
NORTH GEORGIA RESA ALTERNATIVE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

The Georgia Teacher Academy for Preparation and Pedagogy (GaTAPP) is an alternative certification program for classroom teachers.

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About GaTAPP at North Georgia RESA

The Georgia Teacher Academy for Preparation and Pedagogy (GaTAPP) is an alternate pathway for individuals who hold a bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited institution, who did not complete a traditional teacher education degree program, and who want to transition into the teaching profession. In an effort to be responsive to the needs of its members, North Georgia RESA works collaboratively with schools and systems to mitigate teacher shortages through its commitment to a rigorous yet highly supportive alternative preparation program. The goal of the GaTAPP pathway is to equip teacher candidates with the necessary skills for initial success in their classrooms through concentrated training opportunities. Such training, coupled with quality, on-the-job learning, supported by supervisors, mentors, and administrators, establishes an induction program that will nurture the growth of teacher candidates.

As candidates enter North Georgia RESA GaTAPP, supervisors and mentors note skills and talents candidates bring with them from previous experiences that aide in the transition to classroom teacher. Throughout enrollment, an analysis of knowledge, performance, and dispositions is performed via classroom observations, mentoring activities, cohort trainings, and collaborative conversations. Data on the candidates is collected and used to diagnose weaknesses and differentiate support. Seminars, additional coursework, and targeted individual supports relative to specific performance and needs are provided for teacher candidates. These interventions support the movement of the novice teacher candidate towards proficiency in content knowledge, pedagogical skill, and professional dispositions as they engage in learning tasks which are reflective of the mission and beliefs of North Georgia RESA.

GaTAPP is Designed for Individuals Who:

- Wish to transition into teaching from another career path;
- Did not complete a teacher education program; and
- Have never held a clear and renewable (professional) teaching certificate

What is "Alternative Preparation"?

The North Georgia RESA Alternative Preparation Program is the following:

- a classroom-based teacher preparation option for individuals who have the basic qualifications to teach.
- an alternative option for individuals who hold a bachelor's degree or higher but who did not complete teacher education requirements as part of their degree programs and have never been certified in any state.
- an intense internship/induction program that
 - seeks to equip teacher-candidates with the skills to ensure a reasonable expectation of initial success in their classrooms.
 - puts in place a supervised internship/induction program that will help teacher-candidates move toward subsequent mastery of teaching.

Applicants should understand the following:

- North Georgia RESA only provides training for the GaTAPP Program.
- North Georgia RESA is NOT able to guarantee applicants who have completed the eligibility requirements a position in schools.
- A degree from an accredited institution is required for our program, except for some CTAE fields.
- The information found on this site is only applicable to the certification programs available through North Georgia RESA.

Before you Apply

Before you apply for the GaTAPP program, review the following prompts to ensure that you qualify for the program and have the right disposition to succeed.

Do you have a classroom teaching job with a public school district where you are the teacher of record for at least 50% of the day?

- If not, stop here. Without a position being offered that will employ a candidate at least 50% of the day, you are not eligible for alternative certification. Additionally, you must be the teacher of record.

Are you seeking certification in elementary education, middle grades, secondary academic contents, physical education, special education, CTAE fields, world languages, or music?

- If not, your certification could still be an area our program could support. Please contact us.
- If yes, you are on the right track. Please continue.

Do you have a bachelor's degree or higher from a PSC-Approved accredited college or university? While a GPA minimum is no longer required by GaPSC rule, NGRESA GaTAPP gives preference to candidates with a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.50.

- If not, stop here. Without at least a bachelor's degree or higher you are not eligible for participation in the GaTAPP program.

Have you completed a teacher education program including successfully completing student teaching or held a Clear Renewable teaching certificate in Georgia or any other state?

- If yes, contact us. You may not be eligible for participation in the GaTAPP program. If not, you are eligible.

Do you have a passing score on the GACE Program Admission Assessment (PAA) or do you meet the exemption requirements? While GACE PAA is no longer required by GaPSC rule, NGRESA will consider scores submitted with the application.

