



Georgia Assessments for the Certification of Educators® (GACE®) Newsletter

The *GACE® Newsletter* is intended to be a resource for Educator Preparation Program Providers to gain access to all of the important information and changes happening in the GACE program. The *GACE® Newsletter* includes important dates, information about tests and policies, reminders about testing windows and more. The latest GACE program information can always be found at www.gace.ets.org.

Upcoming/Important Dates:

- ETS Offices will be closed on Thursday, **November 23** and Friday, **November 24**.
- Registration deadline for fall Teacher Leadership Submission Window is **December 15**.

- Read [past issues](#) of the *GACE® Newsletter*.
- [Subscribe](#) to the *GACE® Newsletter*.

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PROGRAM UPDATES

2017–18 Annual Updates

Updated program information for the 2017–18 testing year was posted on the [GACE website](#) on September 1, 2017. Updates include new and updated policies regarding registration, testing windows, test day procedures, identification documents, and score reporting dates.

Assessments Move to Continuous Testing

As of September 1, the following five assessments are offered on a continuous basis instead of in specified testing windows. Specific test date availability can be determined during the registration process. Testing time for these assessments has increased by 10 minutes for Test I and Test II and 20 minutes for the combined test.

- Early Childhood Special Education
- Health and Physical Education
- History
- Science
- Special Education Adapted Curriculum

Candidates taking these assessments should download the updated Study Companion and *Test at a Glance* from the [Test Prep Materials section](#) of the GACE website.

In January 2018, the Middle Grades Science will be moving to continuous testing. An updated *Test at a Glance* for this assessment will be posted later this fall and an updated Study Companion will be posted in December.

Requesting Accommodations Online

Test takers can now submit accommodations requests and view approved accommodations and scheduled test registrations through their ETS GACE testing account. In addition, if they are approved for certain testing accommodations (extended time, extra breaks, screen magnification, selectable background and foreground colors) they can also self-schedule online through their ETS GACE testing account. Test takers approved for accommodations other than the four listed above cannot schedule online; however, they will be able to indicate their preferred test date and location online.

GACE Payments

E-Checks drawn against a U.S. bank account are now an acceptable form of payment. They are not available for the GACE Ethics assessments. All checks should be payable to Educational Testing Service or ETS.

New Computer Science Assessment to Launch in October 2018

The GACE Computer Science assessment (Test Code 554) is being updated to reflect current trends in the field of computer science. The new assessment (Test Code 555) is being developed with input from computer science educators in Georgia, Educator Preparation Programs (EPPs), and the participation of a National Advisory Committee composed of computer science teachers and teacher educators from across the nation, as well as representatives from the Computer Science Teachers Association (CSTA) and Code.org. The new assessment will align closely with the Georgia Computer Science Standards for program approval. It is scheduled to be launched in October 2018 and will replace the existing assessment. The study companion for the new assessment will be available in August 2018.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT FOR SCHOOL LEADERS (PASL)

Launch Date for the Performance Assessment for School Leaders (PASL)

The Performance Assessment for School Leaders (PASL) is scheduled to launch in spring 2018. Candidates will be required to take the assessment prior to completion of their Tier II preparation program. The assessment will be administered twice per year (spring and fall) during pre-established submission windows. Candidates completing Tier II programs in spring and summer of 2018 will need to register for the spring administration.

For more information about the PASL, see [PASL Information for Test Takers](#) and [PASL Information for Educator Programs](#).

Passing Standard for the PASL

To establish a recommended passing score for the PASL to the GaPSC, ETS designed and conducted a score-confirmation study comprised of subject-matter experts, current school leaders, and faculty in April 2017. Panelists represented various levels of school leadership and leadership preparation, as well as various areas of Georgia. During the score-confirmation study, the panel reviewed the PASL and the process followed by a multistate standard-setting panel that convened in December 2016. Their review included the data from each round of judgments from the multistate panel, as well as the intended use of the PASL for Georgia's Tier II school leader candidates. The GaPSC Commission will consider the recommended passing standard for the PASL at its November 9, 2017, meeting.

TEACHER LEADERSHIP ASSESSMENT

Fall 2017 Registration and Submission Window

Registration	July 16, 2016 – December 15, 2017
Submission Window	May 22, 2017 – December 29, 2017

Spring 2018 Registration and Submission Window

Registration	June 13, 2017 – April 13, 2018
Submission Window	January 22, 2018 – April 27, 2018

Rescheduling a Submission Window

Rescheduling a submission window can only be done if the registration deadline for the initial submission window has not passed and the new submission window is open for registration. Changing a submission window incurs a \$50 rescheduling fee.

Note: Tasks and artifacts uploaded for the original submission window will not transfer automatically to the new submission window. Candidates will be required to re-upload any tasks and artifacts they have previously uploaded. All tasks and artifacts must be submitted by the same deadline date.

PREPARING EDUCATORS

The GACE program offers numerous ways for test takers to get information about the assessments, preparing for the assessments, taking the assessments, and receiving and understanding score reports.

Information about the multiple GACE structures of support is provided below and on the GACE website. You can also download a one-page, easy reference [snapshot \(PDF\)](#) of these support structures.

