

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to teacher preparation and  
3           accountability; amending s. 1004.04, F.S.; revising  
4           provisions relating to state-approved teacher  
5           preparation programs and accountability therefor;  
6           revising the uniform core curricula for each program  
7           and providing for candidate assessment; revising  
8           standards and criteria for initial and continued  
9           program approval; requiring each program to prepare an  
10          institutional program evaluation plan; providing  
11          requirements for annual reports to the state and the  
12          general public; revising requirements for personnel  
13          who supervise teacher preparation students during  
14          preservice field experience; deleting provisions  
15          relating to certain standards of excellence, national  
16          standards, articulation agreements, and a program to  
17          provide experience as a teacher assistant; amending s.  
18          1004.85, F.S.; authorizing a private provider to  
19          create an educator preparation institute if approved  
20          by the Department of Education; providing criteria for  
21          initial and continued approval of an institute's  
22          competency-based certification program; providing  
23          requirements and credentials for program participants;  
24          providing requirements for supervisors of field  
25          experiences; amending s. 1012.32, F.S.; conforming  
26          provisions; amending s. 1012.56, F.S.; authorizing  
27          rules to allow for acceptance of certain college  
28          course credits for educator certification; providing

29 components for a school district competency-based  
 30 professional development certification program;  
 31 providing requirements for initial and continued  
 32 approval of programs; revising provisions for  
 33 applicant review of an educator certification  
 34 examination; amending s. 1012.585, F.S.; correcting a  
 35 cross-reference; providing an effective date.  
 36

37 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
 38

39 Section 1. Section 1004.04, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 40 to read:

41 1004.04 Public accountability and state approval for  
 42 teacher preparation programs.—

43 (1) INTENT.—

44 (a) The Legislature recognizes that effective ~~skilled~~  
 45 teachers make an important contribution to a system that allows  
 46 students to obtain a high-quality education.

47 (b) The intent of the Legislature is to require the State  
 48 Board of Education to maintain ~~attain~~ a system for development  
 49 and approval of teacher preparation programs that allows  
 50 postsecondary teacher preparation institutions to employ varied  
 51 and innovative teacher preparation techniques while being held  
 52 accountable for producing program completers ~~graduates~~ with the  
 53 competencies and skills necessary to achieve the state education  
 54 goals; help all students in the state's diverse student  
 55 population, ~~including students who have substandard reading and~~  
 56 ~~computational skills and students with limited English~~

57 | ~~proficiency,~~ meet high standards for academic achievement;  
 58 | maintain safe, secure classroom learning environments; and  
 59 | sustain the state system of school improvement and education  
 60 | accountability established pursuant to ss. 1000.03(5) and  
 61 | 1008.345.

62 | (2) UNIFORM CORE CURRICULA AND CANDIDATE ASSESSMENT.—

63 | (a) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules  
 64 | pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 that establish uniform  
 65 | core curricula for each state-approved teacher preparation  
 66 | program.

67 | (b) The rules to establish uniform core curricula for each  
 68 | state-approved teacher preparation program must include, but are  
 69 | not limited to, the following:

- 70 | 1. The Florida Educator Accomplished Practices.
- 71 | 2. The state-adopted student content standards.
- 72 | 3. Scientifically researched reading instruction.
- 73 | 4. Content literacy and mathematical practices.
- 74 | 5. Strategies appropriate for instruction of English  
 75 | language learners.
- 76 | 6. Strategies appropriate for instruction of students with  
 77 | disabilities. ~~a State Board of Education identified foundation~~  
 78 | ~~in scientifically researched, knowledge-based reading literacy~~  
 79 | ~~and computational skills acquisition; classroom management;~~  
 80 | ~~school safety; professional ethics; educational law; human~~  
 81 | ~~development and learning; and understanding of the Sunshine~~  
 82 | ~~State Standards content measured by state achievement tests,~~  
 83 | ~~reading and interpretation of data, and use of data to improve~~  
 84 | ~~student achievement.~~

85        (c) Each candidate shall receive instruction and be  
86 assessed on the uniform core curriculum in his or her area of  
87 program concentration during course work and field experiences.

88        (d) Before program completion, each candidate must  
89 demonstrate his or her ability to positively impact student  
90 learning growth in his or her area of program concentration  
91 during a prekindergarten through grade 12 field experience and  
92 must pass each portion of the Florida Teacher Certification  
93 Examination required for a professional certificate in the area  
94 of program concentration.

95        ~~(e) These rules shall not require an additional period of~~  
96 ~~time-to-degree but may be phased in to enable teacher~~  
97 ~~preparation programs to supplant courses, including pedagogy~~  
98 ~~courses, not required by law or State Board of Education rule~~  
99 ~~with the courses identified pursuant to paragraph (b).~~

100        ~~(3) DEVELOPMENT OF TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS. A system~~  
101 ~~developed by the Department of Education in collaboration with~~  
102 ~~postsecondary educational institutions shall assist departments~~  
103 ~~and colleges of education in the restructuring of their programs~~  
104 ~~in accordance with this section to meet the need for producing~~  
105 ~~quality teachers now and in the future.~~

106        ~~(a) The system must be designed to assist teacher~~  
107 ~~educators in conceptualizing, developing, implementing, and~~  
108 ~~evaluating programs that meet state-adopted standards. These~~  
109 ~~standards shall emphasize quality indicators drawn from~~  
110 ~~research, professional literature, recognized guidelines,~~  
111 ~~Florida essential teaching competencies and educator-~~  
112 ~~accomplished practices, effective classroom practices, and the~~

