



GaPSC HIGHLIGHTS

July 2025



Mission Statement

The mission of the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GaPSC) is to build the best prepared, best qualified, and most ethical education workforce in the nation. This document highlights GaPSC's progress and actions.

From Dr. Joseph C. Barrow, Jr.

To each of you, thank you for the work you do each and every day. And thank you for continuing to help shape our policies and practice. I am in my seventh month at GaPSC and have learned much, not the least of which is how fortunate we are to have collaborative partnerships and how much we value those. In these Highlights, you will see several updates and reminders. We do ask you to please share this information in and across your sphere(s) of influence.

Senate Resolution 237

In this past legislative session, SR 237 emerged, which urges the Georgia Professional Standards Commission and other state education departments to provide recommendations to strengthen the P-12 education workforce. Toward this aim, we are working to develop a collaborative Strategic Plan for Teacher Recruitment and Retention in Georgia.

The vision of the work is to establish a robust, representative, and sustainable pipeline of high-quality teachers and school leaders across all regions of Georgia. This plan aims to guide the work of the participating agencies and educational associations by proposing innovative, data-informed, and actionable strategies. We look forward to seeking your input and keeping you updated in this highly collaborative work.

Ethical Considerations in the Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Given the speed with which generative technology is developing and the complex issues it presents, educators face rapidly shifting ethical challenges regarding its use in P-12 classrooms. GaPSC worked with a representative group to establish ethical guidance to empower educators to use AI as a supplement to, not a substitute for, core human-centered teaching and learning and to do so responsibly and ethically. It is important to note these guidelines are about responsible and ethical use – not about effective pedagogical strategies.

Posted on GaPSC's website, the [Guidance](#) consists of an important introduction and is comprised of seven principles, each with standards and guiding questions. At the end of the Guidance is a survey we ask users to complete to help us keep the document relevant. Coming soon are multiple resources aimed specifically at Guidance implementation. It is our hope you will share these ethical considerations broadly and encourage your administrators, pre-service and in-service educators, and staff to discuss them and use them.

New Innovation Updates

The GACE program launched successfully and smoothly on July 1, 2025. We celebrate the critical role of Georgia educators and those who prepare Georgia educators in the development of every single assessment. We are very proud of their willingness to give their time, energy, and expertise to pay it forward to tomorrow's educators, and we are very appreciative of our educator preparation providers (EPPs) and P-12 districts and schools for allowing them time away to do so. The best source of information about the new assessments is available new [GACE website](#). Please encourage your educators and educator candidates to use the website.

The Systems as a Solution (SaaS) project is moving forward and will mean significant change for us and for you. Change is needed as GaPSC works to replace a 35-year-old Legacy system. With the new system we look to further streamline certification and ethics case management processes through increased automation. Training will be provided on the new system as we approach the anticipated launch in Spring 2026. Stay updated on SaaS [here](#).

Finally, it is important to me for you to know that we, as an agency, are committed to supporting you as we work together to support the educator pipeline. We are very honored to be working with you toward ensuring all children in Georgia's classrooms have what is needed for their best futures.

Thank you, again, for your work and, as always, thank you for the trust you put in us as educational partners. Have a great start to your academic year!

Dr. Joseph C. Barrow, Jr.

Certification

- As a service to employing districts and educators to assist them and the state's effort to address literacy concerns, GaPSC's Certification Division is noting when practicing educators have received the required literacy professional learning.
- Please help us process certificates as quickly as possible for you and your educators by only submitting complete applications. Please hold all applications until you have all the required documentation ready to submit.
- Work continued to promote the [School Safety and Anti-Gang Endorsement](#), which was pursuant to HB147. Please note this training is available to all employees, not just educators. The endorsement is designed to provide educators and school personnel with online and in-person training in multidisciplinary best practices for promoting and preserving safe schools and for identifying and deterring youth gangs.

Educator Preparation

- GaPSC hosted the Teacher Pipeline Summit, April 23, 2025, aimed at supporting the statewide recruitment and retention of teachers of color, particularly black male teachers. See Page 5 for more information about the event.
- Over 100 new GaPSC Approval Reviewers will be trained this year, with the first of two training sessions completed in March. GaPSC staff appreciate these volunteers who represent universities, RESAs, and school districts from across the state, and give of their time and expertise to participate in the approval review process.
- Ongoing monitoring of implementation of science of reading standards will occur through the GaPSC approval review process. Beginning in Fall 2025, all GaPSC approval reviews will require evidence that teacher candidates are meeting the [Foundations of Reading, Literacy, and Language Standards](#) appropriate for their field of preparation.
- Individuals being prepared for leadership roles are learning how to support evidence-based practices for the teaching of reading.