The GACE Program Admission Assessment (Tests 200, 201 & 202) can be exempted ONLY if you have met one of the following below:

-SAT – minimum 1080 combined Verbal and Math (**After 7/1/2019, the combined score will be 1080)

-ACT – minimum 43 combined English and Math

-GRE – minimum 1030 combined Verbal and Quantitative if taken prior to August 1, 2011

-GRE – minimum 297 combined Verbal and Quantitative if taken on or after August 1, 2011

-Passed Praxis I prior to September 1, 2006

- If not, you are still eligible. In order to register for and take GACE assessments you must FIRST create/update a myPSC account at <https://mypsc.gapsc.org/home.aspx>. You should choose:

Enrolled in a Georgia Educator Preparation Program.

Then you can register for GACE Assessments at gace.ets.org.

Have you passed the GACE Content Assessment that matches the certification field in which you have been hired?

The GACE Content Assessment MUST be passed prior to GaTAPP enrollment and MUST match the field of certification in which you are hired by the employing school district. For example, elementary teachers would take the Elementary Education GACE content Assessment (both parts) and so forth. For information on GACE Content Assessments, please visit www.gace.ets.org.

Would you benefit from a self-pay GACE test preparation resource?

If you would like to information on a self-pay GACE test preparation resource, please visit 240Tutoring. For information on a 50% discount for this resource, please contact Amber Socaciu (amber.socaciu@ngresa.org) or Mar Dunn (mari.dunn@ngresa.org) at NGRESA.

Have you taken and passed the Georgia Educator Ethics assessment (Test 360)?

** Candidates entering state-approved teacher preparation programs must take and complete Georgia Educator Ethics assessment (Test 360) prior to program admission. This test may be accessed at www.gace.ets.org. Cost is set by ETS. After creating/updating your MyPSC account on the GaPSC website - select 7 as your reason for testing.

** You will then be eligible to take Georgia Educator Ethics assessment (Test #360). When taking GACE assessments for program admission, you must add your program provider as a score recipient when you register or they will not receive notice that you have completed the assessment – We are North Georgia RESA GaTAPP.

** Although a minimum score is not required for the Ethics assessment, candidates must complete all training modules and end-of-module tests to receive credit toward program admission.

- If not, then you will need to register and take the ethics assessment before continuing with the application process.

Do you have the dispositions to teach?

All non-traditional path participants shall be required, by path completion, to demonstrate the following dispositions:

- Do you have an appreciation of the diversity of the students, the staff, and the community and capitalize on the richness of that diversity;
- Are your interactions with adults and children friendly, warm, caring, polite, respectful, and developmentally and culturally appropriate;

- Do you value a culture of learning where students are committed to the value of the subject, accept the teacher's high expectations, and take pride in quality work and conduct;
- Do you respond appropriately, respectfully, and successfully to student behavior;
- Do you intend to provide directions, procedures, and oral and written language that are communicated clearly and accurately;
- Do you believe in demonstrating flexibility and responsiveness by adjusting lessons, responding to students, and being persistent in your effort to teach all students;
- Do you value maintaining, accurate, complete records of student assignments and learning and of non-instructional activities
- Do you recognize the value of frequently and successfully providing instructional information and student progress information to parents and engaging families in the school program;
- Are you supportive of and cooperative with colleagues and volunteers and are willing to make substantial contributions to school and district projects;
- Would you be willing to actively seek professional development to enhance content and pedagogical skills and actively assist other educators;
- Would you proactively serve all students, challenge negative attitudes, and take a leadership role in high quality decision-making; and
- Would you be committed to understanding and actively participating in the school's School Improvement process;
- Would you commit to understanding and practicing the Georgia Code of Ethics;
- Would you be committed to reflect on your teaching practices, analyze student achievement data, and adjust your performance based on results?

