

MINUTES

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION

Remote Meeting via TEAMS Platform

May 11, 2023

The Georgia Professional Standards Commission (PSC) met on Thursday, May 11, 2023.

Members Present

Jimmy Atkins	Mark Kauffman	Dr. Jennifer Wade
Abigail Coggin	Nathan Lewis	Carol Williams
Derek Easterling	Dr. Franklin Perry	Dr. Judi Wilson
Jordan Frobos	Jane Rookard	Vonda Woodall
Kedrione Harris	Dr. Brandon Seigler	

Members Absent

Jeanine Bunn	Dr. Holley Roberts
Beth Townsend	

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chair Sirmans called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and Commissioners answered roll call for attendance.

II. VISITORS

Chair Sirmans welcomed the visitors.

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chair Sirmans called for approval of the agenda.

MOTION: (Jordan Frobos / Kedrione Harris) To approve the agenda.

PSC ACTION: Approved

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Sirmans called for approval of the April 13, 2023 minutes.

PSC ACTION:

V. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Each of you recently received our Quarterly Highlights. Please feel free to share it with your colleagues. I hope that you find it helpful. I would like to thank all of you for the important work that you do. I have said many times that this is a working Commission and it is certainly true. I will take this opportunity to highlight a few areas on which we are focusing.

The first is technology.

We all know how much all of us rely on technology to do our work and how much technology can enhance the

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services we all provide. We continue to update and modernize our technology to ensure non-stop, non-disrupted service, while making our systems more resilient.

We recently moved to a streamlined and efficient batch certificate renewal process that allows employing districts to submit certificate renewal requests in bulk for their educators, rather than one by one, saving them much time and effort.

As another area of focus, we heavily rely on input from advisory groups and task forces to guide our policies and practices.

- The Preparation Program Effectiveness Measures (PPEM) Advisory Council recently convened to begin the work of updating existing new teacher and new leader surveys, which are sent annually to principals who hire new teachers or leaders from state-approved EPPs. New teachers and leaders are also surveyed at the end of their first year in the field. The Council is also developing new surveys for service fields, and all the new surveys will be ready for administering next spring. These surveys provide valuable feedback to EPPs.
- In addition, you are aware of our Reading task force that convened to closely review and make recommendations regarding standards for preparing teachers to teach reading. As you know, the task force recommended that preparation to teach reading be focused on evidence-based strategies shown to improve reading comprehension and to incorporate preparation to teach reading across all teacher preparation programs. The resulting proposed Foundations of Reading, Literacy, and Language Rule will come before you for your adoption consideration in June.

Lastly, I would like to wish Dr. Brandon Seigler a happy Birthday.

VI. CHAIR REPORT

At today's Commission meeting, you will be asked to consider four rules for adoption. In making your decision, it is important to note what these proposed rule amendments are and are not. The following context may be helpful to you.

Regarding the origin of the request

The rulemaking process to amend current rules began when the University System of Georgia asked PSC to clarify expectations for educator preparation programs. We were asked to remove or simplify words that in recent years, have taken on multiple and unintended meanings. We were told these terms were leading to difficulty in interpreting program standards. As we don't want these words to distract EPPs from their work of preparing effective educators, we replaced them with commonly understood terms.

Regarding what these proposed changes are not

These proposed rule amendments are not intended to redefine or remove the care preparation providers place on meeting students' needs or prescribe the way EPPs choose to meet the program standards. We still expect EPPs to prepare educators who are well equipped to address the learning needs of all students they may encounter, and who are well prepared to meet students where they are within a positive and welcoming learning environment.

Regarding why the proposed rules remove the InTASC Model Core Teacher Standards

The ambiguous terms are prevalent in the descriptors of the InTASC Model Core Teaching Standards. The Teacher Assessment on Performance Standards are closely aligned to the InTASC Model Core Teaching Standards and GaPSC-approved program providers were already required to address them to prepare educators for the evaluation system used in GA public schools.

VII. RULES ADOPTION

Anne Marie Fenton will present the rules. Today, we are asking you to adopt one Certification rule and three Educator Preparation rules, which were initiated by you on March 9, 2023, and posted for a 30 day public comment period. If adopted, the proposed Certification rule will become effective July 1, 2023. The proposed Educator Preparation rules will become effective June 15, 2023.

During the public comment period, 25 comments were received, which were previously sent to you. No request for a public hearing was received.

MOTION: (Jimmy Atkins / Abigail Coggin) To (1) adopt the current rule in Chapter 505-2- Certification, effective July 1, 2023, as follows: 505-2-.194; and (2) amend the current rules in Chapter 505-3- Educator Preparation Rules, effective June 15, 2023, as follows: 505-3-.01, 505-3-.05, and 505-3-.06.

