

## 505-2-.21 CERTIFICATION BY INTERSTATE RECIPROCITY

**(1) Background.** Reciprocity is a term commonly used when individuals certified in one state or jurisdiction seeks certification in another. Unfortunately, many individuals assume the term guarantees that they will automatically receive a professional certificate in the new state without having to satisfy any additional requirements. This is not always the case, since each receiving state may impose special state requirements which must be met within a specified period of time.

**(2) NASDTEC Interstate Agreement.** The National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification ([NASDTEC](http://www.nasdtc.org)) offers member states the opportunity to participate in the Interstate Agreement, which governs the details of interstate reciprocity. This agreement enables a state to review the preparation and certification standards of all other states and jurisdictions for specific certificate types (teacher, administrator, support and vocational). Each state may then sign the agreement with other state certificate types that meet its own minimum standards for preparation and certification. Some states may choose to not sign with another state for any certificate type because of significant differences in standards. Others may sign with another state to accept their teaching certificates, but to not accept their administrator or support certificates. Specific information on the NASDTEC Interstate Agreement, including which states have signed with other states and in what certificate areas, may be found on the NASDTEC website at [www.nasdtc.org](http://www.nasdtc.org).

**(3) Requirements.** An out-of-state educator meeting the requirements outlined below may qualify for a Georgia educator certificate. An out-of-state educator is defined as an individual who holds or has held a professional certificate issued by another state, country or jurisdiction that has signed the NASDTEC Interstate Agreement. An out-of-state professional certificate is defined as an educator certificate for which the individual has met all requirements in the state or jurisdiction of issuance. If employment or experience is required for issuance of an out-of-state professional certificate, a letter of eligibility for a professional certificate will be accepted as long as the only outstanding requirements are employment and/or experience.

(a) An out-of-state educator who meets the following conditions will be eligible for a Georgia Professional certificate:

1. Have a minimum of three (3) years of successful full-time out-of-state experience (See GaPSC Rule 505-2-.25 EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS);

2. Hold a bachelor's degree or higher from a GaPSC-accepted accredited institution, unless Georgia does not require a degree for the comparable certificate type;

3. Meet or exempt all applicable Special Georgia Requirements, as outlined in GaPSC Rule 505-2-.24 SPECIAL GEORGIA REQUIREMENTS:

(i) An out-of-state educator who does not meet the Special Education requirement may still qualify for an initial Georgia Professional certificate. This requirement must be completed as part of professional learning requirements before the educator may renew or convert the initial Georgia certificate; and

(ii) To qualify for the Professional certificate, the GACE content exam must be passed at the Professional level, unless exempted as outlined in GaPSC Rule 505-2-.24 SPECIAL GEORGIA REQUIREMENTS; and

4. Have the employing Georgia local unit of administration (LUA) request the certificate:

(i) An out-of-state educator who meets all requirements for the Professional certificate with the exception of employment by a Georgia LUA is eligible for a Georgia Certificate of Eligibility for a Professional certificate (See GaPSC Rule 505-2-.23 CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY).

(b) An out-of-state educator who meets the following conditions will be eligible for a Georgia Induction certificate:

1. Hold a bachelor's degree or higher from a GaPSC-accepted accredited institution, unless Georgia does not require a degree for the comparable certificate type;

2. Meet or exempt all applicable Special Georgia Requirements, as outlined in GaPSC Rule 505-2-.24 SPECIAL GEORGIA REQUIREMENTS:

(i) An out-of-state educator who does not meet the Special Education requirement may still qualify for an initial Georgia Induction certificate. This requirement must be completed as part of professional learning requirements before the educator may renew or convert the initial Georgia certificate; and

(ii) To qualify for the Induction certificate, the GACE content exam must be passed at the Induction level or higher, unless exempted as outlined in GaPSC Rule 505-2-.24 SPECIAL GEORGIA REQUIREMENTS; and

3. Have the employing Georgia LUA request the certificate:

(i) An out-of-state educator who meets all requirements for the Induction certificate with the exception of employment by a Georgia LUA is eligible for a Georgia Certificate of Eligibility for an Induction certificate (See GaPSC Rule 505-2-.23 CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY).

**(4) Comparability.** The Georgia certificate to be issued must be comparable to the certificate held in the other state or jurisdiction.

(a) Individuals holding certification in fields not recognized as comparable for certification in Georgia must meet minimum standards for a recognized Georgia field. For example, while some states certify individuals in "Journalism", Georgia has no comparable educator certificate. Out-of-state journalism teachers may apply for a Georgia Non-Renewable Professional certificate in English and must satisfy all requirements for that field. During that time period, they are in-field to Journalism as well as English.

(b) Individuals holding out-of-state certification in areas recognized as endorsements in Georgia will be issued an Induction or Professional certificate in that field if all requirements are met.

**(5) Certification Level.** The level assigned to a certificate indicates the highest degree level recognized by the GaPSC that has been awarded to the certificate holder. Georgia does not issue a certificate level based on college hours beyond a degree. Example: A Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study or Masters+ does not lead to a higher certificate level. Because certificate levels seldom mean the same among different states, the level is not considered part of the Interstate Agreement. Information on the Georgia certificate level is found in GaPSC Rule 505-2-.02 CLASSIFICATION.

**(6) Educational Leadership.** Georgia has modified portions of the Interstate Agreement (Reciprocity) procedures for the field of Educational Leadership. Out-of-state individuals who apply

for initial Georgia certification in Educational Leadership after December 15, 2010, and who hold out-of-state leadership certification based on completion of a state-approved leadership program at level five (5) with less than three (3) years of experience in a leadership position must complete a GaPSC-approved Educational Leadership Performance-Based program at level six (6) or seven (7), as outlined in GaPSC Rule 505-2-.153 EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP. Educators working in Georgia schools who choose to attend non-GaPSC approved leadership programs will not be processed under full reciprocity procedures. Certificate upgrade rules for all existing Georgia certificates, as found in GaPSC Rules 505-2-.02 CLASSIFICATION and 505-2-.33 CERTIFICATE UPGRADE, will apply under reciprocity. Those Georgia educators who attend non-GaPSC approved leadership programs will not, however, be eligible for Professional Educational Leadership certificates.

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