

From Matt Arthur: COVID-19 Updates

As you are aware, due to the impact of COVID-19 in Spring and Summer 2020, the GaPSC put multiple flexibility measures in place to help employing school districts, educator preparation providers (EPPs), and pre-service and in-service educators. You may access the COVID-19 related policy and guidance adjustments [here](#).

We understand that as schools and educator preparation programs are back in session for Fall 2020, questions will emerge as to any additional or extended adjustments due to the pandemic for 2020-21. First and foremost, please know that we continue to monitor the impact of this unprecedented challenge and will keep all informed of decisions. We remain committed to making these decisions with great care and at the right time, seeking input from representative school districts and schools, EPPs, and others.

The purpose of this communication is to provide an update on GACE testing availability and the status of GaPSC decisions regarding extending or adding COVID-19 flexibility measures. Please read the information carefully and share it with others as appropriate. We hope these updates are helpful to you as you work with your educators and prospective educators.

Again, we understand you may have remaining policy and guidance questions about extensions and/or additions of other GaPSC COVID-19 flexibility measures for 2020-21. Please be assured we will communicate those decisions as soon as possible.

As always, we greatly appreciate your professionalism, adaptability, and hard work, especially during this uncertain time.

What is the Status of GACE Testing?

GACE Content Testing Availability

Georgia has two types of testing centers located across the state. Prometric test centers are part of a worldwide testing network that offer a menu of assessments, including GACE; non-Prometric test centers are housed in Georgia at many colleges, universities, and some RESAs who are state-approved EPPs. All Prometric test centers are open, and all but two non-Prometric test centers are open. Information about GACE test center status and test center safety protocols is available [here](#).

As a point of interest, the regular GACE testing schedule, posted on the GACE website [here](#), is guided annually by the GaPSC Assessment Advisory Panel, consisting of EPP and P-12 school district and school representatives. The regular testing schedule, posted in June of each year, is based on test volumes, scoring schedules, and other variables. As enhancements, additional testing windows were added for many assessments, and eighteen GACE assessments are now available on a continuous testing basis, meaning they are available during any GACE testing window at all GACE test centers, with additional test titles moving to a continuous basis in 2021-22.

September 14, 2020

GACE Program Admission Assessment (PAA) Testing Availability

In addition to offering the PAA on a continuous testing basis at all GACE testing centers, the *GACE PAA At Home* testing option that launched in mid-May 2020, allows test takers to test at home or at another secure location. *GACE PAA At Home* testing slots are almost immediately available upon registration. As of September 1, 2020, over 5200 prospective educators had selected this online testing option.

Contact Information for Test Takers Who Need Assistance

The GaPSC and ETS, the GACE testing supplier, are in constant communication regarding test availability. If test takers have any difficulty in securing testing slots or need any other assistance, they should contact ETS at GACESupport@ets.org. Test preparation resources are available [here](#). Access to the free instructional Khan Academy tool for the GACE PAA is available [here](#).

What about Additional COVID-19 Response Measures?

Status of Certification Extensions Granted for Spring and Summer 2020

One substantive adjustment in Spring 2020 was granting one-year certification extensions for teaching, leadership, and service candidates who were not able to complete assessment certification requirements by June 30, 2020, due to test site and school closures. Please reinforce with your in-service and pre-service educators who took advantage of this additional time that these certification requirements must be met by June 30, 2021. At this time, we do not anticipate that policy changing.

As shared above, we will continue to carefully monitor the impact of COVID-19, and we will inform you as soon as possible if policies and/or guidelines change for Fall 2020 and beyond.

Regarding Conditional Admittance for Spring 2021

As part of our commitment to communicate COVID-19 related decisions as they are made, please see below regarding conditional program admittance for Spring 2021.

Prior to the late Spring 2020 availability of the *GACE PAA at Home* testing option, the GaPSC granted conditional admittance for Fall 2020. EPPs could choose to admit candidates into their programs in Fall 2020 who had not met the PAA requirement, with the understanding that conditionally admitted candidates, regardless of the preparation path, must pass the PAA by June 30, 2021.

As GACE testing sites are now open and as testing slots for the GACE PAA At Home are almost immediately available upon registration, there is no need to extend conditional admittance flexibility for Spring 2021.

Again, we will continue to carefully monitor the impact of COVID-19 and, although not anticipated, we will inform you as soon as possible if this policy of no conditional admittance for Spring 2021 should change.