

Changes to the Georgia Department of Education's Requirements for Special Education Teachers' Professional Qualifications (PQ)

Effective 2-11-20

Traditional Georgia LEAs

Authority: Georgia law authorizes GaPSC to establish certification requirements. O.C.G.A. §§ 20-2-200, 20-2-984, GaPSC Rules

Content: Special Education teachers **MUST** follow all GaPSC certification requirements in alignment with the students' Individualized Education Program (IEP) and State Board of Education rules.

Service: Special Education teachers **MUST** follow all GaPSC certification requirements in alignment with the students' Individualized Education Program (IEP) and State Board of Education rules.

Educator **MUST** have a clearance certificate.

Charter & Strategic Waiver LEAs

Special Education Teacher Does NOT Issue Grades

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 20-2-80, 20-2-200, 20-2-211.1, 20-2-2065, GaPSC Rules, SBOE Rules

Content: N/A

Service: In compliance with Georgia State Board Rule, special education teachers who do NOT issue grades **MUST** hold GaPSC special education certification aligned with teaching assignment (general, adapted, visual impairment, etc.)

Educator **MUST** have a clearance certificate.

Charter & Strategic Waiver LEAs

Special Education Teacher Issues Grades

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 20-2-80, 20-2-200, 20-2-211.1, 20-2-2065, GaPSC Rules, SBOE Rules

Content: Special Education Teachers who issue grades **MUST** hold content certification in alignment with the LEA's PQ Requirements.

Service: In compliance with Georgia State Board Rule, special education teachers who issue grades **MUST** hold GaPSC special education certification aligned with teaching assignment (general, adapted, visual impairment, etc.)

Educator **MUST** have a clearance certificate.

Summary of Changes

LEA Type And Special Education Teacher	Prior PQ Requirement (effective 07-01 -17)	New PQ Requirement (effective 2-11-20)
Traditional Georgia LEA any Special Education Teacher	MUST follow all GaPSC certification requirements in alignment with the students' IEP and State Board of Education rules.	No Change in Prior Requirement
Charter & Strategic Waiver LEAs Special Education Teacher Does NOT Issue Grades	MUST hold GaPSC special education certification aligned with teaching assignment (general, adapted, visual impairment, etc.) AND MUST have a clearance certificate.	No Change in Prior Requirement
Charter & Strategic Waiver LEAs Special Education Teacher Issues Grades	MUST hold GaPSC special education certification aligned with teaching assignment (general, adapted, visual impairment, etc.) AND MUST hold content certification for the subject and grade level bands for which the teacher is assigned (K-5), (4-8), (6-12) and in accordance with the students' IEPs AND MUST have a clearance certificate.	MUST hold GaPSC special education certification aligned with teaching assignment (general, adapted, visual impairment, etc.) AND MUST hold content certification in alignment with the LEA's PQ Requirements. AND MUST have a clearance certificate. CONTENT NOW REFLECTS LEA'S REQUIREMENTS

Summary of Changes for Charter and Strategic Waiver LEAs

Educator	Requirements
Paraprofessional	Federal (NCLB) Requirements Aligns with GaPSC Certification
Special Education Teacher Does Not Issue Grades	Service: State Requirements GaPSC Certification
Special Education Teacher Issues Grades	Service: State Requirements GaPSC Certification Content: LEA Requirements
Regular Education Teacher (including Gifted, ESOL, and EIP)	Service & Content: LEA Requirements

20 Day Parent Notification Changes for Charter and Strategic Waiver LEAs

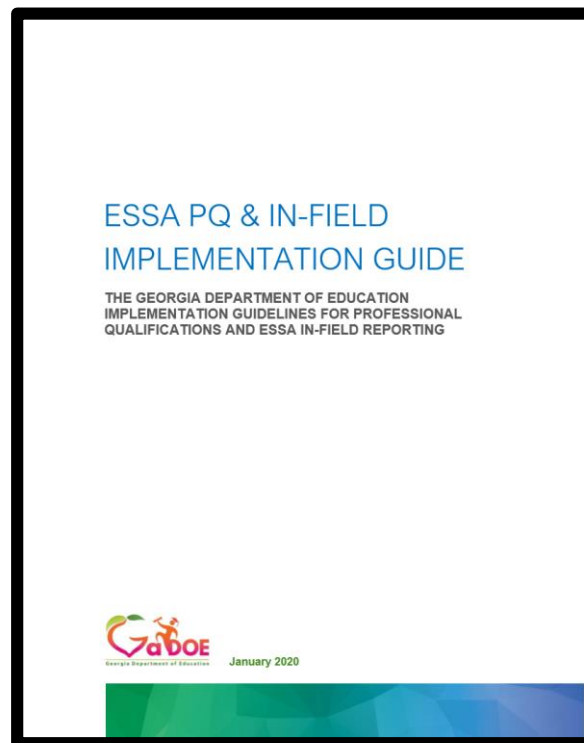
<p>Prior 20 Day Parent Notification (effective 07-01-17)</p>	<p>New 20 Day Parent Notification (effective 2-11-20)</p>
<p><u>Educator does not issue grades</u> Notifications must be disseminated if the teacher does not hold special education certification</p> <p><u>Educator issues grades</u> Notifications must be disseminated if the teacher does not hold</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • special education certification, and/or • content certification <p>for the subject area(s) and grade level band(s) in which the teacher issues grades. (Aligned with GaPSC In-Field)</p>	<p><u>Educator does not issue grades</u> Notifications must be disseminated if the teacher does not hold special education certification</p> <p><u>Educator issues grades</u> Notifications must be disseminated if the teacher does not hold</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • special education certification, and/or • content certification in accordance with the LEA's Professional Qualification requirements <p>CONTENT NOW REFLECTS LEA'S PQ REQUIREMENTS</p>

ESSA In-Field Reporting

GaDOE will use GaPSC In-Field rules to determine ESSA In-Field qualifications for special education teachers that align with each teacher's teaching assignment for special education **and** content. 'Out-of-Field' will be reported for the entirety of the school year using Certification Records, two CPI and three Student Class data collections cycles.

Questions

Refer to the ESSA PQ and In-Field Implementation Guide located on the ESSA PQ & In-Field website within the Federal Programs webpage.



Also, email professionalqualifications@doe.k12.ga.us