or Waiver certificate.
- A candidate employed as a teacher of record while holding only a Clearance certificate must still hold a Pre-Service certificate; otherwise the clinical practice may not be accepted for certification.
- It is important educators use the [GaPSC Certificate Upgrade Advisor](#) tool prior to enrolling in an advanced degree program for a certificate-level upgrade.
- Pre-service candidates and in-service educators should take care to accurately answer the Personal Affirmation Questions (PAQs) each academic year.
- An [Ethics FAQ](#) document is now available, as is an in depth [Avoiding Missteps](#) PowerPoint designed as a professional learning resource on the Code of Ethics to assist EPPs, districts, schools, and others as they work with their pre-service and in-service educators.
- We encourage the use of our [Suggested Guidelines for Ethical Use of Social Media and Ethical Remote Learning](#).
- The list of approved programs on our website now includes links to the websites of the program providers so that you can easily see if a program is offered online or in-person. The list of approved programs is under the Educator Preparation tab.

In addition, we encourage you to get involved in your local [P-20 Collaborative](#), which serves as a valuable tool for recruiting educators and developing strategies for retaining them. The Collaboratives are all working to establish and maintain partnerships that focus on continuous school improvement and student learning through the preparation of candidates and the professional development of P-20 educators.

Finally, please know that we, as an agency, are committed to supporting you as we work together to support the educator pipeline.

Thank you, again, for contributing to effective education for Georgia's children.

Matt

Policy Changes

- Substantive policy changes adopted by the Commission in May 2022 became effective July 1, 2022. These changes are highlighted in the [GaPSC's Quarterly Highlights for 2nd Quarter 2022](#). These rule changes, in part, include the removal of the Program Admission Assessment (PAA) and the minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) requirements for Provisional certificate eligibility and state-approved educator preparation program admission.
- Effective July 1, 2022, the GACE Literacy Specialist Assessment (Test 560) became the state-approved assessment. It is aligned to the standards for this field that prepares individuals to serve as literacy specialists who will coach P-12 reading teachers. The transition timelines from the Reading Assessment to Literacy Specialist Assessment for this field include:
 - Candidates who enrolled in the field of Literacy Specialist prior to July 1, 2022, must pass the GACE Reading Assessment for Literacy Specialist certification.
 - Candidates who enrolled in the field of Literacy Specialist on or after July 1, 2022, must pass the GACE Literacy Specialist Assessment for certification in this field. These candidates can request testing eligibility in their MyPSC accounts.

Preparation materials for each of these assessments are available [here](#).

- Substantive policy changes adopted by the Commission in September 2022 became effective October 15, 2022, as summarized below:

Certification

505-2-.168 INTERVENTION SPECIALIST ENDORSEMENT, was amended to adjust the formatting, revise the certificate types issued, and clarify the in-field requirements for teaching students in early intervention programs.

Educator Preparation

505-3-.111 ELEMENTARY AGRICULTURE EDUCATION (P-5) Endorsement program, was adopted to expand preparation program options for those seeking certification to teach Agriculture Education in P-5 schools.

Ethics

505-6-.01 THE CODE OF ETHICS FOR EDUCATORS, was adopted to reorder definitions.

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

- GaPSC published [Protect Students First Act HB1084 \(2022\) Guidance for Educator Preparation Providers](#), which explains to EPPs important implications of Governor Brian Kemp's *Protect Students First Act*.
- GaPSC's Ethics Task Force completed its initial work of reviewing and providing input on ethics policies and procedures, including breach of contract, pre-investigative consent orders, sanction ranges, and other related items to further efficiency. New sanction and application case guidance is forthcoming.
- The 2022-23 Georgia Code of Ethics for Educators (COE) PowerPoint, was released and is under *Presentations* at https://www.gapsc.com/Ethics/Ethics_Resources.aspx. This resource includes common violations, scenarios, and takeaways for each of the 10 COE standards. It is designed so that school districts, EPPs, and others can customize the presentation to meet their needs.