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113 ~~outcomes of the state system of school improvement and education~~  
114 ~~accountability, as well as performance measures.~~

115 ~~(b) Departments and colleges of education shall emphasize~~  
116 ~~the state system of school improvement and education~~  
117 ~~accountability concepts and standards, including Sunshine State~~  
118 ~~Standards.~~

119 ~~(c) State-approved teacher preparation programs must~~  
120 ~~incorporate:~~

121 ~~1. Appropriate English for Speakers of Other Languages~~  
122 ~~instruction so that program graduates will have completed the~~  
123 ~~requirements for teaching limited English proficient students in~~  
124 ~~Florida public schools.~~

125 ~~2. Scientifically researched, knowledge-based reading~~  
126 ~~literacy and computational skills instruction so that program~~  
127 ~~graduates will be able to provide the necessary academic~~  
128 ~~foundations for their students at whatever grade levels they~~  
129 ~~choose to teach.~~

130 ~~(3)-(4) INITIAL STATE PROGRAM APPROVAL.—~~

131 (a) A program approval process based on standards adopted  
132 pursuant to this subsection and subsection ~~subsections~~ (2) and  
133 ~~(3)~~ must be established for postsecondary teacher preparation  
134 programs, ~~phased in according to timelines determined by the~~  
135 ~~Department of Education, and fully implemented for all teacher~~  
136 ~~preparation programs in the state.~~ Each program shall be  
137 approved by the department, consistent with the intent set forth  
138 in subsection (1) and based primarily upon evidence of the  
139 institution's and the program's capacity to meet the  
140 requirements for continued approval established in subsection

141 (4) and rules of the State Board of Education ~~significant,~~  
142 ~~objective, and quantifiable graduate performance measures.~~

143 (b) Each teacher preparation program approved by the  
144 Department of Education, as provided for by this section, shall  
145 require students to meet, at a minimum, the following as  
146 prerequisites for admission into the program:

147 1. Have a grade point average of at least 2.5 on a 4.0  
148 scale for the general education component of undergraduate  
149 studies or have completed the requirements for a baccalaureate  
150 degree with a minimum grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale  
151 from any college or university accredited by a regional  
152 accrediting association as defined by State Board of Education  
153 rule or any college or university otherwise approved pursuant to  
154 State Board of Education rule.

155 2. Demonstrate mastery of general knowledge sufficient for  
156 entry into the program, including the ability to read, write,  
157 and perform mathematics ~~compute,~~ by passing the General  
158 Knowledge Test of the Florida Teacher Certification Examination  
159 or, for graduate-level programs, by obtaining a baccalaureate  
160 degree from an institution that is accredited or approved, ~~the~~  
161 ~~College Level Academic Skills Test, a corresponding component of~~  
162 ~~the National Teachers Examination series, or a similar test~~  
163 pursuant to rules of the State Board of Education.

164  
165 Each teacher preparation program may waive these admissions  
166 requirements for up to 10 percent of the students admitted.  
167 Programs shall implement strategies to ensure that students  
168 admitted under a waiver receive assistance to demonstrate

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169 competencies to successfully meet requirements for certification  
170 and shall annually report to the department the status of each  
171 candidate admitted under such a waiver.

172 (c) Each teacher preparation program approved by the  
173 Department of Education, as provided for by this section, shall  
174 provide a certification ombudsman to facilitate the process and  
175 procedures required for graduates to obtain educator  
176 professional or temporary certification pursuant to s. 1012.56.

177 (4) ~~(5)~~ CONTINUED PROGRAM APPROVAL. Continued approval of a  
178 teacher preparation program shall be based upon evidence that  
179 the program continues to implement the requirements for initial  
180 approval and upon significant, objective, and quantifiable  
181 measures of program and program completer performance.

182 (a) The criteria for continued approval shall include the  
183 following:

184 1. Documentation from the program that each program  
185 candidate met the admission requirements provided in subsection  
186 (3).

187 2. Documentation from the program that the program and  
188 each program completer met the requirements provided in  
189 subsection (2).

190 3. Evidence of performance in each of the following  
191 categories of data:

192 a. Placement rate of program completers into instructional  
193 positions in Florida public schools.

194 b. Rate of retention for employed program completers in  
195 instructional positions in Florida public schools.

196 c. Performance of the prekindergarten through grade 12

197 students assigned to in-field program completers on statewide  
198 assessments using the results of the student learning growth  
199 formula adopted under s. 1012.34.

200 d. Performance of prekindergarten through grade 12  
201 students assigned to in-field program completers aggregated by  
202 federal reporting subgroup as a measure of how well the program  
203 prepares teachers to work with a diverse population of students  
204 in a variety of settings in Florida public schools.

205 e. Results of program completers' annual evaluations as  
206 determined by s. 1012.34.

207 f. Production of program completers in statewide critical  
208 teacher shortage areas as identified under s. 1012.07.

