



DATE: March 5, 2018

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

FROM: Kelly Henson, Executive Secretary

SUBJECT: SAT Exemption for Program Admission Assessment, Content Pedagogy Requirement for IN3 Certification, and Changes in Computer Science GACE

Please read below for three important updates regarding GaPSC Certification Assessments.

1) Recalibration of SAT Scores to Exempt Program Admission Assessment (PAA), effective July 1, 2019:

The College Board recalibrates the SAT from time to time based on data, as well as changes in score categories. In the last recalibration, the 1000 minimum we require to exempt Program Admission Assessment (PAA) recalibrates to 1080. At that time, the College Board also changed the score categories we accept from “Verbal/Critical Reading AND Math” to what is now the equivalent of “Evidence based Reading/Writing AND Math.”

Currently, the GaPSC still accepts the 1000 minimum score to exempt the PAA; however, there is a need to align with the recalibrated scoring.

As it is important to us to give as much advance notice to you as possible, we will require the newly calibrated SAT score minimum of 1080 on score reports dated on or after **July 1, 2019**.

Following is the policy to use the SAT to exempt the PAA, which is posted here:  
<https://www.gapsc.com/EducatorPreparation/Assessment/BasicSkillsInfo.aspx>.

- For SAT Score Reports dated prior to 7/1/19:
  - 1000 on Verbal/Critical Reading, and Math, OR
  - 1000 on Evidence based Reading/Writing and Math
  - For recentering SAT® scores prior to April, 1995, [click here](#).
- For Score Reports dated on or after 7/1/19:
  - 1080 on Evidence based Reading/Writing AND Math

This adjustment does not set a higher standard than the 1000 originally determined; rather, it will align our minimum exemption score with the standard in place before the recalibration occurred.

2) Content Pedagogy Assessment Requirement for Educators Coming to GA with Less Than One Year of Experience:

With tiered certification, passing a pedagogy assessment is one requirement for conversion of an Induction Pathway 3 (IN3) certificate issued to teachers coming to Georgia by reciprocity with less than one year of acceptable teaching experience. This requirement is being removed in GaPSC rule amendments that will go before the Commission for initiation on March 8, 2018. Below are the primary reasons:

- a) The use of pedagogy assessments across our nation has grown substantially. As an example, there are now over 40 states that use edTPA to some extent and 18 states that currently require edTPA in state policy. Every state bordering GA, except Florida, requires edTPA or soon will require edTPA. In short, many educators who are coming to our state have completed a performance-based pedagogy assessment, such as edTPA.
- b) Georgia is part of the reciprocity agreement with the National Association for State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC), as most state are. The intent of the agreement is to ease reciprocity across state lines as much as possible. Not requiring an additional content or content pedagogy assessment of certified teachers coming from other states eases reciprocity.
- c) Georgia places a strong focus on the educative value of edTPA, which is maximized by Educator Preparation Providers (EPPs) working in close partnerships with the school districts where their student teachers/interns are placed. IN3 certificate holders who need to complete edTPA, are not associated with an EPP, as they have completed a preparation program in another state. Thus, the necessary structures of support are not readily available to IN3 teachers who are not connected to an EPP.

Our state-approved EPPs and P-12 schools have expressed they see great value of edTPA in informing preparation programs, candidate performance, and individualized professional learning/induction. However, for the reasons outlined above, the pedagogy assessment will no longer be a requirement for conversion of an IN3 certificate.

If you have any questions regarding a specific educator, please email [mail@gapsc.com](mailto:mail@gapsc.com).

3) Change in Computer Science (CS) GACE

A diverse and representative national committee was established to examine and update ETS' Computer Science (CS) Assessment. Georgia CS teachers and those that prepare CS teachers were a part of that group. Another Georgia CS committee was assembled to examine the assessment for use in the GACE program. The GA committee approved, without change, the GACE Computer Science test specifications and the alignment with the Georgia Computer Science Endorsement Program rules. The shift to the new assessment (GACE 555 Computer Science) will take place beginning with test administrations in October 2018. It is important to note that the CS program standards have not changed; the assessment is more closely aligned with the program rules.

Detailed information on the new test specifications can be found here:

[http://gace.ets.org/s/pdf/study\\_companions/gace\\_taaq\\_computer\\_science\\_revised.pdf](http://gace.ets.org/s/pdf/study_companions/gace_taaq_computer_science_revised.pdf)

If you have questions regarding certification, please contact our Certification Division at [mail@gpsc.com](mailto:mail@gpsc.com). If you have questions regarding the above assessment updates, please contact Anne Marie Fenton at [annemarie.fenton@gpsc.com](mailto:annemarie.fenton@gpsc.com).

As always, thank you for your work.