

By the Committee on Education/K-12 and Representative  
Merchant

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to certification and  
3           preparation of educators; amending s. 231.17,  
4           F.S.; revising educator certification  
5           requirements; specifying minimum competencies;  
6           making conforming changes; authorizing school  
7           districts to provide alternate certification  
8           programs and systems for demonstrating  
9           professional competence; specifying minimum  
10          requirements; requiring approval by the  
11          Department of Education; requiring  
12          demonstration of professional competence within  
13          a certain period; providing exceptions;  
14          authorizing the Commissioner of Education to  
15          contract for written certification  
16          examinations; deleting state university  
17          responsibility for such examinations; deleting  
18          requirements for professional orientation  
19          programs; deleting requirements for  
20          certification to teach certain ages and grades;  
21          amending s. 231.24, F.S., relating to renewal  
22          of educator certification; providing for  
23          extensions of professional certificates;  
24          extending permission to use certain training  
25          for renewal of any certification  
26          specialization; deleting additional renewal  
27          requirements for certificate holders not  
28          employed in instructional positions; providing  
29          for reissuance of expired certificates;  
30          amending s. 231.29, F.S., relating to  
31          assessment procedures and criteria; requiring

1 the inclusion of a new assessment criterion  
2 based on ability to verbally communicate;  
3 amending s. 240.529, F.S., relating to approval  
4 of teacher preparation programs; requiring  
5 emphasis on educator accomplished practices;  
6 deleting obsolete dates; deleting references to  
7 professional orientation programs; requiring  
8 higher education institutions to assist in  
9 continued program approval; deleting  
10 consideration of graduates of out-of-state and  
11 alternate preparation programs; making  
12 conforming changes in preservice field  
13 experiences; providing technical changes;  
14 repealing s. 231.172, F.S., relating to  
15 alternate preparation programs for teachers;  
16 providing an effective date.

17

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

19

20 Section 1. Section 231.17, Florida Statutes, 1996  
21 Supplement, is amended to read:

22 231.17 Official statements of eligibility and  
23 certificates granted on application to those meeting  
24 prescribed requirements.--

25 (1) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.--

26 ~~(a)~~ Each person seeking certification pursuant to this  
27 chapter shall submit a completed application to the Department  
28 of Education and remit the fee required pursuant to s. 231.30.

29 ~~(b)~~ Pursuant to ~~the provisions in~~ s. 120.60, the  
30 Department of Education shall issue within 90 calendar days  
31 after ~~of~~ the stamped receipted date of the completed

1 application an official statement of eligibility for  
2 certification or a certificate covering the classification,  
3 level, and area for which the applicant is deemed qualified.

4 (2) STATEMENT OF ELIGIBILITY.--

5 ~~1.~~ The statement of eligibility must ~~shall be issued~~  
6 ~~to~~ advise the applicant of the qualifications that must be  
7 completed to qualify for the temporary or professional  
8 certificate sought. Each statement of eligibility is ~~shall be~~  
9 valid for 2 years after its ~~from the~~ date of issuance and may  
10 be reissued for one additional 2-year period if application is  
11 made while the initial statement of eligibility is valid or  
12 within 1 year after the initial statement expires.

13 (3) TEMPORARY CERTIFICATE.--

14 (a)~~2.~~ The department shall issue a temporary  
15 certificate to any applicant who submits satisfactory evidence  
16 of possessing the qualifications for such a certificate as  
17 prescribed by this chapter and by rules of the state board.  
18 Each temporary certificate is valid for 2 years after the date  
19 of its issuance and is nonrenewable, except as otherwise  
20 provided in subsection (6).

21 (b) Issuance of the temporary certificate shall occur  
22 when the department:

23 ~~a. Receives notification from a district~~  
24 ~~superintendent or the governing authority of a developmental~~  
25 ~~research school, state-supported school, or nonpublic school~~  
26 ~~that the applicant has been issued a valid statement of~~  
27 ~~eligibility by the Department of Education and is employed by~~  
28 ~~the school district or developmental research school,~~  
29 ~~state-supported school, or nonpublic school with an approved~~  
30 ~~professional orientation program;~~

31

1           ~~1.b.~~ Receives the applicant's fingerprint reports from  
2 the Department of Law Enforcement and the Federal Bureau of  
3 Investigation pursuant to s. 231.02, ~~s. 231.1712~~ and

4           ~~2.c.~~ Determines that the applicant is qualified for  
5 the temporary certificate.

6           (c) To qualify ~~be deemed qualified~~ for a temporary  
7 ~~professional~~ certificate, the applicant must ~~for certification~~  
8 ~~shall~~:

9           1. File a written statement under oath that the  
10 applicant subscribes to and will uphold the principles  
11 incorporated in the Constitutions of the United States and of  
12 the State of Florida.†

13           2. Be at least 18 years of age.†

14           3. Document receipt of a bachelor's or higher degree  
15 from an accredited institution of higher learning. The  
16 bachelor's or higher degree may ~~shall~~ not be required in areas  
17 approved in rule by the State Board of Education as nondegreed  
18 areas. Each applicant seeking initial certification must ~~shall~~  
19 have attained at least a 2.5 overall grade point average on a  
20 4.0 scale in the applicant's major field of study. ~~At least 30~~  
21 ~~of the total number of semester hours required for the initial~~  
22 ~~secondary certificate area on a professional certificate shall~~  
23 ~~be earned in courses in the field of specialization no more~~  
24 ~~than nine of which shall be earned in a college of education~~  
25 ~~unless the applicant's courses in the specialization field~~  
26 ~~were offered only in the college of education.~~The applicant  
27 may document the required education by submitting official  
28 transcripts from institutions of higher education or by  
29 authorizing the direct submission of such official transcripts  
30 through established electronic network systems.†

31

1           4. Meet such academic and professional requirements  
2 based on credentials certified by standard institutions of  
3 higher learning, including any institutions of higher learning  
4 in this state ~~which are~~ accredited by an accrediting  
5 association that ~~which~~ is a member of the Commission on  
6 Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation, as ~~may be~~  
7 prescribed by the state board.†

8           5. Be competent and capable of performing the duties,  
9 functions, and responsibilities of a teacher.†

10           6. Be of good moral character.†

11           ~~7. Demonstrate mastery of the minimum competencies~~  
12 ~~required by subsection (2); and~~

13           ~~8. Complete the professional orientation program~~  
14 ~~required by subsection (3).~~

15

16 Rules adopted pursuant to this section shall provide for the  
17 review and acceptance of credentials from foreign institutions  
18 of higher learning.

