

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to teacher certification; amending s.
3 1012.56, F.S.; requiring the Department of Education
4 to issue a temporary educator certificate within a
5 specified period; requiring the department to provide
6 electronic notice of the issuance of a temporary
7 certificate to specified entities; requiring the
8 department to provide the applicant an official
9 statement of status of eligibility upon issuance of a
10 temporary certificate; providing content requirements
11 for the statement of status of eligibility; revising
12 the criteria instructional personnel must meet to be
13 issued a professional certificate; providing that an
14 applicant for professional certification is not
15 required to take or pass a specified examination under
16 certain circumstances; authorizing charter schools and
17 charter management organizations to develop a
18 professional development certification and education
19 competency program; revising program requirements;
20 requiring the department to adopt standards for the
21 approval of such programs by a specified date;
22 providing requirements for such standards; requiring
23 each school district and charter school to submit its
24 program for approval by a specified date; providing
25 that certification requirements may not be met in a

26 program that is not approved by the department after a
27 specified date; amending s. 1012.585, F.S.; revising
28 college credit and inservice hour requirements for
29 renewal of a professional certificate to include
30 participation in specified activities; amending s.
31 1012.98, F.S.; revising the activities designed to
32 implement the school community professional
33 development act to include specified training relating
34 to a professional development certification and
35 education competency program; revising requirements
36 for school district professional development systems;
37 requiring the department to disseminate professional
38 development programs that meet specified criteria;
39 providing an effective date.

40
41 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

42
43 Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subsection (8) of section
44 1012.56, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as paragraph (d),
45 subsection (1), paragraph (a) of subsection (7), and paragraph
46 (a) of subsection (8) are amended, and a new paragraph (c) is
47 added to subsection (8) of that section, to read:

48 1012.56 Educator certification requirements.—

49 (1) APPLICATION.—Each person seeking certification
50 pursuant to this chapter shall submit a completed application

51 containing the applicant's social security number to the
 52 Department of Education and remit the fee required pursuant to
 53 s. 1012.59 and rules of the State Board of Education. Pursuant
 54 to the federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity
 55 Reconciliation Act of 1996, each party is required to provide
 56 his or her social security number in accordance with this
 57 section. Disclosure of social security numbers obtained through
 58 this requirement is limited to the purpose of administration of
 59 the Title IV-D program of the Social Security Act for child
 60 support enforcement.

61 (a) Pursuant to s. 120.60, the department shall issue
 62 within 90 calendar days after the stamped receipted date of the
 63 completed application.

64 ~~(a) If the applicant meets the requirements,~~ a professional
 65 certificate to a qualifying applicant covering the
 66 classification, level, and area for which the applicant is
 67 deemed qualified and a document explaining the requirements for
 68 renewal of the professional certificate.

69 (b) The department shall issue a temporary certificate to
 70 a qualifying applicant within 14 calendar days after receipt of
 71 a request from ~~if the applicant meets the requirements and if~~
 72 ~~requested by~~ an employing school district or an employing
 73 private school with a professional education competence
 74 demonstration program pursuant to paragraphs (6) (f) and (8) (b).
 75 ~~The,~~ a temporary certificate must cover ~~covering~~ the

76 classification, level, and area for which the applicant is
 77 deemed qualified. The department shall electronically notify the
 78 applicant's employing school district or employing private
 79 school that the temporary certificate has been issued and
 80 provide the applicant an official statement of status of
 81 eligibility at the time the certificate is issued. ~~and an~~
 82 ~~official statement of status of eligibility; or~~

83 (c) Pursuant to s. 120.60, the department shall issue
 84 within 90 calendar days after the stamped receipted date of the
 85 completed application, if an applicant does not meet the
 86 requirements for either certificate, an official statement of
 87 status of eligibility.

88
 89 The statement of status of eligibility must be provided
 90 electronically and must advise the applicant of any
 91 qualifications that must be completed to qualify for
 92 certification. Each method by which an applicant can complete
 93 the qualifications for a professional certificate must be
 94 included in the statement of status of eligibility. Each
 95 statement of status of eligibility is valid for 3 years after
 96 its date of issuance, except as provided in paragraph (2) (d).