About the Assessments

The GACE Website

The [GACE website](#) is organized to help test takers quickly locate the materials they need. Links to information about tests, studying for a test, last-minute tips, and taking the test are available for easy reference. Important notices are posted regularly to keep test takers abreast of any changes or updates that they need to know about.

GACE Customer Service

Test takers can contact [ETS GACE Customer Service](#) for test registration-related issues and questions/issues regarding payment, admission tickets, and score reporting. Representatives are available Monday–Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET, excluding holidays. Recorded information is available 24 hours a day.

Live Chat

Through the Chat function on the [GACE website](#), test takers can interact directly with Customer Service Representatives Monday–Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET.

Registration Bulletin

The GACE® [Registration Bulletin](#) is a free publication that contains program policies, tests offered, test dates, registration information, fees, score reporting information, and more.

Newsletters

GACE newsletters provide updates to program providers so they can share information on new assessments, testing windows, score reporting dates, and more. Program providers can [subscribe](#) and begin receiving newsletters via email.

Preparing for the Assessments

Study Companions

Study Companions familiarize test takers with the competencies to be tested, test question formats, and pertinent study resources. There is a Study Companion available for all of the GACE assessments in the [Test Prep Materials section](#) of the GACE website, with the exception of the GACE Teacher Leadership assessment and the Georgia Ethics assessments.

Tests at a Glance

Tests at a Glance give a quick overview of the assessment. A *Test at a Glance* is available for all of the GACE assessments in the [Test Prep Materials section](#) of the GACE website, with the exception of the GACE Teacher Leadership assessment and the Georgia Ethics assessments.

Interactive Practice Tests

[Interactive Practice Tests \(IPTs\)](#) are full-length practice tests. Each IPT contains one set of test questions to simulate the test day experience. After completing the practice test, the user can see if the selected-response questions were answered correctly or incorrectly and get explanations for the correct answers. Some IPTs also include practice constructed-response questions. Feedback is not provided for constructed-response questions.

Tutorials

[Tutorials](#) show test takers how to use the Alternate Character Toolbar for the French, German, and Spanish assessments and the Online Calculator for assessments that require the use of a graphing or scientific calculator. Test takers can practice using these tools before test day.

Videos

The GACE [test familiarization videos](#) include important information test takers should know when preparing to take a GACE assessment. The videos include walk-throughs of a computer-delivered testing center and a demonstration of what it's like to take a computer-delivered GACE test.

Test Prep Webinars

[Webinars](#) illustrate the different parts of the GACE assessments, inform participants about available test preparation resources, and give them the opportunity to ask questions and have them answered by ETS-certified trainers.

Strategies and Tips

[Strategies and Tips](#) includes booklets and guides such as *Study Tips: Preparing for a GACE Assessment* and *Reducing Test Anxiety* to help test takers prepare to take the GACE assessments. A study plan is also available to help test takers understand what skills and knowledge are covered on the test and where to focus their attention.

Taking the Assessments

Information about what to do before going to the test center and what to bring to the test center, arrival time, ID requirements, and test day procedures and regulations is available in both the [Registration Bulletin](#) and in the [On Test Day](#) section of the website. Also included are the [Rules of Test Participation](#).

Scores

Score reporting dates and information about sending scores and score reporting policies are available in the [Registration Bulletin](#) and in the [Scores](#) section of the website. An explanation of how to interpret a score report and what to do if a test taker has questions about scores can be found in the [Understanding Your Scores](#) section of the website. Information about how GACE assessments are scored, explanations of score scales used by raters, and answers to frequently asked questions about GACE score reports and scoring policies is in the free downloadable publication [Understanding Your GACE® Scores](#).

Applying for Testing Accommodations

The *Bulletin Supplement for Test Takers with Disabilities or Health-related Needs* contains procedures and forms for requesting testing accommodations. This publication can be downloaded from the [Testing Accommodations](#) section of the website.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

ID Documents

To be admitted to a test center, test takers must have current and valid identification documents. It is the test taker's responsibility to bring the correct documents and to ensure that they are **up to date on the date of the test**. It is also the test taker's responsibility to ensure that the name they use to create their MyPSC account matches the name on the ID documents they will present at the test center. If the documents are expired, or the name on the documents doesn't match their MyPSC account, they will not be admitted.

Personal Items in the Testing Room

To ensure security and fairness to everyone, enhanced security policies have been implemented at all testing centers. Test takers are required to remove their eyeglasses for close visual inspection by test center administrators. These inspections only take a few seconds and will be done at check-in and again upon return from breaks.

Wedding and engagement rings and small earrings are permitted to be worn in the testing room after visual inspection. Test takers wearing large jewelry items, such as pendants or other hanging jewelry, objects and bracelets, will be asked to remove and store them before entering the testing room. Hair accessories such as clips, combs, barrettes and headbands will be closely inspected. Test takers wearing large hair clips or other objects in the hair such as buttons or other objects will be asked to remove and store them before entering the testing room. This policy has been implemented due to the many different types of spy devices that are now available for use to capture and remove test content. Please advise your teacher candidates about this policy so that they are prepared when they arrive at the test center.