19           (4) PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE.--The department shall  
20 issue a professional certificate for a period not to exceed 5  
21 years to any applicant who meets the requirements for a  
22 temporary certificate and documents mastery of the minimum  
23 competencies required by subsection (5). Mastery of the  
24 minimum competencies must be documented on a comprehensive  
25 written examination or through other criteria as specified by  
26 rules of the state board. Mastery of minimum competencies  
27 required under subsection (5) must be demonstrated in the  
28 following areas:

29           (a) General knowledge, including the ability to read,  
30 write, and compute.

31

1           (b) Professional skills and knowledge of the standards  
2 of professional practice.  
3           (c) The subject matter in each area for which  
4 certification is sought.  
5           (5)(2) MINIMUM COMPETENCIES FOR PROFESSIONAL  
6 CERTIFICATE.--  
7           (a) The state board must specify, by rule, the minimum  
8 essential competencies that educators must possess and  
9 demonstrate in order to qualify to teach students the  
10 standards of student performance adopted by the state board.  
11 The minimum competencies must include ~~Each professional~~  
12 ~~certificate issued shall be valid for a period not to exceed 5~~  
13 ~~years. Each applicant for initial professional certification~~  
14 ~~shall demonstrate, on a comprehensive written examination or~~  
15 ~~through such other procedures as may be specified by the state~~  
16 ~~board, mastery of those minimum essential generic and~~  
17 ~~specialization competencies and other criteria as shall be~~  
18 ~~adopted into rules by the state board, including, but~~ are not  
19 ~~limited to, the ability to:~~  
20           1. Write in a logical and understandable style with  
21 appropriate grammar and sentence structure.†  
22           2. Read, comprehend, and interpret professional and  
23 other written material.†  
24           3. Comprehend and work with fundamental mathematical  
25 concepts.†  
26           4. Recognize signs of severe emotional distress in  
27 students and ~~to~~ apply techniques of crisis intervention with  
28 an emphasis on suicide prevention and positive emotional  
29 development.†  
30  
31

- 1           5. Recognize signs of alcohol and drug abuse in  
2 students and ~~to~~ apply counseling techniques with emphasis on  
3 intervention and prevention of future abuse.†
- 4           6. Recognize the physical and behavioral indicators of  
5 child abuse and neglect, ~~to~~ know rights and responsibilities  
6 regarding reporting, ~~to~~ know how to care for a child's needs  
7 after a report is made, and ~~to~~ know recognition, intervention,  
8 and prevention strategies pertaining to child abuse and  
9 neglect which ~~that~~ can be related to children in a classroom  
10 setting in a nonthreatening, positive manner.†
- 11           7. Comprehend patterns of physical, social, and  
12 academic development in students, including exceptional  
13 students in the regular classroom, and ~~to~~ counsel these ~~the~~  
14 ~~same~~ students concerning their needs in these areas.†
- 15           8. Recognize and be aware of the instructional needs  
16 of exceptional students.†
- 17           9. Comprehend patterns of normal ~~Recognize disorders~~  
18 ~~of~~ development in students and employ appropriate intervention  
19 strategies for disorders of development.†
- 20           10. Identify and comprehend the codes and standards of  
21 professional ethics, performance, and practices adopted  
22 pursuant to s. 231.546(2)(b), the grounds for disciplinary  
23 action provided by s. 231.28, and the procedures for resolving  
24 complaints filed pursuant to this chapter, including appeal  
25 processes.†~~and~~
- 26           11. Recognize and demonstrate awareness of the  
27 educational needs of students who have ~~having~~ limited  
28 proficiency in English and employ appropriate teaching  
29 strategies.
- 30           12. Use appropriate technology in teaching and  
31 learning processes.

1           13. Use assessment strategies to assist the continuous  
2 development of the learner.

3           14. Use teaching and learning strategies that include  
4 considering each student's culture, learning styles, special  
5 needs, and socioeconomic background.

6           15. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the  
7 subject matter that is aligned with the subject knowledge and  
8 skills specified in the student performance standards approved  
9 by the state board.