PSC ACTION: Approved

VIII. EDUCATOR ETHICS UPDATES

Laurin Vonada, Director of Educator Ethics and Wylencia Monroe, Senior Assistant Attorney General, gave a PowerPoint presentation on Ethics Updates. The presentation included updates on Clearance Criteria, Monitoring, Moral Turpitude and Retroactive Credit.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Ethics and Professional Conduct --Recommendations and Actions on Cases

Vice Chair Kedrione Harris of the Educator Ethics Review Committee (EERC), gave a preliminary review of the cases.

1. Vice Chair Harris reported that the Committee reviewed 65 *Probable Cause* cases during May 10, 2023, meeting and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
22-12-789	9	Deny	Accept
23-1-904	1,4,5,9	No Jurisdiction	Accept
23-2-937	1,5a7	NPC	Accept
23-3-1134	1,5a7	Reprimand	Accept

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
23-3-1141	1,5a7	NPC	Accept
23-3-1209	1, 5a7	Reprimand	Accept
23-3-1214	5a2,5a7	Reprimand	Accept
23-3-1254	1,4,5a7	Reprimand	Accept
23-4-1367	5a2,5a7	Reprimand	Accept
22-3-1057	1, 2, 9	Reprimand	Accept
22-4-1276	2, 9	Suspension 1 year	Accept
22-5-1524	1,4,5a7,8,9	Revoke	Accept
22-5-1564	2,9	Suspension 1 year	Accept
22-5-1573	4,5a7	Revoke	Accept
22-6-1667	2, 9	Suspension 10 days	Accept
22-6-1681	1,4,5a7,8,9	Suspension 20 days	Accept
22-6-1695	1,4,5a7,8,9	Revoke	Accept
22-7-5	4,5a2,5a7,8,9	Revoke	Accept
22-7-15	3, 9	Reprimand	Accept
22-7-49	1,4,5a7,8,9	Revoke	Accept
22-7-59	9	NPC	Accept
22-8-160	1,4,5a7,8,9	Suspension 90 days	Accept
22-8-244	5, 9	NPC	Accept
22-9-395	1,5a7,8,9	NFA	Accept
22-9-461	1,4,5a7,8,9	NPC	Accept
22-10-477	2, 9	Revoke	Accept
22-10-587	9	Suspension 90 days	Accept
22-11-665	1,9	Extend Pending Criminal Outcome	Accept
22-11-709	1,4,5a7,8,9	Revoke	Accept
22-11-720	9	Suspension 90 days	Accept
22-12-735	9	Suspension 90 days	Accept
22-12-802	1, 2, 9	Extend Pending Criminal Outcome	Accept
23-1-818	2,5a7,8,9	Reprimand	Accept
23-1-853	1, 2, 9, 5a7	Extend Pending Criminal Outcome	Accept
23-1-892	1, 2, 9	Extend Pending Criminal Outcome	Accept
23-1-897	9	Suspension 90 days	Accept
23-1-910	1, 2, 4, 9	Suspension 20 days	Accept
23-1-911	3, 9	Suspension 1 year	Accept
23-1-914	5,9	Revoke	Accept
23-1-916	5,9	Revoke	Accept
23-1-917	4, 8,9	Revoke	Accept
23-2-969	1,2,9	NFA	Accept
23-2-1000	3, 9	Suspension 1 year	Accept
23-2-1010	5, 9	Suspension 1 year	Accept
23-2-1014	2 & 9	Suspension 20 days	Accept
23-2-1015	4, 9	Reprimand	Accept
23-2-1017	1, 9	Suspension 10 days	Accept

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
23-2-1030	9	Suspension 90 days	Accept
23-2-1045	4, 5a2,5a7,8,9	Suspension 20 days	Accept
23-2-1052	1,4,5a7,8,9	NPC	Accept
23-2-1069	1,4,5a7,8,9	Suspension 20 days	Accept
23-2-1089	1, 2, 9	Extend Pending Criminal Outcome	Accept
23-2-1092	3,9	Suspension 1 year	Accept
23-2-1096	5, 9	Suspension 1 year	Accept
23-2-1097	2,9	NFA	Accept
23-2-1129	1, 9	Suspension 90 days	Accept
23-3-1160	4, 9	Revoke	Accept
23-3-1164	4, 9, 10	Suspension 1 year	Accept
23-3-1175	2,9	Reprimand	Accept
23-3-1200	9	Suspension 90 days	Accept
23-3-1201	9	Suspension 90 days	Accept
23-3-1204	2, 8, 9	Suspension 90 days	Accept
23-3-1207	9	NPC	Accept
23-3-1231	1,2,9	Extend Pending Criminal Outcome	Accept
23-3-1296	5a2,5a7,8,9	Suspension 90 days	Accept

