

LATEST ON GACE: TRANSITION PLAN – 3/4/13

The Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GaPSC) contracts with an external supplier to administer the Georgia Assessments for the Certification of Educators (GACE) testing program. As we shared earlier with you, Educational Testing Service (ETS) was the successful supplier in a recent Request for Proposals (RFP) process. Development of new GACE tests and the transition process from our current supplier, the Evaluation Systems group of Pearson (ES) to ETS, is underway.

First, please accept our gratitude for the initial response from educators and those that prepare educators to the recent invitation to assist with GACE test development. That work began in January and will continue through the summer months. The quality of each GACE assessment hinges on those that participate in the separate test development, bias review, and standard setting committees.

Please review the timing for the committee meetings below and apply to assist in this very important opportunity to help shape Georgia's educator certification assessments:

- **April:** members are needed for Bias Review Committees for each GACE assessment
- **May:** members are needed for Test Development Committees for Instructional Technology, Teacher Leadership, Curriculum and Instruction, and Educational Leadership
- **Summer:** members are needed for Standard Setting Committees for each GACE assessment

To submit an application to assist with any of these committees, please visit gace-recruit.ets.org.

The Transition to ETS from ES

ETS will be the supplier for the GACE assessments (with the exceptions of the Educational Leadership assessment and Professional Pedagogy assessment) beginning October 1, 2013. The Educational Leadership assessment, as well as the three certification upgrade assessments (Curriculum and Instruction, Teacher Leadership, and Instructional Technology), will begin to be offered by ETS in Spring 2014.

We are committed to ensuring a smooth transition between the two testing suppliers. However, because scores from tests offered by different test suppliers are not comparable, **examinees must pass all parts of an assessment with the same testing supplier for that assessment to count toward certification.** Passing scores on tests within an assessment cannot be split between the two suppliers. For example, an examinee cannot pass Early Childhood Education Test 1 with ES and Early Childhood Education Test 2 with ETS to get credit for completing the Early Childhood GACE assessment.

The August 2013 GACE administration is the final opportunity to pass a GACE assessment with the current supplier, ES, to count for certification. (Exceptions are the Educational Leadership assessment and the Professional Pedagogy assessment, which will remain with ES until spring 2014.) **If an examinee does not have passing scores on all tests within an**

assessment by the last administration of the GACE program with ES (August 2013), the examinee must take all tests within an assessment with the new supplier, ETS, even if a portion of the assessment was previously passed.

Remaining Testing Opportunities with ES

There are multiple GACE administrations with ES prior to August, and we have extended the test titles offered during the supplemental administrations in May and July.

Following are the remaining test dates with ES for which the GaPSC will accept the scores for GACE assessments (other than the two exceptions noted above), provided all parts (tests) of an assessment are passed:

- March 23, 2013
- April 4-17, 2013 – computer-based testing
- May 4, 2013 – supplemental administration with additional test titles offered
- June 15, 2013
- July 13, 2013 – supplemental administration with additional test titles offered
- August 17, 2013 – supplemental administration with most test titles offered

It is important to check test availability for each administration above. Please visit www.gace.nesinc.com for complete testing information. As in the past, not all tests are offered at each administration.

The GACE website, at www.gace.nesinc.com, is the best source of information regarding the current GACE testing program, including test preparation, registration, and administration questions. If after checking the website you have questions about registration or testing for administrations through August 2013, please contact Evaluation Systems. Contact information is available on the GACE website in “Contacts” in the upper right corner on the homepage. If the GaPSC can be of service regarding changes to the testing program and testing requirements, please contact Anne Marie Fenton at annemarie.fenton@gapsc.com.

In closing, we look forward to continuing to provide a strong assessment program to you. In addition, we have planned many test and program enhancements with our new association with ETS as the supplier of the GACE assessments.

As always, thank you for the work you do in helping to make a positive impact on student learning.

Sincerely,
Kelly Henson