

## Changing Times Survey

**NOTE:** This document has been adapted for use in a graduate research class. It resembles, but is not exactly like the survey used in an actual research project conducted in 2004 by Myrna Gantner, Kent Layton, and Deb Jenkins.

The Georgia Professional Standards Commission (PSC) recently changed the rules that regulate how teachers can be certified. By completing this survey, your input will help us understand what stakeholder groups consider important for the preparation of Georgia's teachers. Please answer all the questions in the survey. Your responses to the background questions in Part 1 will strengthen the analysis of responses to questions in Parts 2 and 3. Thanks in advance for completing this survey.

**Informed Consent:** Completing this survey is entirely voluntary. If you choose to answer the survey, you are providing your consent to participate in a research study. Your responses are completely confidential, as only the researcher will have access to your returned survey. Future reports will refer to data at the group level, guaranteeing that individual responses are not identifiable. If you have questions regarding the survey, please contact [insert researcher's name] at [insert name of institution] at [insert phone number and/or email address].

### PART 1: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. Which of the following types of jobs do you currently hold? (Check "Yes" or "No" for each option)

- | Yes                                 | No                       |   |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | Central Office Administration (PK-12)<br>If yes, what position?       |
|                                     |                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Superintendent                               |
|                                     |                          | <input type="checkbox"/> HR Director                                  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | School Principal (PK-12)<br>If yes, what level?                       |
|                                     |                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Elementary Principal (grades PK-5)           |
|                                     |                          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Secondary Principal (grades 6-12) |

2. How would you best describe the setting of your PK-12 school system? (Check one)

- Urban                     
  Suburban                     
  Small Town                     
  Rural

3. What is the highest level of education that you have achieved? (Check one)

- Bachelor's Degree                     
  Education Specialist's Degree  
 Master's Degree                     
  Doctorate (earned, not honorary)

4. What is the area of your **teaching** certificate(s)? Check all that apply and write in your content specializations, as applicable (e.g., special education, reading, world history, music, science, physical education, Spanish, etc.).

- Early Childhood \_\_\_\_\_  
 Middle Grades Science \_\_\_\_\_  
 Secondary \_\_\_\_\_  
 P-12 \_\_\_\_\_

5. How many total years have you worked in education? 32 years  
Count this current school year in your total years.

6. How many total years were you a classroom teacher? 12 years  
Count this current school year in your total years.

7. A number of educators began their work lives in fields other than education. Is education your (check one):  
 first career       second career       other \_\_\_\_\_

8. If you are a parent, what ages/grade levels are your children? (Check all that apply)  
 Birth-Preschool       Grades K-5       Grades 6-8       Grades 9-12       Adult Children

9. Select your gender:     Male     Female

**PART 2: UNDERSTANDING OR PROFICIENCY NEEDED BY THE BEGINNING TEACHER**

In your opinion, which of the following knowledge or skills listed in items #10-17 should be **REQUIRED** to certify people to **BEGIN** to teach in grades K-5 and/or grades 6-12? In other words, what level of understanding or proficiency does a new teacher need to **BEGIN** to teach? For items #10-17, please mark each box with a 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, or 1 to indicate the level of understanding or proficiency needed by a new teacher to **BEGIN** to teach in grades K-5 and/or grades 6-12:

6 \_\_\_\_\_ 5 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_ 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
deep understanding \_\_\_\_\_ little or no understanding

**Grades**  
**K-5    6-12**

10. Understanding of subject matter (i.e., content such as history, mathematics, English, science)

11. Actual experience working with students in classrooms (i.e., supervised field experience and/or student teaching)

12. Understanding of students (i.e., how children develop and learn; how to motivate students to be interested in learning)

13. Understanding of "schooling":  
▪ what the purpose of schooling is and why schools are structured the way they are  
▪ how social contexts and backgrounds of students influence teaching and learning  
▪ how to gain the support of parents to help their child succeed  
▪ what laws regulate working with students in regular classroom settings  
▪ what laws regulate working with "special needs" students

14. Understanding of individual learning needs:  
▪ how to work with all students in the regular classroom (e.g., gifted, limited English proficiency, learning and/or physical disabilities)  
▪ how to work with students who live in situations (e.g., physical and/or substance abuse) that impair their learning and social development

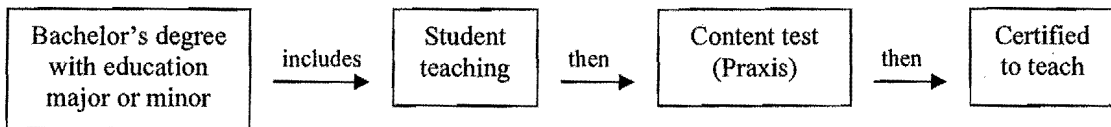
- 5 5 15. Proficiency with pedagogical skills:
  - methods and strategies for teaching effectively
  - adapting instruction to various groups of learners
  - using technology to enhance learning
  
- 5 5 16. Proficiency with managing classrooms:
  - establish a classroom where students feel safe and free to learn
  - establish routines and rules that help the classroom run smoothly
  - discipline students in ways that protect their dignity and respect
  
- 5 5 17. Proficiency with monitoring learning:
  - accurately measure student learning
  - use data from tests and other assessments to improve instruction
  - help students develop and apply reading skills to guide their own learning

**PART 3: PATHWAYS TO TEACHER CERTIFICATION IN GEORGIA**

Which of the following five pathways do you think will prepare people to be effective teachers in Georgia’s classrooms? Please respond to items #18-22 **based on the training the new teacher brings to the classroom, NOT on the teacher’s personal attributes or characteristics**, marking each pathway as “preferred,” “acceptable” or “not acceptable.” Note that all new teachers are supervised during their first year of teaching.