2. Vice Chair Harris reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 9 *Settlement Agreements* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
22-5-1406	Suspension 10 days	Accept
22-5-1480	Reprimand	Accept
22-9-337	Suspension 20 days	Accept
23-1-846	Reprimand	Accept
d23-1-888	Suspension 10 days	Accept
23-1-899	Suspension 1 year	Accept
23-2-933	Reprimand	Accept
23-2-981	Reprimand	Accept
23-2-1101	Reprimand	Accept

3. Vice Chair Harris reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 14 *Negotiated Settlement Agreements* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>NEGOTIATED SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
19-7-72	Reprimand	Accept
19-11-722	Suspension 1 year	Accept
20-2-1121	NPC	Accept
20-12-541	Reprimand	Accept

<u>CASE</u>	<u>NEGOTIATED SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
21-4-1014	NPC	Accept
21-5-1120	Suspension 30 days	Accept
21-5-1145	NPC	Accept
21-6-1272	NFA	Accept
21-10-436	Reprimand	Accept
22-2-936	Warning	Accept
22-2-939	Suspension 3 days	Accept
22-6-1703	Suspension 155 days	Accept
22-11-689	Suspension 5 days	Accept
22-11-718	Suspension 2 days	Accept

4. The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the *Preliminary Investigative Determination Report* consisting of 82 new complaints received during the months of April and May 2023.

5. VOLUNTARY SURRENDERS

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the 5 *Voluntary Surrenders* listed below in which an Educator/Applicant voluntarily accepted a sanction of Revocation or Denial prior to the submission of an investigative case summary for a Probable Cause Determination.

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
18-5-1521 18-8-131	1, 2, 5, 9, 5a7	Voluntary Surrender	Accept
22-1-832	1, 2, 9	Voluntary Surrender	Accept
23-1-900	2, 9	Voluntary Surrender	Accept
23-2-1034	3, 4, 9	Voluntary Surrender	Accept
23-3-1188	2, 9	Voluntary Surrender	Accept

6. EXTENSIONS – PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIVE DETERMINATIONS

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the 76 *Extensions - Preliminary Investigative Determinations* consisting of the following:

23-4-1336	23-4-1413	23-4-1423	23-4-1433	23-5-1444	23-5-1471	23-5-1481	23-5-1508
23-4-1337	23-4-1414	23-4-1424	23-4-1434	23-5-1445	23-5-1472	23-5-1482	23-5-1509
23-4-1338	23-4-1415	23-4-1425	23-4-1435	23-5-1446	23-5-1473	23-5-1483	23-5-1511
23-4-1339	23-4-1416	23-4-1426	23-4-1436	23-5-1447	23-5-1474	23-5-1500	23-5-1512
23-4-1340	23-4-1417	23-4-1427	23-4-1437	23-5-1448	23-5-1475	23-5-1501	23-5-1513
23-4-1386	23-4-1418	23-4-1428	23-4-1438	23-5-1449	23-5-1476	23-5-1502	23-5-1514
23-4-1387	23-4-1419	23-4-1429	23-5-1440	23-5-1450	23-5-1477	23-5-1503	
23-4-1410	23-4-1420	23-4-1430	23-5-1441	23-5-1451	23-5-1478	23-5-1504	
23-4-1411	23-4-1421	23-4-1431	23-5-1442	23-5-1452	23-5-1479	23-5-1505	
23-4-1412	23-4-1422	23-4-1432	23-5-1443	23-5-1461	23-5-1480	23-5-1506	

PSC ACTION: Approved

7. **EXTENSIONS - INVESTIGATIONS**

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended granting an *Investigative Extension* to the following 95 cases:

<u>WRITTEN COMPLAINT EXTENSIONS</u>							
22-1-856	22-11-649	22-3-1196	22-6-1692	22-8-282	23-1-848	23-2-960	23-2-1047
22-2-996	22-11-677	22-3-1197	22-7-61	22-8-285	23-1-865	23-2-971	23-2-1048
22-10-489	22-11-688	22-4-1223	22-7-86	22-9-310	23-1-869	23-2-977	23-2-1054
22-10-523	22-12-738	22-4-1225	22-8-119	22-9-316	23-1-871	23-2-984	23-2-1084
22-10-533	22-12-747	22-4-1322	22-8-143	22-9-334	23-1-872	23-2-993	23-2-1107
22-10-540	22-12-753	22-4-1323	22-8-147	22-9-443	23-1-893	23-2-995	23-2-1110
22-10-568	22-12-756	22-5-1483	22-8-148	23-1-819	23-1-894	23-2-1002	23-3-1140
22-10-571	22-12-757	22-6-1613	22-8-150	23-1-821	23-1-905	23-2-1008	23-3-1154
22-10-602	22-12-795	22-6-1626	22-8-163	23-1-829	23-2-940	23-2-1009	23-3-1166
22-10-617	22-12-797	22-6-1627	22-8-175	23-1-844	23-2-943	23-2-1012	23-3-1169
22-10-621	22-12-798	22-6-1647	22-8-204	23-1-845	23-2-947	23-2-1013	23-3-1171
22-11-645	22-12-812	22-6-1654	22-8-242	23-1-847	23-2-948	23-2-1033	

8. **APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION REPORT**

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended to approve a no probable cause determination on 17 cases reflected on the *Applications for Certification Report*.