If you do not believe you have these dispositions (qualities), stop here. The teacher-candidate's dispositions to teach students at the grade level and in the field of interest is critical;

If you believe that you do possess these dispositions, please continue

Program Requirements

- 1) DEMONSTRATION OF KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND DISPOSITIONS: The program shall require the demonstration of competencies in the knowledge, skills, and dispositions required for accomplished teaching.
- 2) Portfolio
- 3) Classroom Observations with Pre/Post-Conferences with Candidate Support Team (North Georgia RESA supervisor, School administrator, School Based Mentor)
- 4) Individual Induction Plan
- 5) Transcripts for completion of all Georgia Special Requirements courses
- 6) 80 hour course: The Essentials of Effective Teaching - Summer: \$650 course fee (All fees are the responsibility of the candidate) Required the summer prior to full program admittance
- 7) 100-150 Hours: Field-based, Individualized Coaching/Mentoring
- 8) Seminars

Assessments

- 1) Observations by RESA assigned Supervisor scored at the Proficient performance level
- 2) E-portfolio based on Danielson's Frameworks scored at the Proficient performance level
- 3) Disposition rubrics scored at the Proficient level
- 4) Learning segments scored at the "meets" level
- 5) Completed appropriate Advisement Sheet

Length of program

2 Years, August through June. Many candidates now complete in 18-24 months; elementary education candidates often need 20-24 months.

Dates, Fees, and Payment Information

Dates

The actual meeting dates for a given cohort will be provided to registered participants. You may also request the current cohort dates via email to mari.dunn@ngresa.org.

Dates:

Essentials of Teaching (total of 80 hours of instruction)

Consists of 10 class meetings

Dates: 2 weeks in July

Time: 9-4 daily

Completion and submission of all required assignments.

***Dates are mandatory for successful completion of the program.**

Fees

Before you are accepted into the program, a total of \$1725 must be received by NGRESA.

By September 1, an additional \$2250 (in RESA) or \$3250 (out of RESA) must be received to pay for the first year of tuition.

The second year of tuition must be paid by September 1, the following year. This tuition fee is \$2250 (in RESA) or \$3250 (out of RESA). After the initial \$1725, candidates may request and submit for consideration and approval a monthly payment agreement for the remaining tuition. Additional fees for specific course work are paid separately from tuition.

These fees are for tuition that is paid to NGRESA only. Tuition costs are outlined below:

Breakdown of fees

Application Fee

\$75.00

Essentials of Effective Teaching

\$650.00

Two Year Program- This cost includes tuition, books, supervisor and mentor fees

GA TAPP (If you work within our RESA District)

Down Payment: \$1000

Year one: \$2250.00

Year two: \$2250.00

Total: \$5500.00

NOTE: Elementary Education and Special Education tuition is \$5800 for the two-year program.

GA TAPP (If you work out of our RESA District or at an accredited private school)

Down Payment: \$1000

Year one: \$3250.00

Year two: \$3250.00

Total: \$7500.00

Additional Fees:

- HB671: PSC Required coursework: \$100.00
- Teaching of Reading and Writing Across the Curriculum: \$100
- Nature and Needs \$100.00 (Middle School Only)
- GACE Educator Ethics Assessment 360: Fees set by ETS
- GACE Program Admissions Assessment (PAA): Fees set by ETS
- GACE Content Assessments: Fees set by ETS

Additional Semester (if Needed)

In RESA \$1500.00 / Out of RESA \$2500.00

*Fees for the Georgia Teacher Academy for Preparation and Pedagogy are evaluated annually and subject to change. Potential and current candidates are to visit the North Georgia RESA website for current program fees.

Payment

For GaTAPP, we accept payment via the following methods:

Money Order

Cashier's Check

Make the money order or cashier's check payable to North Georgia RESA

*All fees are the responsibility of the candidate.