209 ~~Notwithstanding subsection (4), failure by a public or nonpublic~~  
210 ~~teacher preparation program to meet the criteria for continued~~  
211 ~~program approval shall result in loss of program approval. The~~  
212 ~~Department of Education, in collaboration with the departments~~  
213 ~~and colleges of education, shall develop procedures for~~  
214 ~~continued program approval that document the continuous~~  
215 ~~improvement of program processes and graduates' performance.~~

216 ~~(a) Continued approval of specific teacher preparation~~  
217 ~~programs at each public and nonpublic postsecondary educational~~  
218 ~~institution within the state is contingent upon the passing of~~  
219 ~~the written examination required by s. 1012.56 by at least 90~~  
220 ~~percent of the graduates of the program who take the~~  
221 ~~examination. The Department of Education shall annually provide~~  
222 ~~an analysis of the performance of the graduates of such~~  
223 ~~institution with respect to the competencies assessed by the~~  
224 ~~examination required by s. 1012.56.~~



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225           (b) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules for  
226 continued approval of teacher preparation programs that include  
227 the program review process, the continued approval timelines,  
228 and the performance level targets for each of the continued  
229 approval criteria in paragraph (a). Additional criteria for  
230 continued program approval ~~for public institutions~~ may be  
231 approved by the State Board of Education. Such criteria may  
232 include ~~must emphasize instruction in classroom management and~~  
233 ~~must provide for the evaluation of the teacher candidates'~~  
234 ~~performance in this area. The criteria shall also require~~  
235 ~~instruction in working with underachieving students. Program~~  
236 ~~evaluation procedures must include, but are not limited to,~~  
237 program completers' ~~graduates'~~ satisfaction with instruction and  
238 employers' satisfaction with the program's responsiveness to  
239 local school districts. The Commissioner of Education shall make  
240 the determination for the continued approval of each program  
241 based on the data collected pursuant to this section and rules  
242 of the State Board of Education. ~~Additional criteria for~~  
243 ~~continued program approval for nonpublic institutions shall be~~  
244 ~~developed in the same manner as for public institutions;~~  
245 ~~however, such criteria must be based upon significant,~~  
246 ~~objective, and quantifiable graduate performance measures.~~  
247 ~~Responsibility for collecting data on outcome measures through~~  
248 ~~survey instruments and other appropriate means shall be shared~~  
249 ~~by the postsecondary educational institutions and the Department~~  
250 ~~of Education. By January 1 of each year, the Department of~~  
251 ~~Education shall report this information for each postsecondary~~  
252 ~~educational institution that has state-approved programs of~~

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253 ~~teacher education to the Governor, the State Board of Education,~~  
254 ~~the Board of Governors, the Commissioner of Education, the~~  
255 ~~President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of~~  
256 ~~Representatives, all Florida postsecondary teacher preparation~~  
257 ~~programs, and interested members of the public. This report must~~  
258 ~~analyze the data and make recommendations for improving teacher~~  
259 ~~preparation programs in the state.~~

260       (c) Each program must prepare and submit to the department  
261 ~~Continued approval for a teacher preparation program is~~  
262 ~~contingent upon the results of periodic reviews, on a schedule~~  
263 ~~established by the State Board of Education, of the program~~  
264 ~~conducted by the postsecondary educational institution, using~~  
265 ~~procedures and criteria outlined in an institutional program~~  
266 ~~evaluation plan approved by the Department of Education. Each~~  
267 institutional program evaluation ~~This plan must incorporate data~~  
268 related to the criteria established in paragraphs (a) and (b)  
269 and may include additional data chosen by the program. The plan  
270 must provide information on how the institution addresses  
271 continuous program improvement and include provisions for  
272 involving primary stakeholders, such as program completers  
273 ~~graduates, public district~~ school personnel, classroom teachers,  
274 principals, community agencies, and business representatives in  
275 the evaluation process. ~~Upon request by an institution, the~~  
276 ~~department shall provide assistance in developing, enhancing, or~~  
277 ~~reviewing the institutional program evaluation plan and training~~  
278 ~~evaluation team members.~~

279       (d) ~~Continued approval for a teacher preparation program~~  
280 ~~is contingent upon standards being in place that are designed to~~

281 ~~adequately prepare elementary, middle, and high school teachers~~  
282 ~~to instruct their students in reading and higher-level~~  
283 ~~mathematics concepts and in the use of technology at the~~  
284 ~~appropriate grade level.~~

285 (d)(e) ~~Continued approval of teacher preparation programs~~  
286 ~~is contingent upon compliance with the student admission~~  
287 ~~requirements of subsection (4) and upon the receipt of at least~~  
288 ~~a satisfactory rating from public schools and private schools~~  
289 ~~that employ graduates of the program. Each teacher preparation~~  
290 ~~program shall guarantee the high quality of its program~~  
291 ~~completers graduates during the first 2 years immediately after~~  
292 ~~completion of following graduation from the program or after~~  
293 ~~following initial certification, whichever occurs first. Any~~  
294 ~~program completer who is employed in a public school during this~~  
295 ~~2-year period and who earns an evaluation result of developing~~  
296 ~~or unsatisfactory on the district's evaluation system~~  
297 ~~implemented under s. 1012.34 educator in a Florida school who~~  
298 ~~fails to demonstrate the essential skills specified in~~  
299 ~~subparagraphs 1.-5. shall be provided additional training by the~~  
300 ~~teacher preparation program at no expense to the educator or the~~  
301 ~~employer, if requested by the employing school district or~~  
302 ~~charter school. Such training must consist of an individualized~~  
303 ~~plan agreed upon by the school district and the postsecondary~~  
304 ~~educational institution that includes specific learning~~  
305 ~~outcomes. The postsecondary educational institution assumes no~~  
306 ~~responsibility for the educator's employment contract with the~~  
307 ~~employer. ~~Employer satisfaction shall be determined by an~~~~  
308 ~~annually administered survey instrument approved by the~~

309 Department of Education that, at a minimum, must include  
310 employer satisfaction of the graduates' ability to do the  
311 following:

312 1. Write and speak in a logical and understandable style  
313 with appropriate grammar.

