



Federal Requirements - ESSA

ESSA requires SEAs and LEAs to ensure that teachers meet state certification requirements.
ESSA Sections 1111(g)(2)(J), 1112(c)(6)

Traditional LEAs

Georgia law authorizes GaPSC to establish certification requirements.

All LEAs

SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS

Special Education teachers must hold special education certification aligned with teaching assignment (general, adapted, visual impairment, etc.).

SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS ISSUING GRADES IN CONTENT AREA COURSES

If the teacher issues grades, the teacher must hold content certification in the corresponding content areas and grade level bands in alignment with LEA PQ.

GIFTED TEACHERS

Teachers must hold ESSA In-Field Certification Requirements

EIP TEACHERS

EIP Teachers must hold GaPSC Certification.

Charter & Strategic Waiver LEAs

Georgia law allows charter and strategic waiver systems to waive some provisions of Title 20, including certification; however, LEAs may not waive certification for service Special Education teachers in alignment with the student's IEP and EIP teachers. ALL teachers MUST have a clearance certificate.
O.C.G.A. §§ 20-2-80, 20-2-200, 20-2-211.1, 20-2-984, 20-2-2065, GaPSC Rules, SBOE Rules

LEAs must follow GaPSC certification requirements, State Board of Education rules, and program-specific delivery model requirements.
O.C.G.A. §§ 20-2-200, 20-2-984, SBOE Rules

Georgia LEAs who waive certification must establish professional qualification requirements for teachers because they must notify parents if teachers do not meet professional qualifications.

When establishing professional qualifications, the LEA must determine for which teachers' certification will be waived. The LEA must specify content/service areas and grade level bands.

Professional Qualifications v. ESSA In-Field

Federal law requires states and LEAs to ensure ALL teachers meet state certification requirements. In Georgia, state law allows LEAs to waive certification. Accordingly, LEAs must establish the professional qualification requirements for ALL LEA teachers, which is monitored for compliance.

In addition, federal law requires states to publicly report the number of teachers who are not teaching in the subject or field for which the teacher is certified. GaDOE will use GaPSC In-Field rules to determine ESSA In-Field qualifications. For LEAs that waive content area certification, teachers may demonstrate equivalent In-Field qualifications by degree, coursework, or content area test. 'Out-of-Field' will be reported for the entirety of the school year using Certification Records, 2 CPI data collections cycles, Student Class and Student Record.

Paraprofessionals must hold state certification and a clearance certificate.
ESSA Section 1111(g)(2)(M). O.C.G.A. §20-2-211.1, GaPSC Rules