10           ~~(b) The state board shall adopt rules that specify the~~  
11 ~~minimum essential generic and subject matter competencies to~~  
12 ~~be demonstrated by means of the written examination and those~~  
13 ~~to be demonstrated by other means. Any individual enrolled in~~  
14 ~~a postsecondary institution who pays the appropriate fee and~~  
15 ~~completes the required application procedures may take the~~  
16 ~~written examination prior to graduation. The examination shall~~  
17 ~~require a candidate to demonstrate the following:~~

18           ~~1. Mastery of general knowledge, including the ability~~  
19 ~~to read, write, and compute;~~

20           ~~2. Mastery of professional skills and knowledge of the~~  
21 ~~standards of professional practice; and~~

22           ~~3. Mastery of the subject matter in each area for~~  
23 ~~which certification is being sought.~~

24           **(b)** The state board shall designate the certification  
25 areas for which subject area tests shall be developed.  
26 However, an applicant may satisfy the subject area and  
27 professional knowledge testing requirements by attaining  
28 scores on corresponding tests from the National Teachers  
29 Examination series, and successors to that series, that meet  
30 standards established by the state board. The College Level  
31 Academic Skills Test, a similar test approved by the state



1 board, or, beginning January 1, 1996, the National Teachers  
2 Examination must ~~shall~~ be used by degreed personnel to  
3 demonstrate mastery of general knowledge as required in  
4 paragraph (4)(a) ~~subparagraph 1~~. The College Level Academic  
5 Skills Test shall be waived for any applicant who passed the  
6 reading, writing, and mathematics subtest of the former ~~old~~  
7 Florida Teacher Certification Examination or the College Level  
8 Academic Skills Test and subsequently obtained a certificate  
9 pursuant to this chapter.

10 ~~(c) Each person seeking initial certification shall~~  
11 ~~have earned credits in courses related to normal child~~  
12 ~~development and the disorders of development.~~

13 (6) EXCEPTIONS FOR ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATES.--

14 (a)(d) The department shall issue a temporary  
15 certificate to an applicant ~~A person~~ who meets all  
16 requirements established by law and ~~or~~ rule for issuance of a  
17 professional certificate, other than passing the examination,  
18 ~~successfully completing the first year of the professional~~  
19 ~~orientation program,~~ or completing the professional education  
20 courses in which the applicant is deficient, ~~shall be issued a~~  
21 ~~nonrenewable, 2-year temporary certificate.~~

22 (b) The department shall issue ~~However, the State~~  
23 ~~Board of Education shall adopt rules to allow for the issuance~~  
24 ~~of:~~

25 ~~1.~~ one nonrenewable 2-year temporary certificate and  
26 one nonrenewable 5-year professional certificate to a  
27 qualified applicant ~~an individual~~ who holds a bachelor's  
28 degree in the area of speech-language impairment to allow for  
29 completion of a master's degree program in speech-language  
30 impairment.

31

1           (c) The state board shall adopt rules to allow the  
2 department to reissue temporary certificates as follows:

3           ~~1.2.~~ One additional 2-year temporary certificate when  
4 the requirements for the professional certificate were not  
5 completed because of the serious illness, injury, or other  
6 extraordinary, extenuating circumstance of the applicant.

7           ~~2.3.~~ A 1-year extension of the temporary certificate  
8 for an applicant who was employed less than 99 days during the  
9 first year of teaching.

10           ~~3.4.~~ Two additional 2-year temporary certificates to  
11 an applicant who is completing the training and professional  
12 education course certification requirements for an English or  
13 language arts teacher of ~~limited English proficient~~ students  
14 with limited proficiency in English.

15           ~~4.5.~~ A 1-year extension of the temporary certificate  
16 to a foreign educated applicant who is completing professional  
17 certification requirements, or to a bilingual curriculum  
18 content teacher of ~~limited English proficient~~ students with  
19 limited proficiency in English.

20           ~~5.~~ One additional 2-year temporary certificate to an  
21 applicant who is completing college credits to satisfy the  
22 professional education requirements for certification.

23  
24 ~~The department shall reissue, pursuant to this paragraph, a~~  
25 temporary certificate upon the written request of the district  
26 school superintendent, the governing authority of a  
27 developmental research school, or the governing authority of a  
28 state-supported school or nonpublic school ~~with an approved~~  
29 ~~professional orientation program.~~

30           (7) DEMONSTRATION OF PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION  
31 COMPETENCE.--

1       (a) Each school district may develop and maintain an  
2 alternative certification program by which members of the  
3 district's instructional staff may satisfy the professional  
4 education course requirements specified in rules of the state  
5 board for issuance of a professional certificate. The state  
6 board must adopt, by rule, standards and guidelines for the  
7 approval of alternative certification programs. Each approved  
8 program must include methods for identifying each applicant's  
9 entry-level teaching competencies and must require each  
10 applicant to:  
11           1. Have expertise in the subject and meet requirements  
12 for specialization in a subject area for which a professional  
13 certificate may be issued under this chapter and rules of the  
14 state board.  
15           2. Complete training in only those competency areas in  
16 which deficiencies are identified.  
17           3. Complete the program and demonstrate professional  
18 education competence within 2 years after initial employment  
19 as a member of the district's instructional staff.  
20       (b) Each school district must develop and maintain a  
21 system by which members of the district's instructional staff  
22 may demonstrate the professional education competence required  
23 by this section for issuance of a professional certificate.  
24 Each district's system must be based on classroom application  
25 and instructional performance and must include a performance  
26 evaluation plan for documenting the demonstration of required  
27 professional education competence. Each individual employed as  
28 a member of the district's instructional staff on or after  
29 July 1, 1997, must demonstrate mastery of the required  
30 professional education competence within the first year of  
31 employment, unless the individual:

1           1. Has completed an approved teacher preparation  
2 program at a postsecondary institution within this state;

3           2. Has completed a teacher education training program  
4 and has had at least 2 years of successful full-time teaching  
5 experience in another state; or

6           3. Is participating in the district's alternate  
7 certification program.

8           (c) Each district school board may expend educational  
9 training funds provided under ss. 236.081 and 236.0811 to  
10 implement this subsection.

11           (d) The department must approve programs and systems  
12 developed to demonstrate professional education competence.

13           (8) EXAMINATIONS.--

14           (a)(e) The commissioner, with the approval of the  
15 state board, may contract ~~assign to a university in the state~~  
16 ~~system the responsibility for~~ developing, printing,  
17 administering, scoring, and providing appropriate analysis of  
18 the written tests required.

