

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to educator certification; amending s. 1004.04, F.S.; providing requirements for certain instructional personnel who supervise or direct preservice field experience; amending s. 1012.56, F.S.; deleting an obsolete provision; revising acceptable means of demonstrating mastery of general knowledge, subject area knowledge, and professional preparation and education competence; revising components of a competency-based professional development certification and education competency program; repealing s. 1012.56(17), F.S., relating to a study to compare the performance of certain certificateholders; amending s. 1012.585, F.S.; revising certain requirements for the renewal or reinstatement of a professional certificate; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (5) of section 1004.04, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1004.04 Public accountability and state approval for teacher preparation programs.—

(5) PRESERVICE FIELD EXPERIENCE.—All postsecondary instructors, school district personnel and instructional

27 personnel, and school sites preparing instructional personnel
28 through preservice field experience courses and internships
29 shall meet special requirements. District school boards may pay
30 student teachers during their internships.

31 (b)1. All school district personnel and instructional
32 personnel who supervise or direct teacher preparation students
33 during field experience courses or internships taking place in
34 this state in which candidates demonstrate an impact on student
35 learning growth must have evidence of "clinical educator"
36 training, a valid professional certificate issued pursuant to s.
37 1012.56, and at least 3 years of teaching experience in
38 prekindergarten through grade 12 and must have earned an
39 effective or highly effective rating on the prior year's
40 performance evaluation under s. 1012.34 or be a peer evaluator
41 under the district's evaluation system approved under s.
42 1012.34. The State Board of Education shall approve the training
43 requirements.

44 2. All instructional personnel who supervise or direct
45 teacher preparation students during field experience courses or
46 internships in another state, in which a candidate demonstrates
47 his or her impact on student learning growth, through a Florida
48 online or distance program must have received "clinical
49 educator" training or its equivalent in that state, hold a valid
50 professional certificate issued by the state in which the field
51 experience takes place, and have at least 3 years of teaching
52 experience in prekindergarten through grade 12.

53 3. All instructional personnel who supervise or direct
 54 teacher preparation students during field experience courses or
 55 internships, in which a candidate demonstrates his or her impact
 56 on student learning growth, on a United States military base in
 57 another country through a Florida online or distance program
 58 must have received "clinical educator" training or its
 59 equivalent, hold a valid professional certificate issued by the
 60 United States Department of Defense or a state or territory of
 61 the United States, and have at least 3 years teaching experience
 62 in prekindergarten through grade 12.

63 Section 2. Subsections (3), (5), and (6) and paragraphs
 64 (a) and (b) of subsection (8) of section 1012.56, Florida
 65 Statutes, are amended to read:

66 1012.56 Educator certification requirements.—

67 (3) MASTERY OF GENERAL KNOWLEDGE.—Acceptable means of
 68 demonstrating mastery of general knowledge are:

69 (a) Achievement of passing scores on the general knowledge
 70 ~~basic skills~~ examination required by state board rule;

71 ~~(b) Achievement of passing scores on the College Level~~
 72 ~~Academic Skills Test earned prior to July 1, 2002;~~

73 (b)(e) Documentation of a valid professional standard
 74 teaching certificate issued by another state;

75 (c)(d) Documentation of a valid certificate issued by the
 76 National Board for Professional Teaching Standards or a national
 77 educator credentialing board approved by the State Board of
 78 Education; ~~or~~

79 (d)(e) Documentation of two semesters of successful, full-
 80 time teaching in a Florida College System institution, state
 81 university, or private college or university that awards an
 82 associate or higher degree and is an accredited institution or
 83 an institution of higher education identified by the Department
 84 of Education as having a quality program; or

85 (e) Effective July 1, 2015, achievement of passing scores,
 86 identified in state board rule, on national or international
 87 examinations that test comparable content and relevant standards
 88 in verbal, analytical writing, and quantitative reasoning
 89 skills, including, but not limited to, the verbal, analytical
 90 writing, and quantitative reasoning portions of the Graduate
 91 Record Examination. Passing scores identified in state board
 92 rule must be at approximately the same level of rigor as is
 93 required to pass the general knowledge examinations.