- Step 1: Rate each pathway as “preferred,” “acceptable,” or “not acceptable.”
- Step 2: For each pathway, check “yes,” “yes with conditions,” or “no” to indicate if you would hire a candidate with this training.
- Step 3: Explain your conditions or provide comments, as needed.

18. **Traditional Pathway** (the candidate obtains a Georgia certificate by completing a state-approved program that is part of the bachelor’s degree)



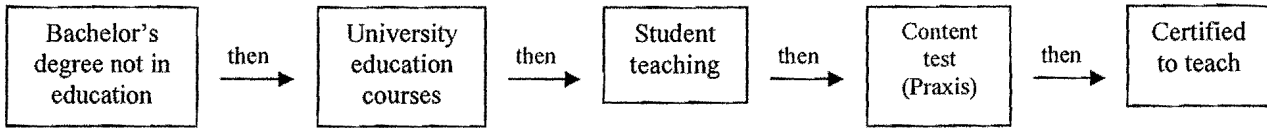
What do you think of this pathway? Preferred  Acceptable  Not Acceptable   
 Would you hire a candidate with this training? Yes  Yes, with conditions  No

Comments: Students need the pedagogy and methodology provided through the traditional curriculum. Strong pre-service field experiences combined with a supportive first-year infrastructure

Please continue the survey on the next page.

lay a good foundation for a rewarding career in teaching.

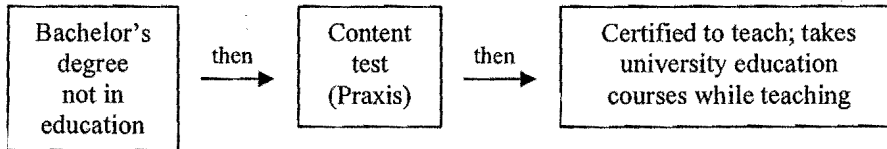
19. **Post-Baccalaureate Pathway** (after earning a bachelor's degree that is not in education, the candidate obtains a Georgia certificate by completing a state-approved program, usually at a college or university)



What do you think of this pathway? Preferred  Acceptable  Not Acceptable   
 Would you hire a candidate with this training? Yes  Yes, with conditions  No

Comments: These folks come in w/ less indoctrination into education culture. They tend to be harder to manage. The education is, however, acceptable.

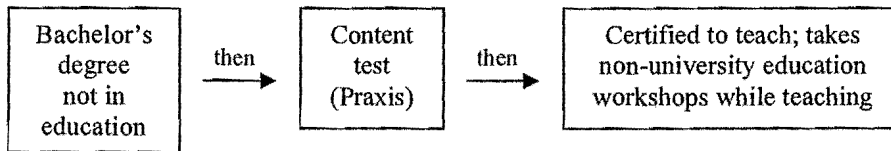
20. **"Typical" Alternative Certification Pathway** (the candidate obtains a Georgia certificate while working as an educator; takes university education courses at night, on weekends, and during the summer)



What do you think of this pathway? Preferred  Acceptable  Not Acceptable   
 Would you hire a candidate with this training? Yes  Yes, with conditions  No

Comments: The interview makes or breaks this. There's a certain something in the applicant's eyes that reveals all.

21. **"Newer" Alternative Certification Pathway** (the candidate obtains a Georgia certificate while working as an educator; takes non-university education workshops at night, on weekends, and during the summer)



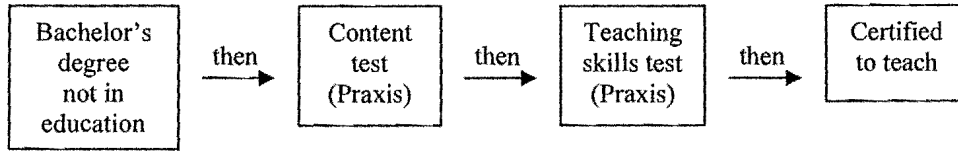
What do you think of this pathway? Preferred  Acceptable  Not Acceptable   
 Would you hire a candidate with this training? Yes  Yes, with conditions  No

Comments: I like to think of myself as fairly open-minded. If the candidate meets the interview requirement (see 20), I'm willing to give

Please finish the survey on the next page. this a whirl.

I need teachers!

22. "Test Only" Certification Pathway (the candidate obtains a Georgia certificate by passing required tests)



What do you think of this pathway? Preferred  Acceptable  Not Acceptable

Would you hire a candidate with this training? Yes  Yes, with conditions  No

Comments: I have never heard of this before.  
Therefore, it must not exist.

23. Which one of the five certification pathways specified in items #18-22 most closely resembles the teacher certification program that you completed? \_\_\_\_\_

#18 - The traditional pathway.

It was a wonderful experience,  
and it qualified me to be the  
exemplary educator I am today.