

GaPSC Code of Ethics for Educators (505-6-.01)

The GaPSC adopted an updated **CODE OF ETHICS FOR EDUCATORS (505-6-.01)** effective 2015. The Code of Ethics for Educators defines the professional behavior of educators in Georgia and serves as the guide to ethical conduct. While the entire Code of Ethics for Educators is critical, the following standard addresses testing specifically:

Standard 10: Testing – An educator shall administer state-mandated assessments fairly and ethically. Unethical conduct includes but is not limited to:

- 1. committing any act that breaches Test Security; and***
- 2. compromising the integrity of the assessment.***

The following portion of the Code of Ethics for Educators addresses reporting requirements and disciplinary actions that may apply to the assessment and accountability process for the testing program:

Reporting: Educators are required to report a breach of one or more of the Standards in the Code of Ethics for Educators as soon as possible but no later than ninety (90) days from the date the educator became aware of an alleged breach unless the law or local procedures require reporting sooner. Educators should be aware of legal requirements and local policies and procedures for reporting unethical conduct. Complaints filed with the GaPSC must be in writing and must be signed by the complainant (parent, educator, or other LUA/school district employee, etc.).

Disciplinary Action: The GaPSC is authorized to suspend, revoke, or deny certificates, to issue a reprimand or warning, or to monitor the educator's conduct and performance after an investigation is held and notice and opportunity for a hearing are provided to the certificate holder. Any of the following grounds shall be considered cause for disciplinary action against the holder of a certificate:

- 1. Unethical conduct as outlined in The Code of Ethics for Educators, Standards 1-11 (GaPSC Rule 505-6-.01);*
- 2. Disciplinary action against a certificate in another state on grounds consistent with those specified in the Code of Ethics for Educators, Standards 1-11 (GaPSC Rule 505-6-.01);*
- 3. Order from a court or a request from Department of Human Resources that the certificate should be suspended or the application for certification should be denied for non-payment of child support (O.C.G.A § 19-6-28.1 and § 19-11-9-.3);*
- 4. Notification from the Georgia Higher Education Assistance Corporation that the educator is in default and not in satisfactory repayment status on a student loan guaranteed by the Georgia Higher Education Assistance corporation (O.C.G.A. § 20-3-295);*
- 5. Suspension or revocation of any professional license or certificate;*
- 6. Violation of any other laws and rules applicable to the profession; and*
- 7. Any other good and sufficient cause that renders an educator unfit for employment as an educator.*

An individual whose certificate has been revoked, denied, or suspended may not serve as a volunteer or be employed as an educator, paraprofessional, aide, substitute teacher or in any other position during the period of his or her revocation, suspension or denial for a violation of The Code of Ethics. The superintendent and the educator designated by the superintendent/Local Board of Education shall be responsible for assuring that an individual whose certificate has been revoked, denied, or suspended is not employed or serving in any capacity in their district. Both the superintendent and the superintendent's designee must hold GaPSC certification. Should the superintendent's certificate be revoked, suspended, or denied, the Board of Education shall be responsible for assuring that the superintendent whose certificate has been revoked, suspended, or denied is not employed or serving in any capacity in their district.

The Code of Ethics for Educators can be found at this link:

www.gapsc.com/Rules/Current/Ethics/505-6-.01.pdf