94 (5) MASTERY OF SUBJECT AREA KNOWLEDGE.—Acceptable means of
 95 demonstrating mastery of subject area knowledge are:

96 (a) For a subject requiring only a baccalaureate degree
 97 for which a Florida subject area examination has been developed,
 98 achievement of a passing score ~~scores~~ on the Florida-developed
 99 subject area examination specified in ~~examinations required by~~
 100 ~~state board rule, which may include, but need not be limited to,~~
 101 ~~world languages in Arabic, Chinese, Farsi, French, German,~~
 102 ~~Greek, Haitian Creole, Hebrew, Hindi, Italian, Japanese,~~
 103 ~~Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish;~~

104 (b) For a subject for which a Florida subject area

105 examination has not been developed, achievement of a passing
106 score on a standardized examination specified in state board
107 rule, including, but not limited to, passing scores on both the
108 oral proficiency and written proficiency examinations ~~Completion~~
109 ~~of a bachelor's degree or higher and verification of the~~
110 ~~attainment of an oral proficiency interview score above the~~
111 ~~intermediate level and a written proficiency score above the~~
112 ~~intermediate level on a test administered by the American~~
113 ~~Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages for which there is~~
114 ~~no Florida-developed examination;~~

115 (c) For a subject for which a Florida subject area
116 examination has not been developed or a standardized examination
117 has not been specified in state board rule, completion of the
118 subject area specialization requirements specified in state
119 board rule and verification of the attainment of the essential
120 subject matter competencies by the district school
121 superintendent of the employing school district or chief
122 administrative officer of the employing state-supported or
123 private school ~~for a subject area for which a subject area~~
124 ~~examination has not been developed and required by state board~~
125 ~~rule;~~

126 (d) For a subject requiring a master's or higher degree,
127 completion of the subject area specialization requirements
128 specified in state board rule ~~for a subject coverage requiring a~~
129 ~~master's or higher degree~~ and achievement of a passing score on
130 the Florida-developed subject area examination or a standardized

131 examination specified in state board rule;

132 (e) Documentation of a valid professional standard
133 teaching certificate issued by another state; or

134 (f) Documentation of a valid certificate issued by the
135 National Board for Professional Teaching Standards or a national
136 educator credentialing board approved by the State Board of
137 Education.

138
139 School districts are encouraged to provide mechanisms for ~~these~~
140 middle grades ~~school~~ teachers holding only a K-6 teaching
141 certificate to obtain a subject area coverage for middle grades
142 through postsecondary coursework or district add-on
143 certification.

144 (6) MASTERY OF PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION AND EDUCATION
145 COMPETENCE.—Acceptable means of demonstrating mastery of
146 professional preparation and education competence are:

147 (a) Successful completion of an approved teacher
148 preparation program at a postsecondary educational institution
149 within this state and achievement of a passing score on the
150 professional education competency examination required by state
151 board rule;

152 (b) Successful completion of a teacher preparation program
153 at a postsecondary educational institution outside Florida and
154 achievement of a passing score on the professional education
155 competency examination required by state board rule;

156 (c) Documentation of a valid professional standard

157 teaching certificate issued by another state;

158 (d) Documentation of a valid certificate issued by the
 159 National Board for Professional Teaching Standards or a national
 160 educator credentialing board approved by the State Board of
 161 Education;

162 (e) Documentation of two semesters of successful, full-
 163 time teaching in a Florida College System institution, state
 164 university, or private college or university that awards an
 165 associate or higher degree and is an accredited institution or
 166 an institution of higher education identified by the Department
 167 of Education as having a quality program and achievement of a
 168 passing score on the professional education competency
 169 examination required by state board rule;

170 (f) Successful completion of professional preparation
 171 courses as specified in state board rule, successful completion
 172 of a professional preparation and education competence
 173 ~~demonstration~~ program pursuant to paragraph (8) (b), and
 174 achievement of a passing score on the professional education
 175 competency examination required by state board rule;

