



DATE: 11-28-17

TO: Georgia Educator Preparation Providers (EPPs) and
P-12 Local Units of Administration (LUAs)

FROM: Kelly Henson
Executive Secretary

SUBJECT: Standard Setting: PASL & GACE

First, thank you very much for your continued contributions to effective education in Georgia. The purpose of this communication is to share two recent decisions of the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GaPSC) regarding certification assessment standard setting. It is important to share that both these decisions were made after very careful consideration, including input over time from the representative GaPSC Assessment Advisory Panel, consisting of Education Preparation Providers (EPPs), P-12 school district and school representatives, several state agencies, and education organizations.

Performance Assessment for School Leaders (PASL)

The PASL is a performance-based assessment for candidates completing state-approved Tier II Educational Leadership programs on or after July 1, 2017. A PASL multi-state standard setting committee recommended the PASL minimum passing score to be 42. However, since the PASL is a requirement in Tier II Educational Leadership programs, the Georgia PASL standard setting committee, consisting of EPP faculty and P-12 teachers and leaders, recommended the minimum passing score to be set at 46.

To give Georgia time to scale up for successful implementation, PASL score reports that are dated on or before August 31, 2020, must reflect a score of 42 points or higher to be considered passing, which is an estimated -1 Standard Error of Measurement (SEM) below the recommended passing score of the Georgia PASL standard setting committee.

PASL score reports that are dated on or after September 1, 2020, must reflect a score of 46 points or higher to be considered passing in Georgia, which is equal to the recommended passing score of the Georgia PASL standard setting committee.

The following table represents the Commission’s decision on the PASL passing score:

Reporting Period	PASL Passing Standard (64 Points Possible)
5/1/2018-8/31/2018 (The date of 5/1/2018 is the first time PASL score reports could be available.)	42 (-1 SEM below the 2017 GA educator recommendation)
9/1/2018-8/31/2019	42
9/1/2019-8/31/2020	42
On or after 9/1/2020	46 (the passing standard of GA standard setting committee)

Georgia Assessments for the Certification of Educators (GACE) Standard Setting

As you know, each GACE Content Assessment has an Induction Level passing standard (220) and a Professional Level passing standard (250). In 2012, the Commission set the passing standard for the Induction Level at -2 Standard Errors of Measurement (SEMs) below where GA educators and those that prepare educators recommended it be set. This was to give our Educator Preparation Providers (EPPs) and educators time to transition to the new assessments when our testing supplier changed in 2012. The Professional Level passing score of 250 represents where educators and those that prepare educators for each content area recommended the minimum passing standard be set five years ago.

Beginning with score reports dated September 1, 2019, or later, all teaching field content assessments must reflect a passing score of 235 or higher, which is equal to -1 SEM below the recommended passing score established by the Georgia GACE standard setting committees in 2012.

The following table represents the Commission’s decision on the GACE passing score:

Reporting Year	GACE Initial Teaching Content Induction Passing Score (300 points possible)
9/1/2017-8/31/2018	220 (-2 SEMs below the 2012 GA educator recommendation)
9/1/2018-8/31/2019	220
On or after 9/1/2019	235 (-1 SEM below 2012 GA recommendation)

Our Collaborative Opportunity with Certification Assessments

With all our certification assessments, we have an opportunity to maximize benefits for EPPs, candidates, P-12 schools, and most importantly P-12 students. Candidates can use these data and experiences to clearly articulate their strengths and areas that could be improved. EPPs have more information than ever before to inform their programs. In addition, employing districts will have more information than ever before to inform induction for teachers and for leaders.

More Information

More information about PASL is available at: <http://gace.ets.org/pasl/about/>

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GaPSC and ETS have recently created a quick reference guide to GACE preparation resources available at http://gace.ets.org/s/pdf/gace_resources_services_tools.pdf

If you have questions regarding the GaPSC's Certification Assessment Program, please contact Anne Marie Fenton at annemarie.fenton@gapsc.com

As always, thank you for your work.