

Class Starters & Enders

Making the Most of Instructional Time Five Minute Lessons

Class Starters and Enders help utilize the last minutes of class when a lesson ends but there is not enough time to start another, or for an interest approach at the beginning of class. Mini-lessons correlate to GPS in the programs areas below.

Licensed to Teach

Program Areas: Education, Family and Consumer Sciences

Instructions: Read the material and make notes of important points, answer questions, and be ready to discuss this topic.

A **certified teacher** is one who earned **credentials** from an authoritative source, such as the government, a higher education institution, or a private source. These certifications allow educators to teach in schools which require general authorization as well as particular content areas and across the **curriculum**.

In Georgia, to become certified teachers must take the **Georgia Assessments for the Certification of Educators (GACE)** test in addition to a having a four-year bachelor's degree or higher education. The purpose of the GACE is to assess the knowledge and skills of future Georgia public school educators. The GACE is aligned with the state and national standards, along with the **Georgia Performance Standards (GPS)**.

In the United States, certification is handled by each state's **Board of Education**, so requirements vary. However, teachers in almost all states must have a bachelor's degree with the appropriate teacher preparation course and complete either a content-based or teaching-based Master's degree within a certain number of years. Additionally, to be permanently certified, many states require that teachers pass exams on **pedagogy**, general knowledge, and knowledge of a specific content area.

Most states use graduated licensing programs. In some cases, a license to teach in one state can facilitate the obtainment of a license in another state. For example, Kentucky recognizes certification from Georgia. There are also other states with which Georgia has a **reciprocal agreement** to honor their teaching certifications. Georgia is a participant in the nationwide reciprocity agreement, which was established by the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification. Georgia also recognizes teaching certifications from the District of Columbia, U.S. territories, the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards, and the Department of Defense Education Activity. Although Georgia recognizes these certifications, there may be other requirements to teach in the state of Georgia.

Until the 1960s, a person could not teach unless he or she had completed a year or more of specific teaching training at a **normal school**. In the past two decades, normal school courses have been made optional through the promotion of Alternate Route teacher certification. In 1984, New Jersey became the first state to establish an **Alternate Route program**. Since then, most states have established their own programs' State by State Guide to Teacher Credentialing.

Review

1. Who handles teacher certification in each state?
2. What are the minimum requirements to become certified?
3. Where and when did the first Alternate Route program begin?
4. What is the GACE?
5. What state recognizes certification from Georgia?



Teacher licensing and certification requirements differ from state to state. Georgia requires teachers to take the GACE test and have at least a four-year bachelor's degree before they can become certified.

Language Connection

Define the following terms.

Alternate Route Program	GACE
Board of Education	GPS
Certified Teacher	Normal School
Credentials	Pedagogy
Curriculum	Reciprocal Agreement