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)]

Fulton County Schools waives certification for teachers and paraprofessionals under Georgia Charter law (O.C.G.A 20-2-2065). This includes all grade bands and subjects

- 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)]

Fulton County Schools executes broad flexibility as outlined in the district’s Executive Charter System Contract (reference Broad Flexibility Allowed by Law, pg. 2). The district waives certification for all K-12 content teachers (except special education). This includes all grade bands and subjects.

Special education teachers must hold an appropriate special education certification (e.g., Induction or Standard GA Professional Certificate in Special Education General Curriculum, Special Education Adapted Curriculum, etc.) for employment. Special education teachers who serve in self-contained and resource classes (issuing grades) must also hold a content certification or equivalent credential (degree, passing score on a GACE content assessment, or 21 hours of college coursework) that aligns to the subject(s) and grade level(s) to which they teach. Waivers (W) and non-renewable certificates (N) are not acceptable for special education teachers.

Paraprofessionals must hold a minimum of one of the following credentials for employment:
- PSC Paraprofessional Certificate -or-
- Associate degree or higher from an accredited institution of higher learning -or-
- At least two years of study (minimum 60 credit hours) from an accredited institution of higher learning -or-
- Passed the GACE Paraprofessional Assessment and possess a high school diploma

- 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)]

To be deemed “professionally qualified,” all K-12 content teachers (except Special Education teachers) must hold a minimum of one of the following credentials for employment:
- PSC Certification in the content area(s) to which he/she teaches (preferred credential) -or-
- Degree from an accredited university in the subject area assigned -or-
- PSC Endorsement in the field(s) to which he or she teaches -or-
- GACE Assessment in content area(s) to which he/she teaches -or-
- 21 hours of college coursework from an accredited university in the content area(s) to which he/she teaches