

## 505-2-.24 SPECIAL GEORGIA REQUIREMENTS

**(1) Purpose.** All applicants for certification in Georgia shall satisfy certain Special Georgia Requirements. These requirements are in the areas of: content knowledge; standards of conduct; special education; ethics assessment; and content pedagogy assessment. Special Georgia Requirements, with the exception of the standards of conduct, do not apply to individuals holding Georgia Life certificates.

**(2) Content Knowledge Assessment(s).** An applicant for certification in Georgia must pass or meet exemption criteria for content knowledge assessment(s) appropriate to the field of certification and/or any other assessment(s) as required by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GaPSC) (See GaPSC Rule [505-2-.26 CERTIFICATION AND LICENSURE ASSESSMENTS](#)). GACE content assessments have two passing levels: Induction and Professional. All passing scores earned on GACE assessments will be treated as Professional level scores even if the official score report reflects an Induction level score. As of October 15, 2011, Georgia educators who complete out-of-state programs and/or pass out-of-state assessments leading to certification in a new field in another state must pass the appropriate GACE content assessment for Georgia certification in the new field.

(a) An applicant may be exempt from passing the GACE content knowledge assessment(s) in the following situations:

1. Out-of-state certificate holders applying for initial Georgia certification who satisfy the out-of-state certificate and experience criteria outlined in paragraph (7) below;
2. Out-of-state professional certificate holders applying for initial Georgia certification who have passed the out-of-state content assessment required for issuance of the out-of-state certificate field;
3. Individuals holding valid National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) certification in the specific field, with the exception of the Middle Grades Generalist Field. The NBPTS Middle Grades Generalist field does not exempt the GACE Middle Grades content assessments; or
4. Individuals seeking certification in a field for which the GaPSC has not adopted a content assessment.

(b) Completers of GaPSC-approved programs who have satisfied all program requirements with the exception of the content knowledge assessment(s) and have obtained a valid recommendation from the educator preparation provider (EPP) may be issued a one (1)-year Waiver certificate at the request of an employing Georgia local unit of administration (LUA).

(c) Additional information on the required content assessment(s) is available on the GaPSC web site at [www.gapsc.com](http://www.gapsc.com).

**(3) Standards of Conduct.** An applicant for certification in Georgia must comply with the ethical standards of the profession. An FBI background check (fingerprint) is required for employment in Georgia public schools and a Georgia criminal history check is required every five (5) years for certificate renewal. In addition, applicants for certification must respond to background check questions on the application form. Individuals applying for or already holding certification who violate standards of conduct may be subject to a GaPSC investigation which could involve certificate denial, suspension or revocation (See GaPSC Rule [505-2-.30 REFERRAL TO EDUCATOR ETHICS DIVISION](#)).

**(4) Special Education.** Any person certified in a teaching field, the leadership field of Educational Leadership, the service fields of Media Specialist and School Counseling, or holders of permit certificates shall complete course work approved by the GaPSC (three [3] semester hours of college credit with a grade of "B" or higher or five [5] Georgia professional learning units satisfied through a Georgia public

school system or RESA) in the identification and education of children who have special educational needs. Holding valid National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) certification will satisfy the special education requirement. Initial Professional Georgia certificates based on interstate reciprocity or Induction Pathway Three (3) or Pathway Four (4) may be issued prior to completion of this requirement; however, the course must be satisfied as part of requirements to renew or convert the certificate. The grade requirement of "B" or higher is effective July 1, 2019, for courses completed on or after that date.

**(5) Ethics Assessment.**

(a) As of January 1, 2015, completion of the Georgia Educator Ethics – Program Entry Assessment is required for the following:

1. Issuance of a Pre-Service certificate, with the following exception:

(i) Pre-Service certificate applicants who have been continuously enrolled in the same educator preparation program since July 1, 2014, or earlier are exempt from this requirement. Note: the term "enrolled" is defined as admitted to a program and actively taking coursework; and

2. Issuance of an Induction Pathway Four (4) certificate.

(b) As of January 1, 2015, a passing score on the Georgia Educator Ethics – Program Exit Assessment is required for the following:

1. Issuance of an Induction certificate through Pathway One (1) or Two (2);

2. Reissuance or conversion of an Induction certificate attained through Pathway Three (3);

3. Conversion of an Induction Pathway Four (4) certificate to a Professional certificate; and

4. Extension of an initial Permit.

(c) As of January 15, 2016, completion of the Georgia Ethics for Educational Leadership – Program Entry Assessment is required for issuance of a Non-Renewable certificate in educational leadership for completion of an approved program.

(d) As of July 1, 2016, a passing score on the Georgia Ethics for Educational Leadership – Program Exit Assessment is required for issuance of a professional certificate in educational leadership and extension of an initial Superintendent Permit.

1. Educators applying by reciprocity will be issued the professional certificate and required to pass the assessment for renewal; and

2. Georgia Educators who were issued a professional certificate in Educational Leadership prior to July 1, 2016 are exempt from this requirement.

**(6) Content Pedagogy Assessment.** A passing score on the GaPSC-approved content pedagogy assessment is required for the following:

(a) Issuance of an Induction Pathway One (1) or Two (2) certificate to any applicant who completed the clinical practice or student teaching requirements of his/her GaPSC-approved or GaPSC-accepted initial certification program on or after September 1, 2015; and

(b) Conversion of an Induction Pathway Four (4) certificate held by any applicant who completed

the clinical practice or student teaching requirements of his/her GaPSC-approved or GaPSC-accepted initial certification program on or after September 1, 2015.

**(7) Out-of-State Experience Exemption.** Veteran out-of-state educators moving into Georgia may be eligible to exempt all Special Georgia Requirements except the standards of conduct. To be eligible, the applicant must hold a valid out-of-state certificate and have a minimum of five (5) full years of successful education experience as defined in section (3) of GaPSC Rule [505-2-.25 EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS](#). The experience must be earned within five (5) years of the date of application for a Georgia certificate in a field that is comparable to the Georgia certificate field being sought. No Georgia experience may be used for exemption purposes. See section (6) of GaPSC Rule [505-2-.25 EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS](#).

Authority O.C.G.A. 20-2-200