Ethics

- GaPSC and a representative statewide development committee wrote and published the [Ethical Considerations in the Appropriate Use of AI for Educators](#). These guidelines are designed to assist P-12 districts and school personnel, EPPs, and others with the responsible and ethical use of AI. Multiple, collaborative resources will follow.
- Coming soon is GaPSC's *2025-26 Avoiding Missteps: The Code of Ethics for Educators* training PowerPoint to assist school district and schools, EPPs, and others as they provide preparation/professional learning regarding the Georgia Code of Ethics. This annual resource will be available at https://www.gapsc.com/Ethics/Ethics_Resources.aspx.
- Definitions, common violations, scenarios, and takeaways for each standard of the Georgia Code of Ethics for Educators are now available [GaPSC's Video Series](#). These prevention tools are designed to help avoid ethical missteps.

Assessment

- GaPSC is excited about the innovative testlet model for many GACE assessments. More information about testlets is available on the [GACE website](#).
- Stay up to date on GaPSC assessment policy information at [Latest on GACE](#).
- Examinees should consult the GACE website for GACE-related information, including which assessments are aligned to which certification fields.
- Examinees should first consult GaPSC's website and their MyPSC account for certification information.



The new GACE testing supplier is Evaluation Systems, Pearson (ES). For information about registration, test design, test schedule, score reporting, costs, and more, please refer to the GACE website at <https://www.gace.es.pearson.com/>.

ES' contact information is available at <https://www.gace.es.pearson.com/contactus>.



Mr. Harrison Peters

The Summit featured two keynote addresses, one by Georgia Senator Sonya Halpern, and one by CEO and founder of Men of Color in Educational Leadership (MCEL), Mr. Harrison Peters.



L to R: Enjolia Farrington, Senator Sonya Halpern, and Dr. PaQuita Morgan

On April 23, 2025, GaPSC hosted the Teacher Pipeline Summit on the campus of Georgia College and State University in Milledgeville. Supported by funding from Governor Kemp and under the leadership of GaPSC Director of Traditional Preparation, Dr. PaQuita Morgan, the Summit was the culmination of months of planning by a committee comprised of representatives of Georgia HBCUs, other minority serving institutions, local school systems, and the Georgia Department of Education. Based on the vision of having a teacher workforce that more closely resembles Georgia's student population, and aimed at supporting the statewide recruitment and retention of teachers of color, particularly black male teachers, the Summit was informed by extensive stakeholder input on the reasons why persons of color are not choosing to enter the teaching profession.

A panel comprised of representatives of Albany State University, Atlanta Public Schools, Bibb County Schools, Clark Atlanta University, Jones County Schools, Kennesaw State University, Morehouse College, Spelman College, and Valdosta State University



L to R: Panelists Charm Mapp, Jordan M. Freeman, Lauren Alyssa Thomas, Holly Huynh, and David Slykhuis

spoke about the important role educators of color play in not only recruiting more teachers of color, but also in improving student achievement and belonging. Two strategic work sessions were held, in which attendees worked in small groups to brainstorm actionable tactics and strategies for improving the perception of the teaching profession and encouraging more persons of color to enter and remain in the profession. Directors of Georgia Call Me MiSTER programs at Georgia College and State University, Kennesaw State University, and Georgia Southern University provided closing remarks.

Strategies identified at the Summit will inform continued work toward a cohesive, statewide plan to support the recruitment and retention of educators of color. GaPSC staff extend sincere thanks to Georgia College and State University for hosting the event, and appreciation to members of the Planning Committee for their work leading up to the Summit, as well as their work to plan and facilitate the strategic work sessions.

Policy Changes

- At the May 8, 2025, Commission meeting, proposed Certification and Educator Preparation rules were adopted and became effective July 1, 2025. A summary of the actions for these rules is available in [GaPSC's Final Notice of Effective Rules](#).
- At the July 10, 2025, Commission meeting, proposed Certification and Educator Preparation rules were initiated. After a 30-day public comment period, the proposed rules will come before the Commission for their adoption consideration at the September 11, 2025, meeting. If adopted, the proposed rules will become effective October 15, 2025. Summaries of the adopted rule changes will be available [here](#) during the public comment period to begin July 23, 2025.
- GaPSC current and proposed 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>.

Support by the Numbers

From January 1, 2025, through June 30, 2025, GaPSC:

- Answered 19,527 certification calls
- Responded to 29,462 certification emails
- Opened 63,325 certification cases
- Completed 60,522 certification cases
- Completed 1,035 ethics cases

Between January 1 and June 30, 2025, GaPSC continued approval for 18 existing programs, and approved 10 new initial preparation programs and 6 new endorsement programs. During the first half of 2025, work was conducted on new or continuing approval reviews for a total of 22 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](#).