314 2. Recognize signs of students' difficulty with the  
315 reading and computational process and apply appropriate measures  
316 to improve students' reading and computational performance.

317 3. Use and integrate appropriate technology in teaching  
318 and learning processes.

319 4. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of Sunshine  
320 State Standards.

321 5. Maintain an orderly and disciplined classroom conducive  
322 to student learning.

323 (e)-(f)1. Each Florida public and private institution that  
324 offers a state-approved teacher preparation program must  
325 annually report information regarding its approved these  
326 programs to the state and the general public. The report to the  
327 state must include candidates who are admitted to, enrolled in,  
328 and complete a teacher preparation program; additional evidence  
329 necessary to document requirements for continued approval; and  
330 data necessary to complete applicable federal reporting  
331 requirements. State reporting requirements must minimize a  
332 program's reporting burden whenever possible without  
333 compromising data quality. The report to the general public must  
334 include, at a minimum, the annual progress data reported under  
335 paragraph (f) and may include other information chosen by the  
336 institution or program. This information shall be reported in a

337 ~~uniform and comprehensible manner that is consistent with~~  
338 ~~definitions and methods approved by the Commissioner of the~~  
339 ~~National Center for Educational Statistics and that is approved~~  
340 ~~by the State Board of Education. This information must include,~~  
341 ~~at a minimum:~~

342 ~~a. The percent of graduates obtaining full-time teaching~~  
343 ~~employment within the first year of graduation.~~

344 ~~b. The average length of stay of graduates in their full-~~  
345 ~~time teaching positions.~~

346 ~~e. Satisfaction ratings required in paragraph (e).~~

347 ~~2. Each public and private institution offering training~~  
348 ~~for school readiness related professions, including training in~~  
349 ~~the fields of child care and early childhood education, whether~~  
350 ~~offering career credit, associate in applied science degree~~  
351 ~~programs, associate in science degree programs, or associate in~~  
352 ~~arts degree programs, shall annually report information~~  
353 ~~regarding these programs to the state and the general public in~~  
354 ~~a uniform and comprehensible manner that conforms with~~  
355 ~~definitions and methods approved by the State Board of~~  
356 ~~Education. This information must include, at a minimum:~~

357 ~~a. Average length of stay of graduates in their positions.~~

358 ~~b. Satisfaction ratings of graduates' employers.~~

359  
360 ~~This information shall be reported through publications,~~  
361 ~~including college and university catalogs and promotional~~  
362 ~~materials sent to potential applicants, secondary school~~  
363 ~~guidance counselors, and prospective employers of the~~  
364 ~~institution's program graduates.~~

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365        (f) By January 1 of each year, the Department of Education  
366 shall report to the Governor, the State Board of Education, the  
367 Board of Governors, the Commissioner of Education, the President  
368 of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, all  
369 Florida postsecondary teacher preparation programs, district  
370 school superintendents, and the public the results of each  
371 approved program's annual progress on the performance measures  
372 in paragraph (a) and the current approval status of each  
373 program. This report may include results of other continued  
374 approval requirements provided in State Board of Education rules  
375 and recommendations for improving teacher preparation programs  
376 in the state.

377        (5)~~(6)~~ PRESERVICE FIELD EXPERIENCE.—All postsecondary  
378 instructors, school district personnel and instructional  
379 personnel, and school sites preparing instructional personnel  
380 through preservice field experience courses and internships  
381 shall meet special requirements. District school boards are  
382 authorized to pay student teachers during their internships.

383        (a) All instructors in postsecondary teacher preparation  
384 programs who instruct or supervise preservice field experience  
385 courses or internships in which a candidate demonstrates his or  
386 her impact on student learning growth shall have ~~at least one of~~  
387 the following: specialized training in clinical supervision; a  
388 valid professional teaching certificate pursuant to ss. 1012.56  
389 and 1012.585; and ~~or~~ at least 3 years of successful teaching  
390 experience in prekindergarten through grade 12.

391        (b) All school district personnel and instructional  
392 personnel who supervise or direct teacher preparation students

393 during field experience courses or internships in which a  
 394 candidate demonstrates his or her impact on student learning  
 395 growth must:

396 1. Have evidence of "clinical educator" training approved  
 397 by the State Board of Education.

398 2. Hold a valid professional certificate issued pursuant  
 399 to s. 1012.56.

400 3. Have at least 3 years of prekindergarten through grade  
 401 12 teaching experience.

402 4. Have earned either an effective or highly effective  
 403 rating on the previous year's evaluation under s. 1012.34 or be  
 404 a peer evaluator under the district's evaluation system approved  
 405 under s. 1012.34 and must successfully demonstrate effective  
 406 classroom management strategies that consistently result in  
 407 improved student performance. The State Board of Education shall  
 408 approve the training requirements.

