

Teaching in Georgia Certification Guide

This is a document that provides the guidelines to be certified for a licensed profession in the State of Georgia last updated in February 2019. We encourage you to verify the information as it may change.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Teaching in the state of Georgia is regulated by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (PSC). The PSC works to build the best prepared, best qualified and most ethical educator workforce in the U.S. General responsibilities for teachers may include creating lesson plans, teaching study and communications skills, evaluating students' abilities, strengths, and weaknesses etc.

HOW TO OBTAIN YOUR TEACHING CERTIFICATION IN GEORGIA

1. Decide which grade level you would like to teach. Georgia educator certificates are divided into the following different groups:
 - Birth through Kindergarten;
 - Early Childhood Education (Elementary Grades): Pre-Kindergarten through 5th grade;
 - Middle Grades: Certificates cover grades 4-8, however most middle schools have grades 6-8;
 - Secondary: These certificates cover grades 6-12, but most high schools only have grades 9-12;
2. Decide what subject area you would like to teach.
 - Early Childhood/Elementary teachers typically teach all subjects (language arts, math, science, reading, and social studies);
 - Middle and high school teachers teach one or more specific subject areas:
 - 5 Middle Grade Subject Areas: Language Arts, Math, Reading, Science, and Social Studies
 - High School Subject Areas: May be more specific, for example, Geography, Psychology, History, instead of "Social Studies"
3. Become a certified teacher.

In order to qualify for your renewable, professional teaching certificate, you must complete a state-approved educator certification program. There are two options:

- Enroll in an accredited college or university certification program now, and then seek employment later: If you are ready to enroll in a certification program, there are many colleges and universities in Georgia and other states that offer state-approved programs. You can find state approved programs [here](#). Once your program and all assessment requirements are completed, you can apply for your Certificate of Eligibility that will assure future employers that you are eligible to become a certified Georgia teacher.
- Qualify for a non-renewable certificate and seek employment now, then complete a certification program later: If you already have a bachelor's degree, you may be able to qualify for an **Induction Pathway 4 certificate**. This is a three year, non-renewable certificate that allows you to teach while you complete a certification program. This

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certificate can only be issued once you are hired to teach while you complete a certification program. The minimum requirements are:

- A bachelor's degree or higher. If your highest degree is a bachelor's degree and it was earned less than 10 years prior to the date of application, you must have a minimum overall GPA of 2.5. If you do not, you may still qualify by submitting proof of acceptance into a Georgia PSC-accepted educator preparation program or an accredited advanced degree program;
 - Passing score on the [Georgia Assessment for the Certification of Educators \(GACE\)](#), or exemption. GACE scores are transmitted electronically to the Georgia PSC, but an exemption must be documented by a copy of an official score report for an eligible exam;
 - Induction level or higher passing score on the appropriate GACE content assessment. These scores are transmitted electronically to the Georgia PSC.
 - Completion of the Georgia Educator Ethics Assessment – Program Entry (Test Code 350). This score is also transmitted electronically to the GaPSC.
4. Once you have met the above requirements, you may apply for teaching positions in Georgia schools. Use the [Teach Georgia website](#) to find open positions and job fairs. After you are hired, your employer will request your certificate from the Georgia PSC.