

Rule 505-3-.77. Educational Leadership Program

(1) **Purpose.** This rule states field-specific content standards and requirements for approving programs that prepare individuals to serve in educational leadership positions in P-12 schools and Local Units of Administration (LUAs), and supplements requirements in GaPSC Rule [505-3-.01 REQUIREMENTS AND STANDARDS FOR APPROVING EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROVIDERS AND EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS](#). The term leadership position refers to those positions requiring leadership certification as determined by the employing LUA for placement on the state salary schedule.

(2) Two-tiered Educational Leadership Preparation.

- (a) Tier I, or entry level certification, in the field of Educational Leadership shall prepare candidates for entry leadership positions that include P-12 school level positions below the principal and district level positions that do not supervise principals.
- (b) Tier II, or advanced level certification, in the field of Educational Leadership shall prepare candidates for advanced leadership positions that include P-12 school level principals or the equivalent, superintendents, or other LUA staff who supervise principals.
- (c) The Educator Preparation Provider (EPP) must seek and receive GaPSC approval to offer Tier I and Tier II preparation programs and shall comply with all GaPSC reporting requirements for preparation programs. The EPP shall offer both a Tier I and a Tier II program.

(3) Preparation Program Requirements.

- (a) To receive approval, a GaPSC-approved EPP shall offer Tier I and Tier II Educational Leadership preparation programs described in program planning forms, catalogs, syllabi, and on websites conforming to the following Georgia Educational Leadership Standards, which are adapted from the Professional Standards for Educational Leaders (PSEL) published in 2015 by the National Policy Board for Educational Administration. The elements accompanying the standards are adapted from PSEL Standards. Although programs shall be designed upon the PSEL Standards and as required by GaPSC Rule 505-3-.01, the Teacher Assessment on Performance Standards (TAPS) in relation to instructional leadership (see GaPSC Rule 505-3-.01 paragraph (e) 3. (i)), EPPs are advised to consider additional standards in developing program curricula and clinical experiences at the appropriate level (Tier I or Tier II), such as the Learning Forward Standards for Professional Learning, Georgia Teacher Leadership Standards (GaPSC Rule [505-3-.72 TEACHER LEADERSHIP PROGRAM](#)), the Model Principal Supervisor Standards, and the evaluation standards comprising the Georgia Teacher Keys Effectiveness System (TKES) and the Georgia Leader Keys Effectiveness System (LKES), and the standards delineated in GaPSC Rule [505-3-.03 FOUNDATIONS OF READING, LITERACY, AND LANGUAGE](#). GaPSC and Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) rules are often focused on implementation of such standards; candidates shall complete preparation programs prepared to implement programs and processes that address such standards. Professional learning as described in the GaPSC certificate renewal rule (GaPSC Rule [505-2-.36 RENEWAL REQUIREMENTS](#)) and continuous improvement as described in GaDOE rules and processes shall be addressed in the leadership preparation curriculum and clinical experiences. The elements accompanying the standards inform and support the practice of the educational leader by illustrating some, but not all, leadership practices that define the standards in practice. Programs will be assessed at the standard level. Effective leaders:
 - 1. Develop, advocate, and enact a shared mission, vision, and core values of high-quality education and academic success and well-being of each student. Education leaders build consensus among all stakeholders to develop an educational mission, vision, and core values of what students should know and do as a consequence of their schooling, as well as what it means for students to become well-adjusted, contributing members of society.

Building such a vision supported by core values can require reconciling possibly competing perspectives among all members of the school community. Based on this vision, leaders work with school and community members to establish the school's mission, and to plan, implement, monitor, and evaluate impact to promote continuous and sustainable improvement. Effective leaders:

- (i) Using relevant data and in collaboration with school and community members, develop an educational mission, vision, and statement of core values for the school to promote student success and well-being.
 - (ii) In collaboration with members of the school and the community and using relevant data, develop and promote a vision for student success and well-being by articulating, advocating, and cultivating core values that define the school's culture, and stress the imperative of child-centered education; high expectations and student support; fair access, opportunity, and advancement for all students; openness, caring, and trust; and continuous improvement.
 - (iii) Utilize best practices to strategically identify, implement, and evaluate actions to achieve the vision, mission, and core values for the school.
 - (iv) Ensure core values support processes and procedures that allow all students access to the most effective teachers and an instructional program that will ensure they are college and career ready.
 - (v) Develop a systematic, inclusive, and comprehensive process to review, revise, and communicate the school's mission, vision, and core values, and respond to changing expectations and opportunities for the school, and changing needs and situations of students.
 - (vi) Develop shared understanding of and commitment to mission, vision, and core values within the school and the community.
 - (vii) Monitor communications and actions to build and sustain school and community alignment with the shared vision, mission, and core values.
 - (viii) Model and pursue the school's mission, vision, and core values in all aspects of leadership.
2. Act ethically and according to professional norms to promote each student's academic success and well-being. Educational leaders are professionals who ensure personnel are equipped with professional understanding of the school's mission and the professional norms that must be followed to ensure student success and well-being. Leaders have an understanding of ethical principles to guide actions and decision-making, which must be within the boundaries of professional practice. Leaders foster the development of a school culture that nurtures understanding of professional conduct and ethics, and have a professional responsibility to take an intentional approach to ensure not only regulatory enforcement, but also ethics education, outreach, and prevention. Effective leaders:
- (i) Act ethically and professionally in personal conduct, relationships with others, decision-making, stewardship of the school's resources, and all aspects of school leadership.
 - (ii) Act according to and promote the professional norms of integrity, fairness, transparency, trust, collaboration, perseverance, learning, and continuous improvement.

- (iii) Place children at the center of education and accept responsibility for each student's academic success and well-being.
 - (iv) Safeguard and promote the values of democracy, individual freedom and responsibility, and fairness.
 - (v) Lead with interpersonal and communication skill, social-emotional insight, and understanding of all students' and staff members' backgrounds and cultures.
 - (vi) Provide moral direction for the school and promote ethical and professional behavior among faculty and staff.
3. Strive for fairness of educational opportunity and responsive practices to promote each student's academic success and well-being. Education leaders create a school culture that values learner differences. Students are known, accepted, valued, and empowered to reach their full potential. The school's culture supports a climate in which students are healthy, safe, and supported. The culture defines high expectations, encourages trust, and expects all to be responsible participants; as a result, all students thrive. Effective leaders:
- (i) Ensure that each student feels a sense of belonging, is treated fairly and respectfully, and is accepted and valued as an active member of the school community.
 - (ii) Recognize, respect, and employ each student's strengths, differences, and culture as assets for teaching and learning.
 - (iii) Analyze data to ensure that each student has equitable access to effective teachers, learning opportunities, academic and social support, and other resources needed for college/career readiness.
 - (iv) Develop and communicate expectations and codes of conduct to address student behavior in a positive, and fair manner.
 - (v) Eliminate barriers associated with race, class, culture and language, gender and sexual orientation, and disability or special status.
 - (vi) Utilize a variety of strategies to examine and address assumptions and beliefs that may conflict with vision, mission, core values, and goals.
 - (vii) Incorporate knowledge of the social, cultural, leadership, and political dynamics of the school community to cultivate a positive academic learning environment.
 - (viii) Promote the preparation of students to live productively in and contribute to the varied cultural contexts of a global society.
 - (ix) Act with cultural competence and responsiveness in their interactions, decision making, and practice.
4. Develop and support intellectually rigorous and coherent systems of curriculum, instruction, and assessment to promote each student's academic success and well-being. Effective educational leaders develop and support intellectually rigorous and coherent systems of curriculum, instruction, and assessment to maximize each student's growth and learning. Education leaders promote the use of rigorous curricula, which set high expectations for students and are aligned to academic standards. They seek to maximize student learning through authentic and differentiated pedagogy, systems of support, and effective assessment strategies that inform instruction. They develop and coordinate these systems in ways that create opportunities to personalize the academic program to meet

individual student needs. The effectiveness of implementation and the impact of these systems on student learning are evaluated. Effective leaders:

- (i) Promote the mission, vision, and core values of the school, embody high expectations for student learning, and align curriculum, instruction, and assessment with academic standards that are responsive to the needs of all learners.
- (ii) Align and focus systems of curriculum, instruction, and assessment within and across grade levels to promote student academic success, love of learning, the identities and habits of learners, and healthy sense of self.
- (iii) Promote instructional and assessment practice that is consistent with knowledge of learning, learner growth and development, effective pedagogy, and the needs of each student.
- (iv) Guide the selection and implementation of evidence-based teaching strategies, curricular materials, educational technologies, and other resources appropriate to address all student populations.
- (v) Ensure instructional practice that is intellectually challenging, authentic to student experiences, aligned to student strengths, and is differentiated and personalized.
- (vi) Collaboratively model and promote with all stakeholders a culture of high expectations for all students.
- (vii) Promote the effective use of technology.
- (viii) Employ valid assessments that are consistent with knowledge of child learning and development and technical standards of measurement.
- (ix) Monitor and evaluate the use of diagnostic, formative, and summative assessment to provide timely and accurate feedback to students and parents, and to inform instructional practices.

5. Cultivate a welcoming, caring, and supportive school community that promotes the academic success and well-being of each student. Education leaders build a school culture and climate that supports students being known and valued. The learning environment is personalized so students feel encouraged to engage with others as active learners. In such an environment learners are willing to take chances in their learning since a support system has been built to reinforce student learning. Effective leaders:

- (i) Build and maintain a safe, caring, and healthy school environment that meets the academic, social, emotional, and physical needs of each student.
- (ii) Create and sustain a school environment in which each student is known, accepted and valued, trusted and respected, cared for, and encouraged to be an active and responsible member of the school community.
- (iii) Provide coherent systems of academic and social supports, services, extracurricular activities, and accommodations to meet the range of learning needs of each student.
- (iv) Promote adult-student, student-peer, and school-community relationships that value and support academic learning and positive social and emotional development.
- (v) Cultivate and reinforce student engagement in school and positive student conduct.

- (vi) Infuse the school's learning environment with the cultures and languages of the school's community.
6. Develop the professional capacity and practice of school personnel to promote each student's academic success and well-being. Education leaders support the professional learning of effective, caring teachers and leaders who are able to work with students productively in the classroom and who can collaboratively lead a school or district. Building an effective staff requires careful personnel recruitment, selection, assignment of responsibilities, support, evaluation, and retention. Developing the professional skills of educators involves such activities as coaching, creating supportive conditions, and fostering a professional learning community. Effective leaders:
- (i) Recruit, hire, assign, support, develop, and retain effective and caring teachers and other professional staff and form them into an educationally effective faculty in an equitable manner based on school needs, and local, state, and federal requirements.
 - (ii) Plan for and manage staff turnover and succession, providing opportunities for effective induction including mentoring of new personnel by carefully selected and trained mentors.
 - (iii) Develop teachers' and staff members' professional knowledge, skills, and practice through differentiated opportunities for learning and growth, guided by understanding of professional and adult learning and development.
 - (iv) Foster continuous improvement of individual and collective instructional capacity to achieve outcomes envisioned for each student.
 - (v) Deliver actionable feedback about instruction and other professional practice through valid, research-anchored systems of supervision and evaluation to support the development of teachers' and staff members' knowledge, skills, and practice.
 - (vi) Empower and motivate teachers and staff to the highest levels of professional practice and to continuous learning and improvement.
 - (vii) Recognize the achievements of highly effective teachers and others by developing the capacity, opportunities, and support for teacher leadership and leadership from other members of the school.
 - (viii) Promote the personal and professional health, well-being, and work-life balance of faculty and staff.
 - (ix) Address their own learning and effectiveness through reflection, study and improvement, maintaining a healthy work-life balance.
7. Foster a professional community of teachers and other professional staff to promote each student's academic success and well-being. Education leaders promote each student's academic success and well-being by creating and supporting a professional community of teachers. Building a community of teachers and other professional staff includes creating effective workplace conditions, promoting collective engagement and responsibility, and mutual accountability. Creating professional communities of teachers and other professional staff includes job-embedded opportunities that promote collaborative examination of practice and focuses on improvement of programs and practices. Effective leaders:
- (i) Foster supportive workplace conditions for teachers and other professional staff that promote effective professional development, practice, and student learning.