19           (b)(f) The state board shall, by rule, specify the  
20 examination scores that are the achievement of which shall be  
21 required for the issuance of a professional certificate and  
22 certain temporary certificates. When the College Level  
23 Academic Skills Test is used to demonstrate general knowledge,  
24 such rules must shall provide an alternative method by which  
25 an applicant may demonstrate mastery of general knowledge,  
26 including the ability to read, write, or compute, must shall  
27 define generic subject area competencies, and must shall  
28 establish uniform evaluation guidelines. The alternative  
29 method must shall:

30           1. Apply only to an applicant who has successfully  
31 completed all prerequisites for issuance of the professional

1 certificate, except passing one specific subtest of the  
2 College Level Academic Skills Test, and who has taken and  
3 failed to achieve a passing score on that subtest at least  
4 four times.

5           2. Require notification from the superintendent of the  
6 employing school district, the governing authority of the  
7 employing developmental research school, or the governing  
8 authority of the employing state-supported school or nonpublic  
9 school ~~with an approved professional orientation program~~ that  
10 the applicant has satisfactorily demonstrated mastery of the  
11 subject area covered by that specific subtest. ~~Such mastery~~  
12 ~~shall be demonstrated~~ through successful experience in the  
13 professional application of generic subject area competencies  
14 and proficient academic performance in that subject area. The  
15 decision of the superintendent or governing authority shall be  
16 based on a review of the applicant's official academic  
17 transcript and notification from the applicant's principal, a  
18 peer teacher, and a district-level supervisor that the  
19 applicant has demonstrated successful professional experience  
20 in that subject area.

21           (c)(g) If an applicant takes an examination developed  
22 by this state and ~~Provision shall be made for a person who~~  
23 ~~does not achieve the score necessary for certification, the~~  
24 applicant may ~~to~~ review his or her completed examination and  
25 bring to the attention of the department any errors that would  
26 result in a passing score.

27           (d)(h) The department and the board shall maintain  
28 confidentiality of the examination, developmental materials,  
29 and workpapers, and the examination, developmental materials,  
30 and workpapers are ~~shall be~~ exempt from ~~the provisions of s.~~  
31

1 119.07(1). The board shall adopt such rules as may be  
2 necessary to accomplish this purpose.

3 ~~(3) PROFESSIONAL ORIENTATION PROGRAM. -- Each school~~  
4 ~~district and developmental research school shall develop and~~  
5 ~~maintain a plan for a professional orientation program for~~  
6 ~~beginning teachers, teachers employed in the state for the~~  
7 ~~first time, and teachers whose professional certificates are~~  
8 ~~inactive. A state-supported school or nonpublic school may~~  
9 ~~develop a plan for a professional orientation program and~~  
10 ~~submit it to the commissioner for initial approval.~~

11 ~~(a) The professional orientation program is a 3-year~~  
12 ~~program for developing professional skills and competencies.~~  
13 ~~The first year of the program shall be mandatory for beginning~~  
14 ~~teachers and shall offer individualized mentoring and~~  
15 ~~assistance. The goal of the first year shall be to provide an~~  
16 ~~orientation to professional responsibilities and the training~~  
17 ~~and support activities required to enable the beginning~~  
18 ~~teacher to successfully demonstrate the competencies required~~  
19 ~~by this section. Other professional competencies identified by~~  
20 ~~the State Board of Education or local school board may be~~  
21 ~~required. The program for the first year may include a reduced~~  
22 ~~teaching load. The optional second and third years may offer~~  
23 ~~continued development for successful beginning teachers or for~~  
24 ~~any teacher with identified skill development needs, may~~  
25 ~~involve decreasing levels of assistance, and may include peer~~  
26 ~~mentoring and professional orientation teams. The professional~~  
27 ~~orientation program for experienced teachers shall be a 90-day~~  
28 ~~program of orientation to state and district policies and~~  
29 ~~practices.~~

30 ~~(b) No teacher who has less than 1 full year of~~  
31 ~~successful teaching experience as defined in s. 228.041(16)~~

1 ~~shall be issued the professional educator's certificate until~~  
2 ~~the individual has successfully completed the first year of~~  
3 ~~the professional orientation program. The teacher employed in~~  
4 ~~the state for the first time or whose professional certificate~~  
5 ~~is inactive and who has at least 1 full year of successful~~  
6 ~~teaching experience may, during the first 90 days of~~  
7 ~~employment, demonstrate successful instructional performance~~  
8 ~~on an instructional performance evaluation system that has~~  
9 ~~been approved for use in the professional orientation program~~  
10 ~~in the employing district of the teacher. This performance~~  
11 ~~evaluation system shall measure demonstration of the~~  
12 ~~competencies described in subsection (2). The experienced~~  
13 ~~teacher who fails to document successful demonstration of the~~  
14 ~~essential competencies during the first 90 days of employment~~  
15 ~~shall complete 1 year of the professional orientation program.~~

16 ~~(c) A teacher participating in the professional~~  
17 ~~orientation program shall be a member of the bargaining unit~~  
18 ~~with the same rights as any other first-year teacher and shall~~  
19 ~~receive full pay according to the adopted salary schedule of~~  
20 ~~the district. The requirement for participation in a~~  
21 ~~professional orientation program may be met by a contract~~  
22 ~~employee while teaching full-time or on an equivalent~~  
23 ~~part-time basis in a school district or in a nonpublic school,~~  
24 ~~state-supported school, or developmental research school with~~  
25 ~~an approved professional orientation program.~~

26 ~~(d) The professional orientation program shall~~  
27 ~~include, but is not limited to, the following conditions:~~

28 ~~1. Each school district and each developmental~~  
29 ~~research school, state-supported school, or nonpublic school~~  
30 ~~with an approved professional orientation program plan shall~~  
31 ~~annually submit evaluation data on its professional~~