- In addition to presenting at statewide conferences, GaPSC staff provided multiple professional learning and technical assistance events to assist educator preparation providers, 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 4,165 representatives during third quarter.

Examples of GaPSC Support and Professional Learning Events 3rd Quarter, 2022

Ethics

13 New Teacher Training Events
3 Leadership Training Events
Paraprofessional Ethics Training
Paraprofessional Ethics Modules Meeting
Purpose Built Schools Training

Certification

8 New HR/Certification Training Events
CTAE New Teacher Training

Educator Preparation

2 GaTAPP Meetings
Endorsement Professional Learning Event: Key Assessments
2 P-20 Regional Collaborative Convenings
2 Webinars:
Current Legislation on Educator Preparation: Part I
Paraprofessional to Teacher Programs

Assessment

3 Title II/HEOA Webinars
1 RESA Presentation
2 Virtual Professional Learning Community (VPLC) Convenings

- The Metro P-20 and Southwest P-20 Regional Collaborative convened third 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) launched their 2022-23 meetings series:
 - The Georgia Educational Leadership Faculty Association (GELFA)/GaPSC VPLC, designed for state-approved Educational Leadership program providers and their P-12 partners, hosted its first segment of a series on *Preparing, Developing, and Retaining Effective Leaders*. The first convening featured P-12 Leadership Development Program Perspectives.
 - The Georgia Teacher Leadership VPLC, designed for Georgia's approved teacher leadership program providers and their partners, centered its first convening of the academic year on grade band experiences and on helping candidates meet equity-related competencies.
- In addition to publishing the [Protect Students First Act HB1084 \(2022\) Guidance for Educator Preparation Providers](#), three additional Educator Preparation Guidance Documents were released during third quarter:
 - GaPSC's [Program Approval Decision Options](#) became effective September 9, 2022.
 - Designed to reflect program admission requirement changes the Commission adopted in May 2022, [GaPSC's Program Approval Standards](#) were published.
 - [Guidance for Interpreting and Implementing Rule 505-3-.01 Requirements and Standards for Approving Educator Preparation Providers and Educator Preparation Programs](#) was published to reflect the updates to [GaPSC Rule 505-3-.01](#), which became effective July 1, 2022.

- All 16 Georgia RESAs launched the GaPSC Paraprofessional Ethics Modules. These interactive modules help ensure paraprofessionals know, understand, and apply each of the ten standards within Georgia’s COE. While completing this set of modules is not required by the GaPSC, it is strongly encouraged.
- 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—designed to further assist with not only recruitment, but also support of educators from under-represented groups—continued its work. This initiative is focused on preparation program effectiveness outcomes and exploring new strategies and practices to promote increased program enrollment and completion. The Collaborative has grown in attendance as candidates, as well as P-12 partners, are now engaging in the meetings.
 - GaPSC's support of transitioning military veterans and their spouses continued with staff specifically devoted to recruiting these individuals, working with four of the seven military bases across the state. Opportunities for in-person recruitment briefings at bases are expected to increase this year.
- Please watch for our communications under [News and Announcements](#) (including our Quarterly Highlights), frequently visit our website as we continue to add new resources for you and your educators, and follow us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/GeorgiaPSC>) and Twitter (https://twitter.com/Ga_PSC).

Support by the Numbers

During third quarter of calendar year 2022, GaPSC:

- Answered 11,086 certification calls, totaling 35,572 year to date (YTD).
- Responded to 17,329, certification emails, totaling 47,169 YTD.
- Opened 24,217, certification cases, totaling 85,740 certification cases YTD.
- Completed 25,550 certification cases, totaling 85,633 certification cases YTD.
- Completed 447, ethics cases, totaling 1,573 ethics cases YTD.

Between July 1 and September 30, 2022, GaPSC continued approval for 25 existing programs and approved 9 new initial preparation programs. During this quarter, work was conducted on new or continuing approval reviews for a total of 8 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

- GaPSC Website: <https://www.gapsc.com/>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GeorgiaPSC/>
- Twitter: https://twitter.com/Ga_PSC