- (ii) Empower and entrust teachers and staff with collective responsibility for meeting the academic, social, emotional, and physical needs of each student, pursuant to the mission, vision, and core values of the school.
 - (iii) Establish and sustain a professional culture of engagement and commitment to shared vision, goals, and objectives pertaining to the education of the whole child; high expectations for professional work; ethical and equitable practice; trust and open communication; collaboration, collective efficacy, and continuous individual and organizational learning and improvement.
 - (iv) Promote mutual accountability among teachers and other professional staff for each student's success and the effectiveness of the school as a whole.
 - (v) Develop and support open, productive, caring, and trusting working relationships among leaders, faculty, and staff to promote professional capacity and the improvement of practice.
 - (vi) Design and implement job-embedded and other opportunities for professional learning collaboratively with faculty and staff.
 - (vii) Provide roles, structures, opportunities, and norms to support collaborative examination of practice, collegial feedback, and collective learning.
 - (viii) Encourage faculty-initiated improvement of programs and practices.
 - (ix) Use data, including student performance data, to evaluate the impact professional learning has on the faculty and staff, the school/district, and student learning.
8. Engage families and the community in meaningful, reciprocal, and mutually beneficial ways to promote each student's academic success and well-being. Education leaders build and sustain productive relationships with families and other community partners in the government, non-profit, and private sectors. They promote understanding, appreciation, and use of the community's cultural, social, and intellectual resources. They communicate regularly and openly with families and community partners, and seek their input and support for continuous improvement efforts. Effective leaders:
- (i) Are approachable, accessible, and welcoming to all families and community members.
 - (ii) Create and sustain positive, collaborative, and productive relationships with families and the community for the benefit of students.
 - (iii) Engage in regular and open two-way communication with families and the community about the school, students, needs, challenges, and accomplishments.
 - (iv) Maintain a presence in the community to understand its strengths and needs, develop productive relationships, and engage its resources for the school.
 - (v) Create means for the school community to partner with families to support student learning in and out of school.
 - (vi) Build and sustain mutually beneficial productive partnerships with public and private sectors to share resources and promote school improvement and student learning.
 - (vii) Create an environment that values differences, serves as a resource for families and the school community, and welcomes family engagement in school activities.

- (viii) Understand, value, and employ the community's cultural, social, intellectual, and political resources to promote student learning and school improvement.
 - (ix) Advocate publicly for the needs and priorities of the school, district, students, families, and the community.
 - (x) Work with the community to collect and analyze data on economic, social, and other emerging issues that impact district and school planning, programs, and structures.
9. Manage school operations and resources to promote each student's academic success and well-being. Education leaders are responsible for the effective, efficient, equitable, and ethical management of schools and districts. Their responsibilities include garnering and allocating resources, monitoring and addressing internal and external regulatory requirements, developing organizational policies and practices, and other administrative duties that maintain the continued viability of the school or district. Effective leaders:
- (i) Institute, manage, and monitor operations and administrative systems that promote the mission and vision of the school.
 - (ii) Strategically manage staff resources, assigning and scheduling teachers and staff to roles and responsibilities that optimize their professional capacity to address each student's learning needs.
 - (iii) Seek, acquire, and manage fiscal, physical, and other resources to support curriculum, instruction, and assessment; student learning community; professional capacity and community; and family and community engagement.
 - (iv) Are responsible, ethical, and accountable stewards of the school's monetary and nonmonetary resources, engaging in effective budgeting and accounting practices.
 - (v) Protect teachers' and other staff members' work and learning from disruption.
 - (vi) Employ technology to improve the quality and efficiency of operations and management.
 - (vii) Develop and maintain data and communication systems to deliver actionable information for classroom and school improvement.
 - (viii) Know, comply with, and help the school community understand local, state, and federal laws, rights, policies, and regulations to promote student success.
 - (ix) Develop and manage relationships with feeder and connecting schools for enrollment management and curricular and instructional articulation.
 - (x) Develop and manage productive relationships with the central office and school board.
 - (xi) Develop and administer systems for fair and equitable management of conflict among students, faculty and staff, leaders, families, and community.
 - (xii) Manage governance processes and internal and external politics toward achieving the school's mission and vision.
10. Act as agents of continuous improvement to promote each student's academic success and well-being. Educational leaders foster an environment among stakeholders where data are analyzed and used to continuously improve the academic and social success of the