1 ~~orientation program to the Commissioner of Education. The~~  
2 ~~commissioner shall develop criteria for continued approval~~  
3 ~~after consultation with the Education Standards Commission.~~  
4       ~~2. Professional orientation activities during the~~  
5 ~~first year shall be based on classroom application of the~~  
6 ~~competencies described in subsection (2), in appropriate~~  
7 ~~instructional settings. Emphasis shall be given to application~~  
8 ~~of those competencies which are directly related to effective~~  
9 ~~performance of the instructional services for which the~~  
10 ~~participant is seeking certification coverage. The orientation~~  
11 ~~activities shall also develop school improvement skills.~~  
12       ~~3. Successful completion of that portion of the~~  
13 ~~professional orientation program required for a professional~~  
14 ~~certificate means that the superintendent or chief~~  
15 ~~administrator has verified to the Department of Education that~~  
16 ~~the teacher has successfully completed the first year of the~~  
17 ~~program.~~  
18       ~~4. A teacher who has successfully completed the~~  
19 ~~professional orientation program shall have the same~~  
20 ~~reemployment rights as any other teacher on probationary~~  
21 ~~service.~~  
22       ~~(e) The state board shall adopt the rules necessary to~~  
23 ~~provide for the professional orientation program. Such rules~~  
24 ~~shall include opportunities for school districts to work with~~  
25 ~~teacher preparation institutions to devise, and submit for~~  
26 ~~approval, performance appraisal systems and other professional~~  
27 ~~development mechanisms tailored to meet local situations. The~~  
28 ~~rules shall provide for a procedure by which the applicant for~~  
29 ~~a professional certificate may appeal the judgment of the~~  
30 ~~superintendent or chief administrator regarding successful~~  
31 ~~completion of the program. The appeals procedures shall~~



1 ~~involve the Education Practices Commission and shall not apply~~  
2 ~~to continued employment or reemployment. The involvement of~~  
3 ~~the Education Practices Commission in such appeals procedures~~  
4 ~~shall be pursuant to rules of the State Board of Education.~~

5 ~~(f) District school boards may expend educational~~  
6 ~~training funds as provided for in ss. 236.081 and 236.0811 for~~  
7 ~~professional orientation program activities.~~

8 ~~(9)(4) NONCITIZENS.--~~

9 (a) The state board may adopt ~~shall have authority to~~  
10 ~~prescribe rules for issuing under which~~ certificates ~~may be~~  
11 ~~issued~~ to noncitizens who may be needed to teach and who are  
12 legally admitted to the United States through the United  
13 States Immigration and Naturalization Service. The filing of  
14 a written oath to uphold the principles of the Constitutions  
15 of the United States and of the State of Florida, required  
16 under subparagraph (3)(c)1., does ~~referred to above shall not~~  
17 apply to individuals assigned to teach on an exchange basis.

18 (b) A No certificate may not ~~shall~~ be issued to a  
19 citizen of a nation controlled by forces that ~~which~~ are  
20 antagonistic to democratic forms of government, except to an  
21 individual who has been legally admitted to the United States  
22 through the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

23 ~~(10)(5) DENIAL OF CERTIFICATE.--~~

24 (a) The Department of Education may ~~is authorized to~~  
25 deny an applicant a certificate if the department ~~it~~ possesses  
26 evidence satisfactory to it that the applicant has committed  
27 an act or acts, or that a situation exists, for which the  
28 Education Practices Commission would be authorized to revoke a  
29 teaching certificate.

30 (b) The decision of the Department of Education is  
31 subject to review by the Education Practices Commission upon

1 the filing of a written request from the applicant within 20  
2 days after ~~from~~ receipt of the notice of denial.

3 (11)~~(6)~~ STATE BOARD RULES.--~~By January 1, 1991,~~The  
4 State Board of Education shall adopt ~~promulgate~~ rules as  
5 necessary to implement this section for initial certification  
6 ~~specifically covering ages birth through 4 years and grade~~  
7 ~~spans prekindergarten or age 3 through grade 3, grades 5~~  
8 ~~through 9, and others as designated by the State Board of~~  
9 ~~Education.~~

10 (12)~~(7)~~ PRIOR APPLICATION.--~~Those~~ Persons who apply  
11 for initial professional or temporary certification are ~~shall~~  
12 ~~be~~ governed by the law and rules in effect at the time of  
13 application for issuance of the initial certificate.

14 (13)~~(8)~~ PERSONNEL RECORDS.--The Department of  
15 Education shall maintain a complete statement of the academic  
16 preparation, professional training, and teaching experience of  
17 each person to whom a certificate is issued. The applicant or  
18 the superintendent shall furnish the information using a  
19 format or forms provided by the department.

20 Section 2. Section 231.24, Florida Statutes, is  
21 amended to read:

22 231.24 Process for renewal of professional  
23 certificates.--

24 (1)(a) School districts in this state shall renew ~~be~~  
25 ~~responsible for renewal of~~ state-issued professional  
26 certificates as follows:

27 1. Each school district shall renew state-issued  
28 professional certificates for individuals who hold a  
29 professional certificate by this state and are employed by ~~in~~  
30 that district. ~~Renewals shall be granted~~ pursuant to criteria  
31

1 established in subsections (2), (3), and (4) and requirements  
2 specified in rules of the State Board of Education.

