

505-2-.11. International Exchange Certificate

Nature of Amendment(s):

☒ Substantive
☐ Clarification
☐ Further Definition

Discussion:

It is proposed that GaPSC Rule 505-2-.11 INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE CERTIFICATE, dated July 1, 2021, be RESCINDED and a new rule with the same number and title be INITIATED to update the title of the educator ethics assessment and include the addition of a conditional two-year extension.

(1) **Summary:** The International Exchange Certificate is a time-limited certificate designed to allow eligible educators with J-1 Exchange Visitor Visas from other countries to come to the United States to teach in Georgia schools. The certificate is non-renewable and is only issued for teaching fields. The intent of this certificate is to provide a cultural exchange (not necessarily a physical teacher exchange between two countries) for Georgia students and international teachers. Should the educator choose to continue teaching in Georgia beyond the expiration of the J-1 Exchange Visitor Visa, all requirements for the Induction, Professional or Non-Renewable Professional certificate must be satisfied.

(2) **Requirements.**

(a) Meet the following requirements:

1. Hold primary citizenship outside of the United States and are actively participating in an authorized Exchange Visitor Program.
2. Hold the J-1 Exchange Visitor Visa.
3. Hold a bachelor's degree or higher from a GaPSC-accepted accredited institution, or equivalent of a bachelor's degree or higher as accepted through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). See GaPSC Rule [505-2-.29 EVALUATION OF CREDIT EARNED OUTSIDE OF THE U.S.](#)
4. Hold an educator credential equivalent to a professional certificate from the home country in a teaching field comparable to those recognized in Georgia.
5. Pass the GACE Ethics for Teachers.
6. Demonstrate proficiency in English as determined by the local unit of administration (LUA).
7. Meet Standards of Conduct.

(3) **Application Requirements.**

(a) The Application for Certification must be submitted with the following:

1. [International Exchange Verification form.](#)
2. GaPSC-accepted credential report (See GaPSC Rule [505-2-.29 EVALUATION OF CREDIT EARNED OUTSIDE OF THE U.S.](#)).

3. Photocopy of the J-1 Exchange Visitor Visa.
4. [Verification of Lawful Presence.](#)
5. Have the certificate requested by the employed Georgia local unit of administration (LUA) following procedures outlined in GaPSC [Rule 505-2-.27 CERTIFICATION APPLICATION, MyPSC AND TEST ELIGIBILITY PROCEDURES](#)

(4) Mentoring Requirements.

- (a) The LUA shall establish an Induction Plan collaboratively with the international exchange teacher in order to support professional learning. The plan will familiarize the international exchange teacher with district's and/or school's teaching and learning goals, identified developmental needs, prior preparation and experiences, and assessment results to drive professional learning.

(5) Reissuance or Conversion.

- (a) An educator holding an International Exchange certificate who completes one exchange teacher experience with an authorized Exchange Visitor Program in Georgia and returns home for a minimum of one (1) year may qualify for one additional International Exchange certificate at the request of a Georgia LUA. To be eligible for the second exchange teacher experience, the educator must meet eligibility requirements outlined in paragraph (2) above.
 1. An educator remaining in Georgia to continue teaching beyond the expiration of the J-1 Exchange Visitor Visa must meet one of the following requirements:
 - (i) All requirements for the Five-Year Induction, One-Year Induction, Professional or One-Year Non-Renewable Professional certificate.
 - (ii) Obtain a conditional extension from the U.S. Department of State according to [§ 62.24 Exchange Visitor Program](#).
 - (I) At its discretion, the U.S. Department of State may authorize a sponsor to extend an exchange teacher's participation for one or two additional years beyond the initial three-year validity.
 - A. The validity of the certificate will be contingent on the exchange extension.
 - B. It is the responsibility of the Georgia LUA and Sponsor to request the extension.
- (b) Have the International Exchange certificate requested by the Georgia LUA Sponsor following procedures outlined in GaPSC [Rule 505-2-.27 CERTIFICATION APPLICATION, MyPSC AND TEST ELIGIBILITY PROCEDURES](#)

(6) Validity.

- (a) International Exchange certificates are valid for three (3) years (See GaPSC [Rule 505-2-.32 VALIDITY PERIODS AND DATING OF CERTIFICATES](#))
 - a. A conditional extension may be issued to individuals who meet the requirements outlined in paragraph (5)(a)(1)(ii)

- (b) To be eligible for the second exchange teacher experience, the educator must meet eligibility requirements outlined in paragraph (5)(a) above.

(7) Restrictions.

- (a) An International Exchange Certificate cannot be issued to an educator previously certified in Georgia with any title or type of certificate other than the International Exchange Certificate.

Authority O.C.G.A. § 20-2-200.