409 (c) Preservice field experiences must include candidate  
 410 practice experience programs must provide specific guidance and  
 411 demonstration of the uniform core curriculum specific to the  
 412 area of program concentration with a diverse population of  
 413 students in a variety of settings effective classroom management  
 414 strategies, strategies for incorporating technology into  
 415 classroom instruction, strategies for incorporating  
 416 scientifically researched, knowledge-based reading literacy and  
 417 computational skills acquisition into classroom instruction, and  
 418 ways to link instructional plans to the Sunshine State  
 419 Standards, as appropriate. The length of structured field  
 420 experiences may be extended to ensure that candidates achieve

421 the competencies needed to meet certification requirements.

422 (d) Postsecondary teacher preparation programs in  
423 cooperation with district school boards and approved private  
424 school associations shall select the school sites for preservice  
425 field experience activities based upon the qualifications of  
426 supervising faculty as described in this subsection and the  
427 needs of the candidates. These sites must represent the full  
428 spectrum of school communities, including, but not limited to,  
429 schools located in urban settings. In order to be selected,  
430 school sites must demonstrate commitment to the education of  
431 public school students and to the preparation of future  
432 teachers.

433 ~~(7) STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE. The State Board of Education~~  
434 ~~shall approve standards of excellence for teacher preparation.~~  
435 ~~These standards must exceed the requirements for program~~  
436 ~~approval pursuant to subsection (4) and must incorporate state~~  
437 ~~and national recommendations for exemplary teacher preparation~~  
438 ~~programs.~~

439 ~~(8) NATIONAL BOARD STANDARDS. The State Board of Education~~  
440 ~~shall review standards and recommendations developed by the~~  
441 ~~National Board for Professional Teaching Standards and may~~  
442 ~~incorporate those parts deemed appropriate into criteria for~~  
443 ~~continued state program approval, standards of excellence, and~~  
444 ~~requirements for inservice education.~~

445 ~~(9) FLORIDA COLLEGE SYSTEM INSTITUTIONS. To the extent~~  
446 ~~practical, postsecondary educational institutions offering~~  
447 ~~teacher preparation programs shall establish articulation~~  
448 ~~agreements on a core of liberal arts courses and introductory~~



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449 professional courses with field experience components which  
450 shall be offered at Florida College System institutions.

451 ~~(10) SHORT TERM EXPERIENCES AS TEACHER ASSISTANTS.~~

452 Postsecondary institutions offering teacher preparation programs  
453 and Florida College System institutions, in collaboration with  
454 school districts, may develop and implement a program to provide  
455 short-term experiences as teacher assistants prior to beginning  
456 a teacher preparation program or alternative certification  
457 program. The program shall serve individuals with baccalaureate  
458 degrees who are interested in the teaching profession. This  
459 experience may be accepted for use in teacher preparation  
460 programs and competency-based alternative certification  
461 programs, where applicable.

462 ~~(6) (11)~~ RULES.—The State Board of Education shall adopt  
463 necessary rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to  
464 implement this section.

465 Section 2. Section 1004.85, Florida Statutes, is amended  
466 to read:

467 1004.85 Postsecondary educator preparation institutes.—

468 (1) As used in this section, "educator preparation  
469 institute" means an institute created by a postsecondary  
470 institution or qualified private provider and approved by the  
471 Department of Education.

472 (2) (a) Postsecondary institutions that are accredited or  
473 approved as described in state board rule may seek approval from  
474 the Department of Education to create educator preparation  
475 institutes for the purpose of providing any or all of the  
476 following:

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477        ~~1.(a)~~ Professional development instruction to assist  
478 teachers in improving classroom instruction and in meeting  
479 certification or recertification requirements.

480        ~~2.(b)~~ Instruction to assist potential and existing  
481 substitute teachers in performing their duties.

482        ~~3.(e)~~ Instruction to assist paraprofessionals in meeting  
483 education and training requirements.

484        ~~4.(d)~~ Instruction for baccalaureate degree holders to  
485 become certified teachers as provided in this section in order  
486 to increase routes to the classroom for mid-career professionals  
487 who hold a baccalaureate degree and college graduates who were  
488 not education majors.

489        (b) Private providers that have a proven history of  
490 delivering high-quality teacher preparation, which is based upon  
491 evidence provided from recipients of their services and data  
492 showing the successful performance of their completers based  
493 upon student achievement, may seek approval to offer a  
494 competency-based certification program under subsection (3).

495        (3) Educator preparation institutes approved pursuant to  
496 this section may offer competency-based alternative  
497 certification programs specifically designed for noneducation  
498 major baccalaureate degree holders to enable program  
499 participants to meet the educator certification requirements of  
500 s. 1012.56. ~~Such programs shall be competency-based educator~~  
501 ~~certification preparation programs that prepare educators~~  
502 ~~through an alternative route.~~ An educator preparation institute  
503 choosing to offer a competency-based an alternative  
504 certification program pursuant to the provisions of this section

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505 must implement a program previously approved by the Department  
506 of Education for this purpose or a program developed by the  
507 institute and approved by the department for this purpose.  
508 Approved programs shall be available for use by other approved  
509 educator preparation institutes.