**All fees are subject to change based on enrollment and are non-refundable.

GaTAPP Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. Where can I find out which subjects I am qualified to teach with my specific Bachelor's Degree?** Click [here](#) to see a list. This will give you an "idea" of what subjects you could possibly teach.
- 2. I want to teach a subject that is not an exact match to my degree or is not related to my degree at all. What do I do?** You must take and pass the appropriate GACE content area test(s) for the subject and grade level that you wish to teach PRIOR to enrolling in GaTAPP. The GACE registration website is www.gace.ets.org (If you took and passed the Praxis II content assessment for the area you wish to teach prior to September 1, 2006, those scores will still be accepted.)
- 3. What is included in the fee?** This fee covers the cost of seminars, materials, and textbooks for the two-year program. The fee also includes costs associated with obtaining instructors and providing the required classroom observations and support meetings performed by RESA personnel. Additional coursework may be required for some certification fields and those costs are not included in the Internship tuition. Any GACE tests are not covered as a part of the fees.
- 4. Is there any type of financial aid available for GaTAPP candidates?** There is no NGRESA sponsored organized financial aid for GaTAPP itself. NGRESA GaTAPP is an approved On-the-Job-Training site for VA Educational Benefits.
- 5. Okay, I have met all the pre-requisites for being in GaTAPP. What is my next step?** The next step for you would be to begin applying for teaching positions. Try going to each system's website for current job openings or log onto www.teachgeorgia.org for job postings across the state.
- 6. When do courses start?** "The Essentials of Effective Teaching" is held each July with mandatory follow-up seminars held after school and/or Saturdays. If you are unable to attend the initial training sessions and seminars, GaTAPP may not be your best route to certification.
- 7. How long does the GaTAPP program take?** You can reasonably expect to be enrolled in NGRESA for up to two years. All candidates must complete the program within 4 semesters unless there is a qualifying medical or emergency situations that requires additional time. These exemptions are not automatic and will be reviewed on an individual basis at the time of a request.
- 8. Can I pursue other degrees while I am participating in GaTAPP?** This is not recommended due to the incredible task you have ahead of you with planning for instruction, teaching classes, and attending classes for GaTAPP. Candidates WILL NOT be excused from GaTAPP courses and sessions to attend courses for other degrees.
- 9. What about coaching or sponsoring school events?** While this does not always present a problem, bear in mind that GaTAPP courses take priority over coaching and sponsorship duties in the event of a scheduling conflict. These extracurricular activities do not exempt a candidate from any GaTAPP requirements.
- 10. Do I get college credit for courses I take through NGRESA?** No. All candidates will receive credit towards certification but not towards a college degree. Candidates do receive a completion transcript awarding PLU credit.

GaTAPP Application

First step:

Be sure to read the entire website BEFORE you submit an application.

The current application is available on our website: <https://ngresa.org/index.php/professional-learning/gatapp>

To be assessed for eligibility in the North Georgia RESA's GaTAPP program, please mail as a complete packet the following:

- North Georgia RESA GaTAPP Application
- Official copies of all college transcripts
- GACE Program Admissions Assessment score report or proof of exemption
- GACE Content Assessment score report
- GACE Georgia Educator Ethics Assessment (360) Certificate of Achievement
- Resume
- Two Reference Letters that are signed by the source (from someone other than a relative)
- A payment of \$1725. This includes the: Application Fee: \$75 non-refundable, First year tuition down payment: \$1000, and the Essentials of Effective Teaching: \$650

Mail packet to:

North Georgia RESA

ATTN: North Georgia RESA GA TAPP Program

4731 Old Highway 5 South Ellijay, Georgia 30540

Second step:

Candidates who are accepted into the program will register for the Essentials of Effective Teaching class (offered each summer). Registration will be through our online registration system.

GaTAPP Resources & Contact Information

Resources

[North Georgia RESA](#)

[The GAPSC "Mother Rule"](#)

[GaTAPP Rule](#)

[The Georgia Professional Standards Commission](#)

[GACE](#)

[240 Tutoring](#) (GACE test preparation resource) For information on a 50% discount for this resource, please contact Amber Socaciu (amber.socaciu@ngresa.org) or Mari Dunn (mari.dunn@ngresa.org) at NGRESA.

[Conditional GaTAPP Enrollment NGRESA 2020-2021 Cohort](#)

Contact Information

Email

amber.socaciu@ngresa.org

Phone

706-276-1111

Address

North Georgia Regional Service Agency

4731 Old Highway 5 South

Ellijay, Georgia 30540

Hours

Monday - Friday

8AM - 4:30PM

We are closed for all major holidays.

North Georgia RESA is NOT able to guarantee anyone a position in schools. The North Georgia RESA program supports area school systems having a way to certify teachers that they hire through an alternative certification. **North Georgia RESA is NOT an employment agency, so the program will not and cannot help an individual with employment.** We recommend that a person seeking employment stay current with the postings on <https://www.teachgeorgia.org/> or on the individual school district websites.

The process for selecting potential Candidates for North Georgia RESA GaTAPP is specifically designed for the NORTH GEORGIA RESA AREA ONLY. Applicants will not find the specific requirements listed on any other website including the PSC site. Most GaTAPP programs have specific requirements unique to their program.