9. **FINAL DECISIONS BY OPERATION OF LAW**

The Commission reviewed the report, which advised of 18 cases now closed without an appeal for a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge.

Chair Sirmans called for approval of the Educator Ethics Review Committee report as present by Vice Chair Kedrione Harris.

PSC ACTION: Approved

Abstentions: Derek Easterling-PIDs 23-3-1280, PCA 23-2-937, Jimmy Atkins-PIDs 23-4-1318; 23-4-1346; 23-4-1352; 23-4-1353, Jane Rookard-PIDs 23-4-1310; 23-4-1311; 23-4-1333; 23-4-1341, Kedrione Harris-22-2-939, 22-9-395, 23-2-1097, Dr. Judi Wilson – 23-3-1231

B. Educator Preparation Standing Committee

Committee Vice-Chair, Dr. Jennifer Wade, presented the report of the Educator Preparation Standing Committee.

1. Bibb County School District – As a result of satisfactory progress indicated in the March 16, 2023, Progress Report, the Committee recommends removal of the following areas for improvement (AFIs) cited during the

Fall 2019 Continuing Approval Review for the Educator Preparation Provider (EPP).

- Standard 4.1 (Service/Leader)
- Standard 4.3
- Standard 4.4

In addition, the Committee recommends removal of the AFI in Standard 1.2 for the Gifted In-field and Teacher Support and Coaching Endorsements, and removal of the AFI in Standard 1.3 for the Gifted In-field and Reading Endorsements.

As a result of incremental progress evident in the March 16, 2023, Progress Report, the Committee recommends the AFI remain in Standard 1.1 for the following programs.

- Gifted In-field Endorsement
- Reading Endorsement
- Teacher Support and Coaching Endorsement

Also, as a result of incremental progress evident in the March 16, 2023, Progress Report, the Committee recommends the stipulations remain in Standards 5.1 and 5.3 for the EPP. As a result, the Committee recommends that Standard 5 remain unmet.

The Committee recommends that the approval status for the EPP remain as Continuing Approval with Conditions, and the submission of a progress report due May 10, 2024, addressing all remaining stipulations and AFIs.

2. Clarke County School District – As a result of satisfactory progress indicated in the March 16, 2023, Progress Report, the Committee recommends removal of the stipulations in Standards 2.2 and 3.1 cited during the Spring 2021 Continuing Approval Review for the Educator Preparation Provider (EPP). In addition, the Committee recommends removal of the AFI Standard 1.1 for the Gifted In-field Endorsement.

Also, as a result of incremental progress evident in the March 16, 2023, Progress Report, the Committee recommends the stipulations remain in Standards 5.1, 5.3, and 5.5. for the EPP. As a result, the Committee recommends that Standard 5 remain unmet.

As a result of incremental progress evident in the March 16, 2023, Progress Report for the ESOL Endorsement, the Committee recommends the stipulation in Standard 1.1 be reclassified as an AFI, and the stipulation in Standard 1.3 be removed. The Committee also recommends the AFI in Standard 1.2 remain, and the AFIs in Standards 1.4 and 6.6. be removed for the ESOL Endorsement.

The Committee recommends that the approval status for the EPP remain as Continuing Approval with Conditions with the submission of a progress report with the submission of a progress report due May 10, 2024, addressing all remaining stipulations and AFIs.

3. Truett McConnell University – As a result of satisfactory progress evident in the February 16, 2023, Progress Report, the Committee recommends removal of the following AFIs for the EPP.
 - Standard 1.1

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- Standard 5.1
- Standard 5.3 (a)
- Standard 5.3 (b)
- Standard 5.4
- Standard 5.5

Chair Sirmans called for approval of the Educator Ethics Review Committee report as present by Vice-Chair, Dr. Jennifer Wade.

PSC ACTION: Approved

X. ADJOURNMENT

Our next Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, June 8th, at 4 pm. We will meet remotely and the information will be posted on our website under Commission Information. The Educator Ethics Review Committee and Educator Preparation and Certification Committee meeting will meet on Wednesday, June 7th, at 4:00 pm. Chair Sirmans called for the meeting to be adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

PSC ACTION: Approved