510 (a) Within 90 days after receipt of a request for  
511 approval, the Department of Education shall approve an educator  
512 preparation ~~an alternative certification~~ program pursuant to the  
513 requirements of this subsection or issue a statement of the  
514 deficiencies in the request for approval. The department shall  
515 approve a ~~an alternative~~ certification program if the institute  
516 provides ~~sufficient~~ evidence of the institute's capacity to  
517 implement a competency-based program that includes the  
518 following:

519 1. Participant instruction and assessment in the Florida  
520 Educator Accomplished Practices, the state-adopted student  
521 content standards, scientifically researched reading  
522 instruction, content literacy and mathematical practices,  
523 strategies appropriate for instruction of English language  
524 learners, and strategies appropriate for instruction of students  
525 with disabilities.

526 2. An educational plan for each participant to meet  
527 certification requirements and demonstrate his or her ability to  
528 teach the subject area for which the participant is seeking  
529 certification, which plan is based on an assessment of his or  
530 her competency in the areas listed in subparagraph 1.

531 ~~1. Instruction must be provided in professional knowledge~~  
532 ~~and subject matter content that includes educator accomplished~~

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533 ~~practices and competencies specified in State Board of Education~~  
534 ~~rule and meets subject matter content requirements, professional~~  
535 ~~competency testing requirements, and competencies associated~~  
536 ~~with teaching scientifically based reading instruction and~~  
537 ~~strategies that research has shown to be successful in improving~~  
538 ~~reading among low-performing readers.~~

539 3.2. Field experiences appropriate to the certification  
540 subject specified in the educational plan with a diverse  
541 population of students in a variety of settings under The  
542 ~~program must provide field experience with supervision from~~  
543 ~~qualified educators.~~

544 ~~4.3. The program must provide~~ A certification ombudsman to  
545 facilitate the process and procedures required for participants  
546 who complete the program to meet any requirements related to the  
547 background screening pursuant to s. 1012.32 and educator  
548 professional or temporary certification pursuant to s. 1012.56.

549 (b) Each program participant must:

550 1. Meet certification requirements pursuant to s.  
551 1012.56(1) by obtaining a statement of status of eligibility in  
552 the certification area of the educational plan and meet the  
553 requirements of s. 1012.56(2) (a) - (f).

554 2. Participate in course work field experiences that are  
555 ~~experience that is~~ appropriate to his or her educational plan  
556 prepared under paragraph (a).

557 3. Before completion of the program, fully demonstrate his  
558 or her ability to teach the subject area for which he or she is  
559 seeking certification by documenting a positive impact on  
560 student learning growth in a prekindergarten through grade 12

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561 setting and by achieving demonstrate mastery of professional  
562 preparation and education competence by achievement of a passing  
563 score on the professional education competency examination, the  
564 basic skills examination, and the subject area examination for  
565 the area of certification required by state board rule ~~prior to~~  
566 ~~completion of the program.~~

567 (c) Upon completion of all requirements for a an  
568 ~~alternative~~ certification program approved pursuant to this  
569 subsection, a participant shall receive a credential from the  
570 sponsoring institution signifying that the participant has  
571 completed a state-approved competency-based certification  
572 program in the certification subject area specified in the  
573 educational plan ~~satisfaction of the requirements of s.~~  
574 ~~1012.56(6) relating to mastery of professional preparation and~~  
575 ~~education competence.~~ A participant shall be eligible for  
576 educator certification through the Department of Education upon  
577 satisfaction of all requirements for certification set forth in  
578 s. 1012.56(2), ~~including demonstration of mastery of general~~  
579 ~~knowledge, subject area knowledge, and professional preparation~~  
580 ~~and education competence, through testing or other statutorily~~  
581 ~~authorized means.~~

582 ~~(d) If an institution offers an alternative certification~~  
583 ~~program approved pursuant to this subsection, such program may~~  
584 ~~be used by the school district or districts served by that~~  
585 ~~institution in addition to the alternative certification program~~  
586 ~~as required in s. 1012.56(8).~~

587 (4) Continued approval of each program approved pursuant  
588 to this section shall be determined by the Commissioner of

589 | Education based upon a periodic review of the following:  
590 |       (a) Documentation from the program that each program  
591 | completer has met the requirements of subsection (3).  
592 |       (b) Evidence of performance in each of the following  
593 | categories of data:  
594 |       1. Placement rate of program completers into instructional  
595 | positions in Florida public schools.  
596 |       2. Rate of retention for employed program completers in  
597 | instructional positions in Florida public schools.  
598 |       3. Performance of the prekindergarten through grade 12  
599 | students assigned to in-field program completers on statewide  
600 | assessments using the results of the student learning growth  
601 | formula adopted under s. 1012.34.  
602 |       4. Performance of prekindergarten through grade 12  
603 | students assigned to in-field program completers aggregated by  
604 | federal reporting subgroup as a measure of how well the program  
605 | prepares teachers to work with a variety of students in Florida  
606 | public schools.  
607 |       5. Overall teacher evaluation results of program  
608 | completers.  
609 |       6. Production of program completers in statewide critical  
610 | teacher shortage areas as identified under s. 1012.07.  
611 |       (5)-(4) Each institute approved pursuant to this section  
612 | shall submit to the Department of Education annual performance  
613 | evaluations that measure the effectiveness of the programs,  
614 | including the pass rates of participants on all examinations  
615 | required for teacher certification, employment rates,  
616 | longitudinal retention rates, and employer satisfaction surveys.

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617 The employer satisfaction surveys must be designed to measure  
618 the sufficient preparation of the educator to enter the  
619 classroom. These evaluations shall be used by the Department of  
620 Education for purposes of continued approval of an educator  
621 preparation institute's ~~alternative~~ certification program.

