

Georgia's BEST One Pager

What are the Minimum Requirements to Apply? (visit the GA's BEST website for more information)

- Current, tenured, certified CCSD employee with a **minimum of 3 years** of teaching experience at an accredited PK-12 school (excluding supply/substitute or paraprofessional)
- Completion of an acceptable baccalaureate degree at a four-year college or university in good academic standing

I am interested in participating in the Georgia's BEST program of study. What should I do?

- Please use the link to the program of study available on the GA's BEST website to access the specific UWG program admission requirements.
- Please check your current fields of certification to **verify you meet** the requirement(s) identified by the UWG Graduate School. Use this [link](#) to access GAPSC educator certification information.

Program Experience – What can I expect?

- Students engage in collaborative learning through their membership as a cohort member for the duration of their program.
- Each program offered has a Program of Study identifying the graduate level courses and sequencing completed each term by the cohort.
- Participation in the Georgia's BEST program is rigorous. Applicants should consider personal and professional commitments and requirements to ensure full commitment to the program.

What if I have questions about participating in the Georgia's BEST program?

- Please visit the Georgia's BEST website for information about the program, the process and for program of study information.
- Questions about your professional goals and experiences can be discussed with building leadership team members.

Interest Form Submission – What should I expect?

- Certified staff members will receive an email with information about available cohorts and a link to the interest form.
- Interested candidates must use their **Cobb School District email address** for initial communication and interest purposes.
- Review the specific certification considerations for the desired graduate program. The [Certificate Upgrade Advisor](#) is a resource provided by the PSC to identify possible degree programs. **Please note:** the Certificate Upgrade Advisor is a resource only. A formal review of program certification requirements must be conducted to confirm eligibility.
- **Please confirm BEFORE submitting the interest form you hold the required field of certification required by the UWG Graduate School for the program of interest.*****
- Candidates are encouraged to become familiar with a school's protocol to request official transcripts to allow time for delivery from all schools attended. *It is recommended candidates request official electronic transcripts.*
- **Important:** submitting your interest form *does not* constitute a formal application to the Georgia's BEST program.

Nominated Candidates Invited to Apply to the UWG Graduate School – What should I expect?

- Nominees are **invited to apply** to UWG via the email address entered on the interest form **by the Graduate School**.
- ***Important: the UWG email will include a personalized link to the application. Use this link to formally apply only. Candidates should not submit applications directly to the Graduate School using the link available on the University of West Georgia website. Please check the spam/junk folder for the personalized email.***

How Do I know If I Have Been Accepted by the University of West Georgia Graduate School?

- The UWG will notify accepted program participants by email using the email address entered on the interest form.

Waitlist – What does this mean?

- If a seat becomes available in the selected program of study later, you will be contacted by the Graduate School.

Is there a commitment or contract required for Georgia's BEST students?

- Yes. Georgia's BEST is an opportunity for employees to pursue an advanced degree at no tuition cost with a contract comprised of components that include:
 - Participants agree to complete three-year service commitment with the Cobb County School District in the certification/content area associated with the degree program following successful completion of the degree program
 - Participants must maintain satisfactory performance evaluations throughout their participation in the program.
 - Participants must remain in good academic standing, maintaining a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher throughout the program.

If a student does not complete the Georgia's BEST program or does not fulfill the required three-year service commitment following completion of the degree program, the student may be required to reimburse the Cobb County School District for the cost of participation in the degree program, per the terms and conditions of the Georgia's BEST Agreement.

What if I am not accepted into Georgia's BEST? May I apply again?

- Yes. The nomination process is very competitive with limited seat availability. Candidates are strongly encouraged to share their interest again in the future. Please check the GA's BEST website for program updates.

I am a Georgia's BEST graduate. Am I eligible to apply for a new cohort?

- Yes. Graduates are eligible to apply for a new cohort; however, they cannot apply immediately after completing the program. Interested candidates must wait nine (9) semesters, including summer, to submit an interest form. For example, a member of the first GAB cohort who graduated in December 2024 is eligible to submit an interest form for the Spring 2028 cohort.