students, staff, and the community of learners. Leaders ensure a systematic and collaborative process that promotes a culture of school improvement and accountability. This plan, do, check, act process is created with input from all stakeholders. The leader uses current and relevant research and effectively gathers, analyzes, and interprets student data from multiple sources to promote a shared vision for instructional improvement that engages all stakeholders in decision-making that drives and sustains school improvement for each student. Effective leaders are willing to make difficult decisions and confront adverse situations to promote student academic success and well-being. Effective leaders:

- (i) Use a systematic continuous improvement process to achieve the vision, fulfill the mission, and promote the core values of the school.
 - (ii) Create a continuous improvement culture within the school and community that promotes mutual commitment and accountability for student success.
 - (iii) Develop the capacity of staff to effectively lead strategic teams in a systematic process of school improvement.
 - (iv) Employ situationally-appropriate strategies for improvement, including transformational and incremental, adaptive approaches and attention to different phases of implementation.
 - (v) Build the capacity of staff to assess the value and applicability of emerging educational trends and the findings of research for school improvement.
 - (vi) Develop systematic processes of data collection, management, and analysis to determine root causes and inform the decision-making process.
 - (vii) Adopt a systems perspective ensuring alignment among improvement efforts and within all aspects of school organization, programs, and services.
 - (viii) Manage uncertainty, risk, competing initiatives, and politics of change with courage and perseverance, providing support and encouragement, and openly communicating the need for, process for, and outcomes of improvement efforts.
 - (ix) Develop and promote leadership among teachers and staff for inquiry, experimentation and innovation, and initiating and implementing improvement.
- (b) Tier I. Educational Leadership preparation programs leading to entry level certification may be offered by GaPSC-approved EPPs as Master's degree programs, or as non-degree granting certification-only programs for educators who already hold a Master's degree and Level 5 certification. To receive approval, a GaPSC-approved EPP shall offer an educator preparation program for entry level preparation described in program planning forms, catalogs, syllabi, and on websites meeting the following requirements:
1. Program Admission. EPPs shall determine admission requirements for Tier I entry level preparation programs in addition to the minimum requirements established in this rule.
 2. Program Curriculum. Programs leading to Tier I Entry Level Educational Leadership certification shall address all the GEL Standards referenced in paragraph (3) (a), but shall place emphasis on standards related specifically to practices designed to directly impact the improvement of teaching and learning.
 3. Partnerships. A partnership agreement shall be established with LUAs, agencies, or other organizations for the purpose of collaborative work to ensure program curriculum and clinical experiences address LUA leadership preparation needs and to continuously

examine program effectiveness. Such partnerships shall permit candidate self-selection for Tier I programs provided the partner district has the capacity to mentor the candidate and the candidate meets program admission criteria. A regular and systematic plan agreeable to the partner districts and the EPP shall be established for updating partnership agreements to ensure continuous improvement of the preparation program.

