5. Professional Qualifications

- Part 1 – State “explicitly” whether or not in the current fiscal year the LEA uses its Charter or Strategic Waiver flexibility to waive certification. [O.C.G.A. 20-2-80, 20-2-2065, ESSA Sec. 1112(e)(1)(B)(ii)]

As a System Charter, Cartersville City does waive certification as allowed under Georgia law. However, all instructional personnel will hold as a minimum a valid Clearance Certificate issued by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GaPSC).

- Part 2 - If the LEA waives certification, specify whether or not, in the current fiscal year, certification is waived:
  i. for all teachers (except Special Education), or
  ii. for a select group of teachers (please specify content fields and grade level bands, P-5, 4-8, 6-12, P-12).

[Note that in Georgia certification requirements for Special Education CANNOT be waived. All Special Education teachers are required to hold GaPSC special education certification that is in-field for the course to which the teacher is assigned. All educators must hold a GaPSC issued Clearance Certificate.] [O.C.G.A. 20-2-211.1, SBOE 160-4-9-.05, ESSA Sec. 1112(e)(1)(B)(ii)]

For 2018-19, it is expected that all teachers hold a valid certificate issued by the GaPSC in a related content area of assignment. Exemptions, as needed, would be in the areas of Career Technical Education (CTAE), art, music, or drama at any grade level. Teachers of English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) will hold that certification. Teachers of Gifted Education in grades K-8 will hold that certification. For grades 9-12 where gifted services are provided using an advanced content delivery model the teacher will have Gifted certification and/or Advanced Placement training in the specific content area. All special education teachers will hold special education certification applicable to the students served.

- Part 3 - If the LEA waives certification, state the minimum qualifications required for employment of teachers for whom certification is waived (example: bachelor’s degree, content assessment, coursework, field experience, etc.). If no requirements exist beyond a Clearance Certificate, please explicitly state so. [Sec. 1112(e)(1)(B)(ii)]

As a minimum, all teachers will hold a valid Clearance Certificate issued by the GaPSC. Additionally, all teachers will hold a bachelor’s degree in a related area of assignment; or in the case of CTAE, art, music or drama have a minimum of three successful years of verifiable field experience in the area of assignment; or have passed the state approved content assessment for the assignment.