



# the ALPHABET SOUP of TEACHER CERTIFICATION

## **Georgia PSC - Georgia Professional Standards Commission**

Agency responsible for establishing a certification / licensure process for the State of Georgia. Issues all levels of teaching certificates and paraprofessional licenses and sets rules for education preparation providers like colleges, universities and TAPP providers.

## **PAQs - Personal Affirmation Questions**

A set of criminal background questions individuals applying for teacher certification must answer with Georgia PSC. A "yes" answer will be investigated by the Georgia PSC Ethics Division before a certification application can proceed.

## **GACE - Georgia Assessments for the Certification of Educators**

Georgia's state-approved educator certification assessment program, GACE exams are content tests. Computer-delivered assessments developed to help the Georgia PSC ensure that candidates have the knowledge and skills needed to perform the job of an educator in Georgia's public schools.

## **Georgia TAPP - Teacher Academy for Preparation and Pedagogy**

An alternate pathway to earning teacher certification. Offered through school systems in cooperation with Regional Educational Service Agencies. Completed in 12-15 months and is completed while working in a teaching position. Upon completion of the program, successful candidates will hold professional teaching certification in the State of Georgia.

## **MAT - Master of Arts in Teaching**

An alternate pathway to earning teacher certification. Offered through colleges and universities. Completed in 15-18 months and is completed while working in a teaching position. Program must be approved by Georgia PSC before beginning the program. Upon completion of a MAT program, successful candidates will hold a Master's degree and a professional teaching certification in the State of Georgia.

## **TRS - Teachers' Retirement System of Georgia**

Georgia boasts one of the most lucrative retirement plans in the country for teachers. A 30 year career can yield a monthly lifetime benefit equal to 60% of the average of a teacher's 2 highest consecutive salaries.

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