4. Candidate Support. At a minimum, Tier I candidates shall receive mentoring by a leader who is actively employed in a leadership position in the P-12 school or LUA and who has been trained to be a leader mentor. In addition, candidates shall receive EPP support through group coaching or other means whereby candidates have opportunities to interact with program staff and other candidates for reflection, feedback, and support related to their performances in the field.
- (c) Tier II. Educational Leadership preparation programs leading to Tier II advanced level certification may be offered by GaPSC-approved EPPs as education specialist or doctoral degree programs, or as non-degree certification-only programs for educators who already hold an education specialist degree, a doctoral degree, or a GaPSC-issued certificate at Level 6 or 7. To receive approval, a GaPSC-approved EPP shall offer a performance-based educator preparation program described in program planning forms, catalogs, syllabi, and on websites meeting the following requirements:
1. Program Admission. EPPs shall require potential candidates to:
 - (i) Hold Tier I entry level certification or hold a Tier II certificate if that certificate is based on completion of an Educational Leadership program that led to a Georgia L or PL certificate;
 - (ii) Serve in a leadership position (see (1) Purpose above for the definition of the term, leadership position) at either the P-12 school or LUA level (or agency or organization equivalent to LUA level) that will enable the candidate to fully meet the program's clinical requirements. Candidates who do not serve in a leadership position as described above may be enrolled if the EPP and employer establish a formal, written agreement specifying the candidate will be released from other responsibilities for two full days per week or the equivalent to allow the candidate sufficient time to participate in and successfully complete clinical work. Employees of state education or human service agencies, RESAs, universities or technical colleges, and employees of education or human service non-profit organizations may also pursue Tier II Educational Leadership certification as long as the employer has established a partnership with a GaPSC-approved EPP and in the partnership agreement agrees to meet all requirements specified in this rule; and
 - (iii) Meet program admission criteria, and admission criteria specified by the EPP and in the partnership agreements with employers of potential candidates.
 2. Program Curriculum. Programs leading to Tier II Educational Leadership certification shall address all standards through clinical performances required in the program. In coursework emphasis shall be on those standards not emphasized in the Tier I program.
 3. Partnerships. A partnership agreement shall be established with the employing LUA, agency, or organization of each candidate for the purpose of ensuring candidates will be able to meet Tier II level clinical requirements. Partnership agreements:
 - (i) Shall be developed collaboratively by the LUA, agency, or organization and the program provider;
 - (ii) Shall establish mutually agreed upon responsibilities; and

- (iii) Shall be regularly and systematically updated to ensure continuous improvement of the preparation program and its partnerships.
- 4. Candidate Support. The clinical work of each Tier II candidate shall be supervised by a candidate support team. At a minimum, the candidate support team shall be composed of the candidate, a trained and qualified leadership coach, a trained P-12 school or LUA mentor, and an EPP representative. (The leadership coach may serve as both the coach and the EPP representative provided the coach is employed by the EPP). These individuals shall work as a team to meet candidate and program needs.

(4) Clinical Practice Requirements and Candidate Performance Expectations.

(a) Tier I Entry Leader Preparation.

- 1. Clinical Practice. Tier I Clinical Practice shall include 250 clock hours (in certification-only and degree programs) in addition to performances required in courses and shall consist of significant opportunities for candidates to synthesize and apply the knowledge, and practice and develop the skills identified in the standards through field experiences cooperatively developed by the candidate, mentor, and EPP advisor. Field experiences shall engage candidates in substantial, standards-based work in a variety of settings. In Tier I programs candidates shall, at a minimum, observe leaders at all levels—elementary, middle, high school, and central office.
- 2. Performance Expectations. Candidates in Tier I entry level preparation programs shall demonstrate at a proficient level the knowledge, skills, and dispositions required for entry level educational leaders by demonstrating performance proficiency in the Georgia Educational Leadership Standards referenced in paragraph (3) (a).

(b) Tier II Advanced Level Leader Preparation.