3         2. The employing school district may charge the  
4 individual an application fee not to exceed the amount charged  
5 by the Department of Education for such services, including  
6 associated late renewal fees. Each school board shall  
7 transmit monthly to the department \$20 for each renewed  
8 certificate to cover the costs for maintenance and operation  
9 of the statewide certification database and for costs incurred  
10 in printing and mailing such renewed certificates. As defined  
11 in current rules of the State Board of Education, the  
12 department shall contribute a portion of such fee for purposes  
13 of funding the Educator Recovery Network ~~as~~ established in s.  
14 231.263. The department shall deposit all funds ~~shall be~~  
15 ~~deposited by the department~~ into the Educational Certification  
16 Trust Fund for use as ~~and used for purposes~~ specified in s.  
17 231.30.

18         (b) The department shall renew ~~is responsible for~~  
19 ~~renewal of~~ state-issued professional certificates for  
20 individuals who are not employed by a school board of this  
21 state. ~~Renewals shall be granted~~ pursuant to criteria  
22 established in subsections (2), (3), and (4) and requirements  
23 specified in rules of the State Board of Education.

24         (2) All professional certificates, except a  
25 nonrenewable professional certificate, ~~issued to school~~  
26 ~~personnel~~ shall be renewable for successive periods not to  
27 exceed 5 years after ~~from~~ the date of submission of  
28 documentation of completion of the requirements for renewal  
29 provided in subsection (3). Only one renewal may be granted  
30 during each 5-year validity period of a professional  
31 certificate. However, if the renewal application form is not

1 received by the department or by the employing school district  
2 before the expiration of the professional certificate, the  
3 application form, application fee, and a late fee must ~~shall~~  
4 be submitted before ~~prior to~~ July 1 of the year following  
5 expiration of the certificate in order to renew the  
6 professional certificate. The state board shall adopt rules to  
7 allow a 1-year extension of the validity period of a  
8 professional certificate in the event of serious illness,  
9 injury, or other extraordinary extenuating circumstances of  
10 the applicant. The department shall grant such 1-year  
11 extension upon written request by the applicant or by ~~of~~ the  
12 superintendent of the local school district or the governing  
13 authority of a developmental research school, state-supported  
14 school, or nonpublic school that employs the applicant ~~has an~~  
15 ~~approved professional orientation program.~~

16 (3) For the renewal of a professional certificate, the  
17 following requirements must ~~shall~~ be met:

18 (a) ~~1-~~ The applicant must ~~shall~~ earn a minimum of 6  
19 college credits or 120 inservice points or a combination  
20 thereof. For each area of specialization to be retained on a  
21 certificate, the applicant must ~~shall~~ earn at least 3 of the  
22 required credit hours or equivalent inservice points in the  
23 specialization area. Education in "clinical educator" training  
24 pursuant to s. 240.529(5)(b) and credits or points that  
25 provide training in the area of exceptional student education,  
26 normal child development, and the disorders of development may  
27 be applied toward any specialization area. ~~Until June 30,~~  
28 ~~2000,~~ Credits or points that provide training in the areas of  
29 drug abuse, child abuse and neglect, strategies in teaching  
30 ~~limited English proficient~~ students having limited proficiency  
31 in English, or dropout prevention, or training in areas

1 identified in the educational goals and performance standards  
2 adopted pursuant to ss. 229.591(3) and 229.592 may be applied  
3 toward any specialization area. Credits or points earned  
4 through approved summer institutes may be applied toward the  
5 fulfillment of these requirements. Inservice points may also  
6 be earned by participation in professional growth components  
7 approved by the State Board of Education and specified  
8 pursuant to s. 236.0811 in the district's approved master plan  
9 for inservice educational training, including, but not limited  
10 to, serving as a trainer in an approved teacher training  
11 activity, serving on an instructional materials committee or a  
12 state board or commission that deals with educational issues,  
13 or serving on an advisory council created pursuant to s.  
14 229.58.

15 (b)2. In lieu of college course credit or inservice  
16 points, the applicant may renew a specialization area by  
17 passage of a state board approved subject area test or by  
18 completion of a department approved summer work program in a  
19 business or industry directly related to an area of  
20 specialization listed on the certificate. The state board  
21 shall adopt rules providing for the approval procedure.

22 (c)3. ~~If in the event~~ an applicant wishes to retain  
23 more than two specialization areas on the certificate, the  
24 applicant shall be permitted two successive validity periods  
25 for renewal of all specialization areas, but must earn.  
26 ~~However, at no time shall~~ fewer than 6 college course credit  
27 hours or the equivalent ~~be earned~~ in any one validity period.

28 ~~(b) A candidate who holds an active certificate and~~  
29 ~~has not been employed in an instructional position by a public~~  
30 ~~school district or a nonpublic school requiring state~~  
31 ~~certification having a Department of Education approved~~

1 ~~professional orientation program plan at any time during the~~  
2 ~~validity period of such current certificate may renew the~~  
3 ~~certificate by receiving a passing score on the subject area~~  
4 ~~examination or completing the college course credits as~~  
5 ~~provided in paragraph (a); however, if the candidate becomes~~  
6 ~~employed in an instructional position by a public school~~  
7 ~~district or a nonpublic school requiring state certification~~  
8 ~~having a Department of Education approved professional~~  
9 ~~orientation program plan, he or she shall undergo a~~  
10 ~~performance evaluation by a performance measurement system~~  
11 ~~approved by the department for such purpose during the first~~  
12 ~~90 days of employment. A candidate who fails to demonstrate~~  
13 ~~satisfactory performance shall continue in the program~~  
14 ~~pursuant to s. 231.17. For the purposes of this paragraph,~~  
15 ~~"instructional position" includes those positions held by~~  
16 ~~certificateholders who are district-level personnel,~~  
17 ~~district-level personnel on special assignment, nonpublic~~  
18 ~~school area administrators and supervisors, school principals,~~  
19 ~~assistant school principals, school board members,~~  
20 ~~instructional personnel on special assignment, and~~  
21 ~~instructional personnel on leave through collective bargaining~~  
22 ~~regarding contracts or school board rule, and other positions~~  
23 ~~held by certificateholders as specified by necessary State~~  
24 ~~Board of Education rules.~~

25           (4) When any person who holds a valid temporary  
26 certificate or professional Florida teacher's certificate is  
27 called into or volunteers for actual wartime service or  
28 required peacetime military service training, the certificate  
29 shall be renewed for a period of time equal to the time spent  
30 in military service if the, ~~provided such~~ person makes proper  
31 application and presents substantiating evidence to the

1 department or the employing school district regarding such  
2 military service.

