

## 505-2-.13 WAIVER CERTIFICATE

**(1) Purpose.** A Waiver certificate may be issued at the request of a Georgia local unit of administration (LUA), and at the discretion of the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GaPSC), to individuals who have not satisfied all certification requirements. This includes: candidates completing GaPSC- or state-approved educator preparation programs leading to Induction Pathway One or Induction Pathway Two certification that have not attained a passing score on the GACE content assessment, Georgia Educator Ethics – Program Exit Assessment or GaPSC-approved content pedagogy assessment (edTPA); and educators with two unremediated, unsatisfactory, needs development or ineffective evaluations. The GaPSC will review the completed application and, if approved, a one (1)-year non-renewable Waiver certificate will be issued.

### **(2) Eligibility Requirements.**

(a) To be eligible for a Waiver certificate, the applicant shall:

1. Hold a bachelor's degree or higher from a GaPSC-accepted accredited institution, unless Georgia does not require a bachelor's degree for the specific field or requires a higher degree. Minimum degree requirements are defined in the applicable teaching, service or leadership rule. Applicants requesting a field requiring a bachelor's degree must document one of the following:

(i) A bachelor's degree from a GaPSC-accepted accredited institution and admittance to a master's degree program or state-approved educator preparation program, including Georgia Teacher Academy for Preparation and Pedagogy (GaTAPP);

(ii) A bachelor's degree from a GaPSC-accepted accredited institution awarded ten (10) years or more prior to the date of application for certification;

(iii) A bachelor's degree from a GaPSC-accepted accredited institution awarded within ten (10) years of application with an overall GPA of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale; or

(iv) A bachelor's degree from a GaPSC-accepted accredited institution awarded within ten (10) years of application with an overall GPA of less than 2.5 on a 4.0 scale and a master's degree from a GaPSC-accepted accredited institution; and

2. Have adequate time to complete all remaining requirements for the type of certificate requested within one (1) year.

### **(3) Application Requirements.**

(a) The application for the Waiver certificate must be submitted by the employing Georgia LUA.

(b) The LUA must submit a written waiver request verifying that the applicant is the most qualified candidate for employment.

**(4) Validity.** The Waiver certificate is issued for a maximum validity period of one (1)-year and may not be renewed.

**(5) Highly Qualified Status.** An individual holding a Waiver certificate does not satisfy Federal "Highly Qualified" requirements as outlined in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 2001 (No Child Left Behind). For complete highly qualified requirements, including assessment, please

refer to Section II of the Title II, Part A LEA Handbook available from the Georgia Department of Education at [www.gadoe.org](http://www.gadoe.org).

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