- 1. Tier II Clinical Practice - Residency. Tier II programs shall be performance-based, and as such, shall be designed around leadership performances. Courses shall be designed to support performances. Candidates in Tier II preparation programs shall participate in performance-based experiences in courses as well as during an extended residency (in certification-only and degree programs). The extended residency shall consist of 750 clock hours of extended, job-embedded residency work. This work provides significant opportunities for candidates to synthesize and apply the knowledge, and practice and develop the skills identified in the standards through substantial, sustained, standards-based work in real settings in real time (actual P-12 school and LUA settings or similar settings for candidates employed in agencies or organizations not classified as P-12 schools or LUAs). Such a residency shall be planned and guided cooperatively by the EPP and LUA or employer through candidate support teams that develop and manage individual induction plans for each candidate.
- 2. Performance Expectations. Candidates in Tier II preparation programs shall demonstrate knowledge, skills, and dispositions required for advanced level educational leaders by demonstrating performance proficiency in the standards referenced in paragraph (3) (a). The candidate's program shall be planned and guided cooperatively by the EPP and LUA, agency, or organization personnel. The EPP shall be responsible for using formative assessments throughout the program to assess candidate progress. Candidate performances shall be designed as follows:
 - (i) Candidates shall demonstrate the ability to accept genuine responsibility for leading, facilitating, and making decisions typical of those made by principals, supervisors of principals, and superintendents. The residency experiences shall provide candidates with substantial responsibilities that increase over time in amount and complexity

and involve direct interaction and involvement with appropriate staff, students, parents, and community leaders, including school board members. The preponderance of experiences shall engage candidates in leading rather than observing or participating;

- (ii) Candidates shall participate in a performance-based residency cooperatively planned and guided by a candidate support team during the course of the program, including assessment of candidate application of knowledge, skills, and leadership dispositions;
- (iii) Candidates shall apply skills and knowledge articulated in national and state standards for educational leaders in experiences designed to accommodate candidates' individual needs;
- (iv) Candidates shall demonstrate performances in settings that allow for the demonstration of a wide range of relevant knowledge, skills, and dispositions while working with faculty and other LUA personnel, students, parents, and appropriate community organizations such as social service groups, local businesses, community organizations, parent groups, and school boards; and
- (v) Candidates' performances shall be planned cooperatively by the candidate support team and provide appropriate opportunities to apply skills, knowledge, and research contained in the standards.

(5) Testing Requirements.

- (a) Tier I Entry Level. Candidates completing an entry level preparation program shall be required to take the GACE content assessment in Educational Leadership. A passing score on the state-approved content assessment is not required for program completion; however, candidates shall attempt the assessment prior to program completion, and a passing score is required for state entry level certification in Educational Leadership.
- (b) Tier II Advanced Level Preparation. Candidates completing a Tier II program shall be required to take the GACE performance-based assessment for Educational Leadership Tier II. A passing score on the state-approved performance-based assessment is not required for program completion; however, candidates shall attempt the assessment prior to program completion, and a passing score is required for Tier II certification in Educational Leadership.
- (c) Candidates who enroll in a GaPSC-approved Tier I Educational Leadership program must pass the Georgia Ethics for Educational Leadership Assessment prior to beginning program coursework. Any candidate enrolling in a Tier II program who did not pass the Ethics Assessment prior to enrolling in a Tier I program must pass the assessment prior to beginning Tier II program coursework.

(6) Conversion of Previously Issued Leadership Certificates to "PL" and/or Tier II Certificates.

- (a) Educators who hold "L" certificates may convert to "PL" certificates by completing a GaPSC-approved certification-only Tier II program in Educational Leadership or a Tier II degree program if the educator holds only Level 5 certification. Such a program shall be performance-based and shall include extensive residency experiences meeting the requirements described in this rule. Educators who hold "FLD704 Educational Leadership (P-12)" certificates are exempted from meeting requirements to hold any position requiring Educational Leadership certification.
- (b) Educators holding a PL certificate (FLD706 Building Level or FLD707 System Level; FLD706 and FLD707 were combined and became FLD710 after July 1, 2015) are eligible to hold any position

requiring leadership certification. Holders of PL – Building Level or PL – System level shall not be required to meet any additional requirements for leadership certification.

(7) Continuous Improvement as Part of the Program Approval Process.

- (a) As part of the continuous improvement cycle required by GaPSC Program Approval Standards (2023), EPPs are advised to engage partner school districts in regularly reviewing program effectiveness. In addition, as a formative measure, EPPs are advised to engage in a mid-cycle review using peers and partners as reviewers; such reviews will have no regulatory consequences. Mid-cycle formative reviews will use a valid and reliable process such as *Quality Measures*.

Authority: O.C.G.A. § 20-2-200.