**Summary of GAC Changes for Teacher Qualifications**

Margaret Shuman, August 2014

The Georgia Accrediting Commission is an independent accrediting agency in Georgia, not an arm of the state government. There are quite a few schools in Georgia who are accredited by GAC, both public, private, and non-traditional. <http://gac.coe.uga.edu/>

Those parents that contract with GAC-accredited schools need a high school education to teach their own children.

By July 1 of 2016, "outside teachers" of mathematics, science, language arts, and social studies need to have at least a BA or BS degree, and must have passed 6 semester hours of education training ("how to teach" classes) since the time they graduated from high school.

After July 1, 2016, students will not be able to put classes on their GAC-accredited transcripts that have been taught by teachers (except for their parents) who have NOT completed these 6 hours of education credits.

A "teacher" is one responsible for the primary instruction of a student. A "tutor" is one who assists or supplements a primary teacher and is not the primary teacher. Tutors are exempt from GAC's education hours requirement.

PLUs, CDUs, CEUs, and other types of teacher certification credits may possibly count for credit. There is no particular source required for obtaining required credits. It is ultimately up to GAC personnel to determine what counts as education credit.

Teachers who instruct GAC-accredited students who are not the teachers' own children will need to send proof of their BA/BS degrees and (if not in their BA/BS degrees) evidence of the 6 education credits to each GAC-accredited institution whose children they serve so that a file can be built of teacher credentials at each GAC-certified entity.

Dual enrollment instructors are exempt from submitting documents to verify their degrees and 6 credit hours in education.