176 (g) Successful completion of a professional development
 177 ~~preparation alternative~~ certification and education competency
 178 program, outlined in paragraph (8) (a); or

179 (h) Successful completion of a competency-based ~~an~~
 180 ~~alternative~~ certification program pursuant to s. 1004.85 and
 181 achievement of a passing score on the professional education
 182 competency examination required by rule of the State Board of

183 Education.

184 (8) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATION AND EDUCATION
185 COMPETENCY PROGRAM.—

186 (a) The Department of Education shall develop and each
187 school district may provide a cohesive competency-based
188 professional development certification and education competency
189 program by which members of a school district's instructional
190 staff may satisfy the mastery of professional preparation and
191 education competence requirements specified in ~~this~~ subsection
192 (6) and rules of the State Board of Education. Participants must
193 hold a state-issued temporary certificate. A school district
194 that implements the program shall provide a competency-based
195 certification program developed by the Department of Education
196 or developed by the district and approved by the Department of
197 Education. The program shall include the following ~~components~~:

198 1. A minimum period of initial preparation before assuming
199 duties as the teacher of record.

200 2. An option for collaboration between school districts
201 and other supporting agencies or educational entities for
202 implementation.

203 3. An experienced peer-mentor component ~~peer mentors~~. Each
204 individual selected by the district as a peer mentor must hold a
205 valid professional certificate issued pursuant to this section,
206 must have earned at least 3 years of teaching experience in
207 prekindergarten through grade 12, and must have earned an
208 effective or highly effective rating on the prior year's

209 performance evaluation under s. 1012.34 or be a peer evaluator
210 under the district's evaluation system approved under s.
211 1012.34.

212 4. An assessment of teaching performance aligned to the
213 district's system for personnel evaluation under s. 1012.34
214 which provides for:

215 a. An initial evaluation of each educator's competencies
216 to determine an appropriate individualized professional
217 development plan.

218 b. A summative evaluation to assure successful completion
219 of the program.

220 5. Professional education preparation content knowledge
221 that includes, but is not limited to, the following:

222 a. The state ~~state-adopted student content~~ standards
223 provided under s. 1003.41, including scientifically based
224 reading instruction, content literacy, and mathematical
225 practices, for each subject identified on the temporary
226 certificate.

227 b. The educator-accomplished practices approved by the
228 state board.

229 c. A variety of data indicators for monitoring student
230 progress.

231 d. Methodologies for teaching students with disabilities.

232 e. Methodologies for teaching students of limited English
233 proficiency ~~English language learners~~ appropriate for each
234 subject area identified on the temporary certificate.

235 f. Techniques and strategies for operationalizing the role
236 of the teacher in assuring a safe learning environment for
237 students.

238 6. Required achievement of passing scores on the subject
239 area and professional education competency examination required
240 by State Board of Education rule. Mastery of general knowledge
241 must be demonstrated as described in subsection (3).

242 (b)1. Each school district must and a state supported
243 public school or a private school may develop and maintain a
244 system by which members of the instructional staff may
245 demonstrate mastery of professional preparation and education
246 competence as required by law. Each program must be based on
247 classroom application of the Florida Educator Accomplished
248 Practices and instructional performance and, for public schools,
249 must be aligned with the district's evaluation system approved
250 under s. 1012.34.

251 2. The Commissioner of Education shall determine the
252 continued approval of programs implemented under this paragraph,
253 based upon the department's review of performance data. The
254 department shall review the performance data as a part of the
255 periodic review of each school district's professional
256 development system required under s. 1012.98.