3 (5) The state board shall adopt rules to allow the  
4 reinstatement of expired professional certificates. The  
5 department may reinstate an expired professional certificate  
6 within 3 years after the date of expiration if the  
7 certificateholder:

8 (a) Submits an application for reinstatement of the  
9 expired certificate.

10 (b) Documents completion of 6 college credits during  
11 the 5 years immediately preceding reinstatement of the expired  
12 certificate, completion of 120 inservice points, or a  
13 combination thereof, in an area specified in subsection  
14 (3)(a).

15 (c) During the 5 years immediately preceding  
16 reinstatement of the certificate, achieves a passing score on  
17 the subject area test for each subject to be shown on the  
18 reinstated certificate.

19  
20 The requirements of this subsection may not be satisfied by  
21 subject-area tests or college credits completed for issuance  
22 of the certificate that has expired.

23 Section 3. Subsection (3) of section 231.29, Florida  
24 Statutes, is amended to read:

25 231.29 Assessment procedures and criteria.--

26 (3) A complete statement of the assessment criteria  
27 shall include, but is ~~shall~~ ~~not~~ ~~be~~ limited to, observable  
28 indicators that relate to the following:

29 (a) Ability to use appropriate classroom management  
30 techniques, including ability to maintain appropriate  
31 discipline.

1 (b) Knowledge of subject matter. The district school  
2 board shall make special provisions for evaluating teachers  
3 who are assigned to teach out-of-field.

4 (c) Ability to plan and deliver instruction.

5 (d) Ability to evaluate instructional needs.

6 (e) Ability to communicate verbally.

7 (f)~~(e)~~ Other professional competencies,

8 responsibilities, and requirements as determined by the local  
9 district.

10 Section 4. Subsections (2), (4), (5), and (6), and  
11 paragraph (b) of subsection (9) of section 240.529, Florida  
12 Statutes, are amended to read:

13 240.529 Public accountability and state approval for  
14 teacher preparation programs.--

15 (2) DEVELOPMENT OF TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS.--A  
16 system shall be developed by the Department of Education in  
17 collaboration with institutions of higher education to assist  
18 departments and colleges of education in the restructuring of  
19 their programs to meet the need for producing quality teachers  
20 now and in the future. The system shall assist teacher  
21 educators in conceptualizing, developing, implementing, and  
22 evaluating programs that meet state-adopted standards. The  
23 Education Standards Commission shall have primary  
24 responsibility for recommending these standards to the State  
25 Board of Education for adoption. These standards shall  
26 emphasize quality indicators drawn from research, professional  
27 literature, recognized guidelines, Florida essential teaching  
28 competencies and educator-accomplished practices, effective  
29 classroom practices, and the outcomes of the state system of  
30 school improvement and education accountability,and  
31 ~~"Blueprint 2000,"~~ as well as performance measures. Departments



1 and colleges of education shall make every attempt to secure  
2 priority funding for ~~ensure that~~ teacher preparation programs  
3 and courses emphasizing the state system of school improvement  
4 and education-accountability "Blueprint 2000" concepts and  
5 standards ~~receive priority funding~~.

6 (4) CONTINUED PROGRAM APPROVAL. ~~--Beginning July 1,~~  
7 ~~1995, and~~ Notwithstanding ~~the provisions of~~ subsection (3),  
8 failure by a public or nonpublic teacher preparation program  
9 to meet the criteria for continued program approval shall  
10 result in loss of program approval. The Department of  
11 Education, in collaboration with the departments and colleges  
12 of education, shall develop procedures for continued program  
13 approval which ~~that~~ document the continuous improvement of  
14 program processes and graduates' performance.

15 (a) Continued approval of specific teacher preparation  
16 programs at each public and nonpublic institution of higher  
17 education within the state is ~~shall be~~ contingent upon the  
18 passing of the ~~state~~ written examination required by s. 231.17  
19 ~~s. 231.17(2)~~ by at least 80 percent of the graduates of the  
20 program who take the examination ~~and the successful completion~~  
21 ~~of an approved professional orientation program by at least 90~~  
22 ~~percent of the graduates who enter such programs~~. On request  
23 of an institution, the Department of Education shall provide  
24 an analysis of the performance of the graduates of such  
25 institution with respect to the competencies assessed by the  
26 examination required by s. 231.17.

27 (b) Additional criteria for continued program approval  
28 for public institutions may be developed by the Education  
29 Standards Commission and approved by the State Board of  
30 Education. Such criteria must ~~shall~~ emphasize outcome measures  
31 and may include, but need not be limited to, program

1 graduates' satisfaction with training and the unit's  
2 responsiveness to local school districts. Additional criteria  
3 for continued program approval for nonpublic institutions  
4 shall be developed in the same manner as for public  
5 institutions; however, such criteria must ~~shall~~ be based upon  
6 significant, objective, and quantifiable graduate performance  
7 measures. Responsibility for collecting data on outcome  
8 measures through survey instruments and other appropriate  
9 means shall be shared by the institutions of higher education,  
10 the Board of Regents, the State Board of Independent Colleges  
11 and Universities, and the Department of Education. ~~In addition~~  
12 ~~to graduates of approved programs, data shall be collected on~~  
13 ~~alternate preparation program completers and a representative~~  
14 ~~sample of recent out-of-state graduates teaching in Florida.~~  
15 ~~Beginning January 1, 1995, and By January 1 of each succeeding~~  
16 year, the Department of Education, in cooperation with the  
17 Board of Regents and the State Board of Independent Colleges  
18 and Universities, shall report this information for each  
19 ~~Florida~~ postsecondary institution that has ~~having~~  
20 state-approved programs of teacher education to the Governor,  
21 the Commissioner of Education, the Chancellor of the State  
22 University System, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of  
23 the House of Representatives, all Florida postsecondary  
24 teacher preparation programs, and interested members of the  
25 ~~general~~ public. This report must ~~shall~~ analyze the data and  
26 make recommendations for improving ~~improvement of~~ teacher  
27 preparation programs in the state.