97 (7) TYPES AND TERMS OF CERTIFICATION.—

98 (a) The Department of Education shall issue a professional
 99 certificate for a period not to exceed 5 years to any applicant
 100 who fulfills one of the following:

101 1. Meets all the requirements outlined in subsection (2).

102 2. ~~or,~~ For a professional certificate covering grades 6

103 through 12, ~~any applicant who:~~

104 a.1. Meets the requirements of paragraphs (2) (a)-(h).

105 b.2. Holds a master's or higher degree in the area of

106 science, technology, engineering, or mathematics.

107 c.3. Teaches a high school course in the subject of the

108 advanced degree.

109 d.4. Is rated highly effective as determined by the

110 teacher's performance evaluation under s. 1012.34, based in part

111 on student performance as measured by a statewide, standardized

112 assessment or an Advanced Placement, Advanced International

113 Certificate of Education, or International Baccalaureate

114 examination.

115 e.5. Achieves a passing score on the Florida professional

116 education competency examination required by state board rule.

117 3. Meets the requirements of paragraphs (2) (a)-(h) and

118 completes a professional preparation and education competence

119 program approved by the department pursuant to paragraph (8) (c).

120 An applicant who completes the program and is rated highly

121 effective as determined by his or her performance evaluation

122 under s. 1012.34 is not required to take or achieve a passing

123 score on the professional education competency examination in

124 order to be awarded a professional certificate.

125

126 Each temporary certificate is valid for 3 school fiscal years
127 and is nonrenewable. However, the requirement in paragraph
128 (2) (g) must be met within 1 calendar year of the date of
129 employment under the temporary certificate. Individuals who are
130 employed under contract at the end of the 1 calendar year time
131 period may continue to be employed through the end of the school
132 year in which they have been contracted. A school district shall
133 not employ, or continue the employment of, an individual in a
134 position for which a temporary certificate is required beyond
135 this time period if the individual has not met the requirement
136 of paragraph (2) (g). The State Board of Education shall adopt
137 rules to allow the department to extend the validity period of a
138 temporary certificate for 2 years when the requirements for the
139 professional certificate, not including the requirement in
140 paragraph (2) (g), were not completed due to the serious illness
141 or injury of the applicant or other extraordinary extenuating
142 circumstances. The department shall reissue the temporary
143 certificate for 2 additional years upon approval by the
144 Commissioner of Education. A written request for reissuance of
145 the certificate shall be submitted by the district school
146 superintendent, the governing authority of a university lab
147 school, the governing authority of a state-supported school, or
148 the governing authority of a private school.

149 (8) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATION AND EDUCATION
150 COMPETENCY PROGRAM.—

151 (a) The Department of Education shall develop and each
 152 school district, charter school, and charter management
 153 organization may provide a cohesive competency-based
 154 professional development certification and education competency
 155 program by which ~~members of a school district's~~ instructional
 156 staff may satisfy the mastery of professional preparation and
 157 education competence requirements specified in subsection (6)
 158 and rules of the State Board of Education. Participants must
 159 hold a state-issued temporary certificate. A school district,
 160 charter school, or charter management organization that
 161 implements the program shall provide a competency-based
 162 certification program developed by the Department of Education
 163 or developed by the district, charter school, or charter
 164 management organization and approved by the Department of
 165 Education. The program shall include the following:

- 166 1. A minimum period of initial preparation before assuming
 167 duties as the teacher of record.
- 168 2. An option for collaboration with ~~between school~~
 169 ~~districts and~~ other supporting agencies or educational entities
 170 for implementation.
- 171 3. A teacher mentorship and induction ~~An experienced peer-~~
 172 ~~mentor~~ component.
 - 173 a. Each individual selected by the district as a ~~peer~~
 174 mentor:
 - 175 I. Must hold a valid professional certificate issued

176 pursuant to this section;~~;~~

177 II. Must have earned at least 3 years of teaching
178 experience in prekindergarten through grade 12;~~;~~and

179 III. Must have completed specialized training in clinical
180 supervision and participate in ongoing mentor training provided
181 through the coordinated system of professional development under
182 s. 1012.98(3)(e);

183 IV. Must have earned an effective or highly effective
184 rating on the prior year's performance evaluation under s.
185 1012.34; and