622 (6)~~(5)~~ Instructors and supervisors of field experiences in  
623 which a participant demonstrates his or her impact on student  
624 learning for a ~~an alternative~~ certification program approved  
625 pursuant to this section must meet the same qualifications as  
626 those required in s. 1004.04(5) ~~possess a master's degree in~~  
627 ~~education or a master's degree in an appropriate related field~~  
628 ~~and document teaching experience.~~

629 (7)~~(6)~~ Educator preparation institutes approved pursuant  
630 to this section and providing approved instructional programs  
631 for any of the purposes in subsection (2) are eligible for  
632 funding from federal and state funds, as appropriated by the  
633 Legislature.

634 (8)~~(7)~~ The State Board of Education may adopt rules  
635 pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement the  
636 provisions of this section, including performance targets for  
637 the measures used for continued program approval described in  
638 subsection (4).

639 Section 3. Paragraph (d) of subsection (2) of section  
640 1012.32, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

641 1012.32 Qualifications of personnel.—

642 (2)

643 (d) Student teachers and~~7~~ persons participating in a field  
644 experience pursuant to s. 1004.04(5) ~~1004.04(6)~~ or s. 1004.85~~7~~

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645 ~~and persons participating in a short-term experience as a~~  
646 ~~teacher assistant pursuant to s. 1004.04(10) in any district~~  
647 ~~school system, lab school, or charter school~~ must, upon  
648 engagement to provide services, undergo background screening as  
649 required under s. 1012.56.

650  
651 Fingerprints shall be submitted to the Department of Law  
652 Enforcement for statewide criminal and juvenile records checks  
653 and to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for federal criminal  
654 records checks. A person subject to this subsection who is found  
655 ineligible for employment under s. 1012.315, or otherwise found  
656 through background screening to have been convicted of any crime  
657 involving moral turpitude as defined by rule of the State Board  
658 of Education, shall not be employed, engaged to provide  
659 services, or serve in any position that requires direct contact  
660 with students. Probationary persons subject to this subsection  
661 terminated because of their criminal record have the right to  
662 appeal such decisions. The cost of the background screening may  
663 be borne by the district school board, the charter school, the  
664 employee, the contractor, or a person subject to this  
665 subsection.

666 Section 4. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2), paragraphs (g)  
667 and (h) of subsection (6), subsection (8), and paragraph (d) of  
668 subsection (9) of section 1012.56, Florida Statutes, are amended  
669 to read:

670 1012.56 Educator certification requirements.—

671 (2) ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA.—To be eligible to seek  
672 certification, a person must:



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673 (c) Document receipt of a bachelor's or higher degree from  
674 an accredited institution of higher learning, or a nonaccredited  
675 institution of higher learning that the Department of Education  
676 has identified as having a quality program resulting in a  
677 bachelor's degree, or higher. Each applicant seeking initial  
678 certification must have attained at least a 2.5 overall grade  
679 point average on a 4.0 scale in the applicant's major field of  
680 study. The applicant may document the required education by  
681 submitting official transcripts from institutions of higher  
682 education or by authorizing the direct submission of such  
683 official transcripts through established electronic network  
684 systems. The bachelor's or higher degree may not be required in  
685 areas approved in rule by the State Board of Education as  
686 nondegreed areas. The State Board of Education may adopt rules  
687 that allow for the acceptance of college course credits  
688 recommended by the American Council on Education (ACE), as  
689 posted on an official ACE transcript, for the purpose of  
690 demonstrating completion of specific certification requirements.

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

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

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

701 Education.

702 (8) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ~~PREPARATION ALTERNATIVE~~  
 703 CERTIFICATION AND EDUCATION COMPETENCY PROGRAM.—

704 (a) The Department of Education shall develop and each  
 705 school district may ~~must~~ provide a cohesive competency-based  
 706 professional development ~~preparation alternative~~ certification  
 707 program by which members of a school district's instructional  
 708 staff may satisfy the mastery of professional preparation and  
 709 education competence requirements specified in this subsection  
 710 and rules of the State Board of Education. Participants must  
 711 hold a state-issued temporary certificate. A school district  
 712 that implements the program shall provide a competency-based  
 713 ~~alternative~~ certification ~~preparation~~ program developed by the  
 714 Department of Education or developed by the district and  
 715 approved by the Department of Education. The program shall  
 716 include the following components:

717 1. A minimum period of initial preparation before ~~prior to~~  
 718 assuming duties as the teacher of record.

719 2. An option for collaboration between school districts  
 720 and other supporting agencies or educational entities for  
 721 implementation.

722 3. Experienced peer mentors. Each individual selected by  
 723 the school district as a peer mentor must hold a valid  
 724 professional certificate issued pursuant to s. 1012.56, have at  
 725 least 3 years of prekindergarten through grade 12 teaching  
 726 experience, and have earned either an effective or highly  
 727 effective rating on the previous year's evaluation under s.  
 728 1012.34 or be a peer evaluator under the district's evaluation

729 system approved under s. 1012.34.

730 4. An assessment of teaching performance aligned to the  
731 school district's system for personnel evaluation under s.  
732 1012.34 that provides for:

733 a. An initial evaluation of each educator's competencies  
734 to determine an appropriate individualized professional  
735 development plan.