28 (c) Beginning July 1, 1997, continued approval for a  
29 teacher preparation program is ~~shall be~~ contingent upon the  
30 results of annual reviews of the program conducted by the  
31 institution of higher education, using procedures and criteria

1 outlined in an institutional program evaluation plan approved  
2 by the Department of Education. This plan must ~~shall~~  
3 incorporate the criteria established in paragraphs (a) and (b)  
4 and include provisions for involving primary stakeholders,  
5 such as program graduates, district school personnel,  
6 classroom teachers, principals, community agencies, and  
7 business representatives in the evaluation process. Upon  
8 request by an institution, the department shall provide  
9 assistance in developing, enhancing, or reviewing the  
10 institutional program evaluation plan and training evaluation  
11 team members.

12 (5) PRESERVICE FIELD EXPERIENCE.--~~Beginning July 1,~~  
13 ~~1995,~~All postsecondary instructors, school district personnel  
14 and instructional personnel ~~teachers~~, and school sites  
15 preparing instructional personnel ~~teachers~~ through preservice  
16 field experience courses and internships shall meet special  
17 requirements.

18 (a) All instructors in postsecondary teacher  
19 preparation programs who instruct or supervise preservice  
20 field experience courses or internships shall have at least  
21 one of the following: specialized training in clinical  
22 supervision; a valid professional teaching certificate  
23 pursuant to ss. 231.17 and 231.24; at least 3 years of  
24 successful teaching experience in prekindergarten through  
25 grade 12; or a commitment to spend periods of time specified  
26 by State Board of Education rule teaching in the public  
27 schools.

28 (b) All school district personnel and instructional  
29 personnel ~~teachers~~ who supervise or direct teacher preparation  
30 students during field experience courses or internships must  
31 ~~shall~~ have evidence of "clinical educator" training. The

1 Education Standards Commission shall recommend, and the state  
2 board shall approve, the training requirements.

3 (c) Postsecondary teacher preparation programs in  
4 cooperation with district school boards and approved nonpublic  
5 school associations shall select the school sites for  
6 preservice field experience activities. These sites must ~~shall~~  
7 represent the full spectrum of school communities, including,  
8 but not limited to, schools located in urban settings. In  
9 order to be selected, school sites must ~~shall~~ demonstrate  
10 commitment to the education of public school students and to  
11 the preparation of future teachers. A nonpublic school  
12 association, in order to be approved, must ~~shall~~ have a  
13 state-approved master inservice program plan in accordance  
14 with s. 236.0811 ~~and a state-approved professional orientation~~  
15 ~~program plan in accordance with s. 231.17.~~

16 (6) STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE.--The Education Standards  
17 Commission shall recommend, and the State Board of Education  
18 shall approve, standards of excellence for teacher  
19 preparation. These standards must ~~shall~~ exceed the  
20 requirements for program approval pursuant to subsection (3)  
21 and must ~~shall~~ incorporate state and national recommendations  
22 for exemplary teacher preparation programs. ~~Beginning July 1,~~  
23 ~~1995,~~Approved teacher preparation programs that ~~which~~ meet  
24 these standards of excellence shall receive public recognition  
25 as programs of excellence and may be eligible to receive  
26 teaching profession enhancement grants pursuant to s.  
27 240.5291.

28 (9) PRETEACHER AND TEACHER EDUCATION PILOT  
29 PROGRAMS.--Universities and community colleges may establish  
30 preteacher education and teacher education pilot programs to  
31 encourage promising minority students to prepare for a career

1 in education. These pilot programs shall be designed to  
2 recruit and provide additional academic, clinical, and  
3 counseling support for students whom the institution judges to  
4 be potentially successful teacher education candidates, but  
5 who may not meet teacher education program admission  
6 standards. Priority consideration shall be given to those  
7 pilot programs that ~~which~~ are jointly submitted by community  
8 colleges and universities.

9 (b) Universities and community colleges may admit into  
10 the pilot program those incoming students who demonstrate an  
11 interest in teaching as a career, but who may not meet the  
12 requirements for entrance into an approved teacher education  
13 program.

14 1. Flexibility may be given to colleges of education  
15 to develop and market innovative teacher training programs  
16 directed at specific target groups such as graduates from the  
17 colleges of arts and sciences, employed education  
18 paraprofessionals, substitute teachers, early federal  
19 retirees, and nontraditional college students. Programs must  
20 be submitted to the State Board of Education for approval.

21 2. Academically successful graduates in the fields of  
22 liberal arts and science may be encouraged, ~~under s. 231.172,~~  
23 to embark upon a career in education.

24 3. Models may be developed to provide a positive  
25 initial experience in teaching in order to encourage  
26 retention. Priority should be given to models that encourage  
27 minority graduates.

28 Section 5. Section 231.172, Florida Statutes, is  
29 repealed.

30 Section 6. This act shall take effect on July 1, 1997.

31