

By the Committee on Education Pre-K - 12; and Senators Dockery and Fasano

581-04233-08

20081062c1

1 A bill to be entitled  
2 An act relating to educator certification requirements;  
3 amending s. 1012.56, F.S.; requiring subject area  
4 examinations in specified foreign languages for the  
5 purpose of demonstrating mastery of that subject area  
6 knowledge; providing an effective date.

7  
8 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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10 Section 1. Subsection (4) of section 1012.56, Florida  
11 Statutes, is amended to read:

12 1012.56 Educator certification requirements.--

13 (4) MASTERY OF SUBJECT AREA KNOWLEDGE.--Acceptable means of  
14 demonstrating mastery of subject area knowledge are:

15 (a) Achievement of passing scores on subject area  
16 examinations required by state board rule, which may include, but  
17 need not be limited to, world languages in Arabic, Chinese,  
18 Farsi, French, German, Greek, Haitian Creole, Hebrew, Hindi,  
19 Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish;

20 (b) Completion of a bachelor's degree or higher and  
21 verification of the attainment of an oral proficiency interview  
22 score above the intermediate level and a written proficiency  
23 score above the intermediate level on a test administered by the  
24 American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages for which  
25 there is no Florida-developed examination;

26 (c) ~~(b)~~ Completion of the subject area specialization  
27 requirements specified in state board rule and verification of  
28 the attainment of the essential subject matter competencies by  
29 the district school superintendent of the employing school

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30 district or chief administrative officer of the employing state-  
31 supported or private school for a subject area for which a  
32 subject area examination has not been developed and required by  
33 state board rule;

34 (d)~~(e)~~ Completion of the subject area specialization  
35 requirements specified in state board rule for a subject coverage  
36 requiring a master's or higher degree and achievement of a  
37 passing score on the subject area examination specified in state  
38 board rule;

39 (e)~~(d)~~ A valid professional standard teaching certificate  
40 issued by another state; or

41 (f)~~(e)~~ A valid certificate issued by the National Board for  
42 Professional Teaching Standards or a national educator  
43 credentialing board approved by the State Board of Education.

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45 School districts are encouraged to provide mechanisms for those  
46 middle school teachers holding only a K-6 teaching certificate to  
47 obtain a subject area coverage for middle grades through  
48 postsecondary coursework or district add-on certification.

49 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.