736 b. A summative evaluation ~~postevaluation~~ to ensure ~~assure~~  
737 successful completion of the program.

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

740 a. The state-adopted student content standards, including  
741 content literacy and mathematical practices, for any subject  
742 area shown on the temporary certificate. ~~Requirements specified~~  
743 ~~in state board rule for professional preparation.~~

744 b. The educator-accomplished practices approved by the  
745 state board.

746 c. A variety of data indicators for monitoring student  
747 progress.

748 d. Methodologies, ~~including technology-based~~  
749 ~~methodologies,~~ for teaching students with disabilities ~~subject~~  
750 ~~content that supports the Sunshine State Standards for students.~~

751 e. Methodologies for teaching English language learners  
752 appropriate for any subject area shown on the temporary  
753 certificate. ~~Techniques for effective classroom management.~~

754 f. ~~Techniques and strategies for operationalizing the role~~  
755 ~~of the teacher in assuring a safe learning environment for~~  
756 ~~students.~~

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757 ~~g. Methodologies for assuring the ability of all students~~  
758 ~~to read, write, and compute.~~

759 6. Required achievement of passing scores on the subject  
760 area and professional education competency examination required  
761 by state board rule. Mastery of general knowledge must be  
762 demonstrated as described in subsection (3).

763 (b) Each school district must and a state supported public  
764 school or a private school may develop and maintain a system by  
765 which members of the instructional staff may demonstrate mastery  
766 of professional education competence as required by law. Each  
767 program must be based on classroom application of the Florida  
768 Educator Accomplished Practices and instructional performance  
769 and, for public schools, must be aligned with the district's  
770 evaluation system approved under s. 1012.34 ~~must include a~~  
771 ~~performance evaluation plan for documenting the demonstration of~~  
772 ~~required professional education competence.~~

773 (c) Continued approval of a program implemented under this  
774 subsection shall be determined by the Commissioner of Education  
775 after a periodic review of performance data from the program.

776 1. A program implemented under paragraph (a) shall be  
777 based upon documentation from the program that the requirements  
778 of paragraph (a) are consistently met and upon evidence of  
779 performance in each of the following categories of data:

780 a. Rate of retention for employed program completers in  
781 instructional positions in Florida public schools.

782 b. Performance of the prekindergarten through grade 12  
783 students assigned to in-field program completers on statewide  
784 assessments using the results of the student learning growth

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785 formula adopted under s. 1012.34.

786 c. Performance of prekindergarten through grade 12  
787 students assigned to in-field program completers aggregated by  
788 federal reporting subgroup as a measure of how well the program  
789 prepares teachers to work with a variety of students in Florida  
790 public schools.

791 d. Overall teacher evaluation results of program  
792 completers.

793 e. Production of program completers in statewide critical  
794 teacher shortage areas as identified under s. 1012.07.

795 2. A program implemented under paragraph (b) shall be  
796 based upon a review by the department conducted as part of the  
797 periodic review of the entity's professional development system  
798 conducted under s. 1012.98.

799 (9) EXAMINATIONS.—

800 (d) The department shall provide procedures for an  
801 applicant who fails an examination developed by the department  
802 or a contracted vendor to review the examination questions and  
803 the responses for questions the applicant answered incorrectly.  
804 An applicant shall bear the actual cost for the department to  
805 provide examination review under this paragraph. Notwithstanding  
806 any other provision of law, only an applicant who fails an  
807 examination within a score range established by rule of the  
808 State Board of Education is entitled to an examination review  
809 under this paragraph or to challenge the validity of the  
810 examination. If an applicant takes an examination developed by  
811 this state and does not achieve the score necessary for  
812 certification, the applicant may review his or her completed

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813 ~~examination and bring to the attention of the department any~~  
814 ~~errors that would result in a passing score.~~

815 Section 5. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section  
816 1012.585, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

817 1012.585 Process for renewal of professional  
818 certificates.—

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

821 (a) The applicant must earn a minimum of 6 college credits  
822 or 120 inservice points or a combination thereof. For each area  
823 of specialization to be retained on a certificate, the applicant  
824 must earn at least 3 of the required credit hours or equivalent  
825 inservice points in the specialization area. Education in  
826 "clinical educator" training pursuant to s. 1004.04(5)(b)  
827 ~~1004.04(6)(b)~~ and credits or points that provide training in the  
828 area of scientifically researched, knowledge-based reading  
829 literacy and computational skills acquisition, exceptional  
830 student education, normal child development, and the disorders  
831 of development may be applied toward any specialization area.  
832 Credits or points that provide training in the areas of drug  
833 abuse, child abuse and neglect, strategies in teaching students  
834 having limited proficiency in English, or dropout prevention, or  
835 training in areas identified in the educational goals and  
836 performance standards adopted pursuant to ss. 1000.03(5) and  
837 1008.345 may be applied toward any specialization area. Credits  
838 or points earned through approved summer institutes may be  
839 applied toward the fulfillment of these requirements. Inservice  
840 points may also be earned by participation in professional

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841 growth components approved by the State Board of Education and  
842 specified pursuant to s. 1012.98 in the district's approved  
843 master plan for inservice educational training, including, but  
844 not limited to, serving as a trainer in an approved teacher  
845 training activity, serving on an instructional materials  
846 committee or a state board or commission that deals with  
847 educational issues, or serving on an advisory council created  
848 pursuant to s. 1001.452.

849 Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013.