



*Teach Gwinnett was approved by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission in 2008 to prepare teachers in Gwinnett County Public Schools for professional certification in Georgia.*

**T**each Gwinnett is the teacher alternative preparation program conducted by Gwinnett County Public Schools (GCPS) designed to provide the knowledge and skills needed for 21<sup>st</sup> century diagnostic, prescriptive educators. Teacher candidates who successfully complete the requirements of the program will qualify for a professional teaching certificate issued by the state of Georgia. Selection for participation in the Teach Gwinnett program is based on the following criteria:

**Candidates must:**

- Have a Bachelor's degree or higher from PSC-Approved Accredited Institution, with a minimum 2.5 GPA
- Have a passing score on the GACE Basic Skills Assessment (or Master's Degree, SAT, ACT, or GRE exemptions)
- Have a passing score on the GACE Content Assessment if applicable (Exception: Special Education)
- Have not completed student teaching or held a professional teaching certificate in any state
- Have an offer for a classroom teaching position in Gwinnett County Public Schools (GCPS) that aligns with certification goals
- Be recommended for the Teach Gwinnett program by a GCPS administrative supervisor.  
Qualify for a Georgia Intern Teaching Certificate

**GACE Basic Skills Assessment and Exemptions:**

Applicants whose scores are high enough on either the SAT, ACT or GRE or hold a Master's Degree may exempt the GACE Basic Skills assessment. Exemption levels are as follows:

SAT: 1000 (Mathematics and Verbal Combined)

ACT: 43 (Mathematics and English)

GRE: 1030 (Verbal and Quantitative)

**GACE Registration**

Complete GACE information is available at [www.gace.nesinc.com](http://www.gace.nesinc.com).

**Admissions Procedures**

For more information, interested applicants should contact the GCPS Teach Gwinnett program at [Teach@gwinnett.k12.ga.us](mailto:Teach@gwinnett.k12.ga.us) or 678-301-6850.

**After selection, continuation in the program will be based on the following conditions:**

- The candidate must maintain employment as a GCPS teacher throughout the Teach Gwinnett program, and the teaching assignment during the program must match the field of preparation and certification.
- The candidate must make adequate progress in developing as a teacher, as measured by the procedures and standards of teacher preparation in the Teach Gwinnett program.
- The candidate must do high quality work and participate with complete professionalism in Teach Gwinnett courses, seminars and assignments.
- The candidate must pay \$1200 **per year** for Teach Gwinnett program costs, which may be paid through payroll deduction. If the candidate exits from the Teach Gwinnett program **for any reason**, all money paid up to the time of program exit will be **forfeited**.

*\*Fees for the Teach Gwinnett program are evaluated annually and subject to change.*

<b>Program Component</b>	<b>Description</b>
Summer Institute	GCPS candidates participate in a <b>mandatory</b> two-week summer institute that helps to prepare them for the upcoming school year. The institute covers the "Essentials of Effective Teaching", which is a certification requirement from the GA Professional Standards Commission (PSC).
Candidate Support Team (CST)	Candidates will be assigned a support team that consists of a school-based mentor and administrator, and a district appointed supervisor. This team will work with the candidate on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis to ensure the candidate is progressing as a teaching professional and receives any necessary remediation.
Clinical Practice Observation (CPO)	Each mentor and supervisor will conduct a minimum of four (4) classroom observations of their candidates. The observations are scored and go into the candidate's records.
Instructional Units	Candidates are required to create two (2) instructional unit plans during their first year in the program. Should a candidate continue on for year two or three, only one (1) instructional unit will be required for the subsequent year. All instructional units are scored by the mentor and supervisor.
Professional Dispositions Inventory (PDI)	Each member of the Candidate Support Team will complete an evaluation of how the candidate is performing his/her duties and responsibilities outside of the classroom (punctuality, collaboration, etc.).
Field Experiences	Candidates must observe four(4) teachers across the school district. Observations are scheduled by the Teach Gwinnett office and follow PSC guidelines.
Coursework	Candidates will be required to attend seminars during the course of the school year to successfully meet requirements for certification. * Coursework may vary depending on certification area, and coursework included on college transcripts.
Portfolio	Candidates are required to complete an electronic portfolio. The portfolio consists of authentic work created by the candidate. Guidelines are included in the candidate handbook.

**Teach Gwinnett Program**  
**Donna Alexander, Coordinator**  
**437 Old Peachtree Road**  
**Suwanee, GA 30024**