

PLU Requirements for Certificate Renewal: 7/1/10-6/30/15

During the 2010 Legislative Session, the General Assembly voted to temporarily suspend PLU requirements for certificate renewal as a way of providing relief to educators during the budget crisis. House Bill 1307, which was signed into law and became effective July 1, 2010, inserts into O.C.G.A. 20-2-200 the following language: “*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*”.

As a result, the Professional Standards Commission (PSC) will modify its Standard Renewal Requirements for 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 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 as usual (such as Criminal Record Checks).

Professional learning is not being suspended. The position of the PSC to temporarily 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

<i>Expiration Date</i>	<i>PLU Requirement</i>	<i>Subsequent Validity Period</i>	<i>PLU Requirement</i>
June 30, 2010	YES	July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2015	NO
June 30, 2011	NO	July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2016	YES
June 30, 2012	NO	July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2017	YES
June 30, 2013	NO	July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2018	YES
June 30, 2014	NO	July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2019	YES
June 30, 2015	NO	July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2020	YES
June 30, 2016	YES	July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2021	YES

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

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. It is important to note that once an educator recertifies during the years of the PLU suspension, the PLU requirement is immediately back in effect for that educator and educators must begin earning PLUs to recertify in June of 2016.
4. Educators, whose certificates expire on June 30, 2010, who plan to complete their professional learning hours during the 2010 summer may request renewal between July 1, 2010, and September 30.
5. Educators (employed or unemployed) renewing their Clear Renewable certificates from July 1, 2010-June 30, 2015, do not need to submit professional learning units with their application.
6. Though professional learning units are not required for certificate renewal from July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2015, an application **must** be submitted to initiate the renewal process.
7. School systems and private schools using ACRES for renewal will continue to renew certificates via ACRES on www.gapsc.org.
8. Private schools not using ACRES for renewal will continue to submit paper applications and Employer Assurance Forms.
9. Educators not employed in Georgia public or private schools will continue to submit paper applications and pay application fees.
10. The validity period for certificates issued between July 1, 2010, and June 30, 2015, will be for the standard period of five years.
11. Paraprofessionals must be employed to renew their certificates because the employing school system applies for the certificate electronically. Paraprofessionals whose certificate validity date falls between July 1, 2010, and June 30, 2015, will be renewed without PLUs whenever the employer submits the application during the specified time period.
12. The Georgia Department of Education and the PSC recommend that districts continue **business as usual**. In other words, both agencies recommend that districts continue to maintain records of PLUs for all educators they employ. No changes have been made to State Board Rules 160-3-3-.04 and 160-3-3-.10. The expectations set forth in both rules remain in place. For example, the Professional Learning Advisory Committee will continue to advise and assist the system coordinator in the assessment of professional learning needs, determination of priorities, content and quality of activities, evaluation of the program and modification of the CSIP and the PLU Credit Plan.
13. House Bill 1307 originated independently in the House of Representatives. The intent of the bill is to extend flexibility to individual educators who hold **Clear Renewable** certificates. The flexibility is intended to relieve educators of out-of-pocket expenses that are incurred when earning PLUs. The bill provides a **temporary** suspension of the PLU requirement for certificate renewal. Other requirements for certificate renewal are still in effect.