257 Section 3. Subsection (17) of section 1012.56, Florida
258 Statutes, is repealed.

259 Section 4. Subsections (3) and (5) of section 1012.585,
260 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

261 1012.585 Process for renewal of professional
262 certificates.-

263 (3) For the renewal of a professional certificate, the
264 following requirements must be met:

265 (a) The applicant must earn a minimum of 6 college credits
266 or 120 inservice points or a combination thereof. For each area
267 of specialization to be retained on a certificate, the applicant
268 must earn at least 3 of the required credit hours or equivalent
269 inservice points in the specialization area. Education in
270 "clinical educator" training pursuant to s. 1004.04(5)(b) and
271 credits or points that provide training in the area of
272 scientifically researched, knowledge-based reading literacy and
273 computational skills acquisition, exceptional student education,
274 normal child development, and the disorders of development may
275 be applied toward any specialization area. Credits or points
276 that provide training in the areas of drug abuse, child abuse
277 and neglect, strategies in teaching students having limited
278 proficiency in English, or dropout prevention, or training in
279 areas identified in the educational goals and performance
280 standards adopted pursuant to ss. 1000.03(5) and 1008.345 may be
281 applied toward any specialization area. Credits or points earned
282 through approved summer institutes may be applied toward the
283 fulfillment of these requirements. Inservice points may also be
284 earned by participation in professional growth components
285 approved by the State Board of Education and specified pursuant
286 to s. 1012.98 in the district's approved master plan for

287 inservice educational training, including, but not limited to,
288 serving as a trainer in an approved teacher training activity,
289 serving on an instructional materials committee or a state board
290 or commission that deals with educational issues, or serving on
291 an advisory council created pursuant to s. 1001.452.

292 (b) In lieu of college course credit or inservice points,
293 the applicant may renew a subject area specialization ~~area~~ by
294 passage of a state board approved Florida-developed subject area
295 examination or, if a Florida subject area examination has not
296 been developed, a standardized examination specified in state
297 board rule ~~test~~.

298 (c) If an applicant wishes to retain more than two
299 specialization areas on the certificate, the applicant shall be
300 permitted two successive validity periods for renewal of all
301 specialization areas, but must earn no fewer than 6 college
302 course credit hours or the equivalent in any one validity
303 period.

304 (d) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules for the
305 expanded use of training for renewal of the professional
306 certificate for educators who are required to complete training
307 in teaching students of limited English proficiency or students
308 with disabilities and training in the teaching of reading as
309 follows:

310 1. A teacher who holds a professional certificate may use
311 college credits or inservice points earned through training in
312 teaching students of limited English proficiency or students

313 with disabilities ~~completed in English for Speakers of Other~~
314 ~~Languages training~~ and training in the teaching of reading in
315 excess of 6 semester hours during one certificate-validity
316 period toward renewal of the professional certificate during the
317 subsequent validity periods.

318 2. A teacher who holds a temporary certificate may use
319 college credits or inservice points earned through training in
320 teaching students of limited English proficiency or students
321 with disabilities ~~completed in English for Speakers of Other~~
322 ~~Languages training~~ and training in the teaching of reading
323 toward renewal of the teacher's first professional certificate.
324 Such training must not have been included within the degree
325 program, and the teacher's temporary and professional
326 certificates must be issued for consecutive school years.

327 (e) Beginning July 1, 2014, an applicant for renewal of a
328 professional certificate must earn a minimum of one college
329 credit or the equivalent inservice points in the area of
330 instruction for teaching students with disabilities. The
331 requirement in this paragraph may not add to the total hours
332 required by the department for continuing education or inservice
333 training.

334 (5) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to
335 allow the reinstatement of expired professional certificates.
336 The department may reinstate an expired professional certificate
337 if the certificateholder:

338 (a) Submits an application for reinstatement of the

339 expired certificate.

340 (b) Documents completion of 6 college credits during the 5
341 years immediately preceding reinstatement of the expired
342 certificate, completion of 120 inservice points, or a
343 combination thereof, in an area specified in paragraph (3)(a) to
344 include the credit required under paragraph (3)(e).

345 (c) During the 5 years immediately preceding reinstatement
346 of the certificate, achieves a passing score on the Florida-
347 developed subject area examination or, if a Florida subject area
348 examination has not been developed, a standardized examination
349 specified in state board rule ~~test~~ for each subject to be shown
350 on the reinstated certificate.

351
352 The requirements of this subsection may not be satisfied by
353 subject area examinations ~~tests~~ or college credits completed for
354 issuance of the certificate that has expired.

355 Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.