



DATE: April 9, 2020

TO: Educator Preparation Providers
P12 School Districts

FROM: Matt Arthur

SUBJECT: Changes to Ethics Assessment Requirement

The GaPSC is highly committed to an ethical educator workforce. Toward this important part of our mission, the instructional and interactive Georgia Educator Ethics Assessment helps pre-service and in-service teachers and leaders to know and understand the Georgia Code of Ethics for Educators, as well as ethical principles to guide professional decision making.

Although we much prefer to give advance notice on policy revisions, we are making an immediate change as you have potential candidates who are already working on their Pre-Service certificate requirements for Summer 2020 and Fall 2020, and we are working to minimize inevitable transition issues.

In an effort to ease certification assessment requirements, the GaPSC is removing one of the two ethics assessment requirements for teachers and for leaders. Essentially, the assessment will be taken for program admission, and test takers will now take the program exit version of the assessment for admission.

Effective immediately:

- Initial teaching candidates must pass the Georgia Educator Ethics Assessment – Program Exit (Test 360) for the Pre-Service certificate, prior to program admission. *Previously, these candidates would have taken the Program Entry version (Test 350).*
- Initial leadership candidates must pass the Georgia Ethics for Educational Leaders – Program Exit (Test 380) for Tier I program admission. *Previously, these candidates would have taken the Program Entry version (Test 370).*
- Any others who are required to take the ethics assessment for certification will take the program exit version.
- Test takers are no longer able to register for the Program Entry versions (Test 350 and Test 370).

Please note the words “program exit” will eventually be dropped from the names of the assessments.

For initial teacher and leadership candidates seeking program admission for Summer 2020 and Fall 2020:

- Test takers who have recently registered for the program entry version ethics assessment, but who have not started the assessment, will be notified that their registration will be transferred to the program exit version.
- Test takers who are currently taking or have already taken the program entry version of the ethics assessment, will still need to attempt the program exit version prior to program completion and pass it for certification.

For initial teacher and leadership candidates already enrolled (Spring 2020 or earlier):

- Test takers who are currently enrolled will still need to attempt the program exit version prior to program completion and pass it for certification.
- To assist EPPs, the GaPSC plans to grant eligibility for these currently enrolled candidates to take the program exit version (Tests 360 or 380), instead of the EPP having to do this. If you have currently enrolled candidates who wish to take the program exit version before GaPSC grants eligibility, please have these candidates select Reason #7 in MyPSC, which will allow them to register.

All other test takers:

- All other educators required to pass the ethics assessment will take the appropriate program exit version (Test 360 or 380).

Feedback from post-administration surveys of ethics assessment test takers indicates they see the value of this informative assessment tool.

We hope the elimination of one of the two ethics assessments is helpful to your candidates. By placing the remaining ethics assessment requirement at the point of program entry, we are confident that all pre-service teachers and leaders will be off to a great start in becoming a professional, ethical educator.

More information about Georgia's ethics assessments is available at <https://gace.ets.org/ethics/about>

As always, thank you for your work, and please let us know how we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Arthur". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Matt Arthur
Executive Secretary