

Certification Information

Changes in Georgia Certification Requirements: 7/1/10 - 6/30/15

2010 Georgia Legislation provides:

“from July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2015, no professional learning requirements shall be required for certificate renewal for clear renewable certificates for certificated personnel or for certificate renewal for paraprofessionals”

The Georgia Professional Standards Commission will modify Standard Renewal Requirements during this period. **Certificates with an expiration date of June 30, 2010, will require professional learning units (PLU).** Certificates with an expiration date of June 30 of 2011 - 2015 will not require professional learning units to renew a Georgia clear renewable educator certificate or for the renewal of a paraprofessional certificate. See the chart and the narrative below it for details. HB 1307 applies to valid clear renewable certificate holders whose certificates expire from July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2015. The Certification Renewal process is not being eliminated and outstanding requirements other than PLUs must be completed such as Criminal Record Check. Professional learning is not being suspended. The position of the PSC to modify renewal requirements during this period is separate and apart from LEAs who wish to continue their own requirements for continued professional development of the personnel employed in their systems.

New Certificate Renewal Requirements Summary

<u>Expiration Date</u>	<u>PLU Requirement</u>	<u>Validity Period</u>
June 30, 2010	YES	July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2015
June 30, 2011	NO	July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2016
June 30, 2012	NO	July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2017
June 30, 2013	NO	July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2018
June 30, 2014	NO	July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2019
June 30, 2015	NO	July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2020

Guidance for renewal of clear renewable certificates that expire between July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2015, is as follows:

1. Educators whose valid clear renewable certificates expire on June 30, 2010, must renew with the standard professional learning units (PLUs) requirements.
2. PLUs used to renew must be earned during the validity period preceding the date of renewal application.
3. Educators (employed or unemployed) renewing their Clear Renewable certificates from July 1, 2011-June 30, 2015, do not submit professional learning units with their application.
4. Though professional learning units are not required for certificate renewal from July 1, 2011, an application must be submitted to initiate the process.
5. School systems will continue to renew certificates via ACRES renewal program on gapsc.org.
6. Educators employed in private schools will continue to submit an application and Employer Assurance Form.
7. Unemployed educators will continue to submit an application and application fee.

8. The validity period for certificates issued between July 1, 2011, and June 30, 2015, will be for the standard period of five years.

Certification is Your Responsibility ...

Paraprofessional and Professional Georgia teaching certificates **MUST** be renewed every five years. The Professional Learning Department and the Certification Office will work with you to help you keep up with your certification needs, but you are responsible for keeping your certificate up to date.