

By Senator Gutman

34-424-99

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to teacher certification;  
3           amending s. 231.17, F.S.; providing that a  
4           master's degree in public administration  
5           satisfies certain requirements for  
6           certification in educational leadership;  
7           providing an effective date.

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

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11           Section 1. Subsection (5) of section 231.17, Florida  
12 Statutes, 1998 Supplement, is amended to read:

13           231.17 Official statements of eligibility and  
14 certificates granted on application to those meeting  
15 prescribed requirements.--

16           (5) MINIMUM COMPETENCIES FOR PROFESSIONAL  
17 CERTIFICATE.--

18           (a) The state board must specify, by rule, the minimum  
19 essential competencies that educators must possess and  
20 demonstrate in order to qualify to teach students the  
21 standards of student performance adopted by the state board.  
22 The minimum competencies must include but are not limited to  
23 the ability to:

- 24           1. Write in a logical and understandable style with
- 25 appropriate grammar and sentence structure.
- 26           2. Read, comprehend, and interpret professional and
- 27 other written material.
- 28           3. Comprehend and work with fundamental mathematical
- 29 concepts.
- 30           4. Recognize signs of severe emotional distress in
- 31 students and apply techniques of crisis intervention with an

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

3           13. Use assessment strategies to assist the continuous  
4 development of the learner.

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

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

12           (b) A master's degree in public administration is  
13 equivalent to a graduate degree in educational administration,  
14 administration and supervision, or educational leadership for  
15 purposes of satisfying the degree requirements for  
16 certification in Educational Leadership, Administrative Class.

17           ~~(c)~~~~(b)~~ The state board shall designate the  
18 certification areas for subject area tests. However, an  
19 applicant may satisfy the subject area and professional  
20 knowledge testing requirements by attaining scores on  
21 corresponding tests from the National Teachers Examination  
22 series, and successors to that series, that meet standards  
23 established by the state board. The College Level Academic  
24 Skills Test, a similar test approved by the state board, or,  
25 beginning January 1, 1996, the National Teachers Examination  
26 must be used by degreed personnel to demonstrate mastery of  
27 general knowledge as required in paragraph (4)(a). The College  
28 Level Academic Skills Test shall be waived for any applicant  
29 who passed the reading, writing, and mathematics subtest of  
30 the former Florida Teacher Certification Examination or the  
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1 College Level Academic Skills Test and subsequently obtained a  
2 certificate pursuant to this chapter.

3 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 1999.

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SENATE SUMMARY

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Provides that a master's degree in public administration  
satisfies the degree requirements for an elementary or  
8 secondary school teacher to be certified in Educational  
Leadership, Administrative Class.

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