186 V. May ~~or~~ be a peer evaluator under the district's
187 evaluation system approved under s. 1012.34.

188 b. The teacher mentorship and induction component must, at
189 a minimum, provide weekly opportunities for mentoring and
190 induction activities, including common planning time, ongoing
191 professional development targeted to a teacher's needs,
192 opportunities for a teacher to observe other teachers, co-
193 teaching experiences, and reflection and followup discussions.
194 Mentorship and induction activities must be provided for an
195 applicant's first year in the program and may be provided until
196 the applicant attains his or her professional certificate in
197 accordance with this section. A principal who is rated highly
198 effective as determined by his or her performance evaluation
199 under s. 1012.34 must be provided flexibility in selecting
200 professional development activities under this paragraph;

201 however, the activities must be approved by the department as
202 part of the district's, charter school's, or charter management
203 organization's program.

204 4. An assessment of teaching performance aligned to the
205 district's system for personnel evaluation under s. 1012.34
206 which provides for:

207 a. An initial evaluation of each educator's competencies
208 to determine an appropriate individualized professional
209 development plan.

210 b. A summative evaluation to assure successful completion
211 of the program.

212 5. Professional education preparation content knowledge,
213 which must be included in the mentoring and induction activities
214 under subparagraph 3., that includes, but is not limited to, the
215 following:

216 a. The state standards provided under s. 1003.41,
217 including scientifically based reading instruction, content
218 literacy, and mathematical practices, for each subject
219 identified on the temporary certificate.

220 b. The educator-accomplished practices approved by the
221 state board.

222 c. A variety of data indicators for monitoring student
223 progress.

224 d. Methodologies for teaching students with disabilities.

225 e. Methodologies for teaching students of limited English

226 proficiency appropriate for each subject area identified on the
227 temporary certificate.

228 f. Techniques and strategies for operationalizing the role
229 of the teacher in assuring a safe learning environment for
230 students.

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

235 (c) No later than December 31, 2017, the department shall
236 adopt standards for the approval of professional development
237 certification and education competency programs, including
238 standards for the teacher mentorship and induction component,
239 under paragraph (a). Standards for the teacher mentorship and
240 induction component must include program administration and
241 evaluation; mentor roles, selection, and training; beginning
242 teacher assessment and professional development; and teacher
243 content knowledge and practices aligned to the Florida Educator
244 Accomplished Practices. Each school district or charter school
245 with a program under this subsection must submit its program,
246 including the teacher mentorship and induction component, to the
247 department for approval no later than June 30, 2018. After
248 December 31, 2018, a teacher may not satisfy requirements for a
249 professional certificate through a professional development
250 certification and education competency program under paragraph

251 (a) unless the program has been approved by the department
252 pursuant to this paragraph.

253 Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section
254 1012.585, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

255 1012.585 Process for renewal of professional
256 certificates.—

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

259 (a) The applicant must earn a minimum of 6 college credits
260 or 120 inservice points or a combination thereof. For each area
261 of specialization to be retained on a certificate, the applicant
262 must earn at least 3 of the required credit hours or equivalent
263 inservice points in the specialization area. Education in
264 "clinical educator" training pursuant to s. 1004.04(5)(b);
265 participation in mentorship and induction activities, including
266 as a mentor, pursuant to s. 1012.56(8)(a); and credits or points
267 that provide training in the area of scientifically researched,
268 knowledge-based reading literacy and computational skills
269 acquisition, exceptional student education, normal child
270 development, and the disorders of development may be applied
271 toward any specialization area. Credits or points that provide
272 training in the areas of drug abuse, child abuse and neglect,
273 strategies in teaching students having limited proficiency in
274 English, or dropout prevention, or training in areas identified
275 in the educational goals and performance standards adopted

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276 | pursuant to ss. 1000.03(5) and 1008.345 may be applied toward
277 | any specialization area. Credits or points earned through
278 | approved summer institutes may be applied toward the fulfillment
279 | of these requirements. Inservice points may also be earned by
280 | participation in professional growth components approved by the
281 | State Board of Education and specified pursuant to s. 1012.98 in
282 | the district's approved master plan for inservice educational
283 | training, including, but not limited to, serving as a trainer in
284 | an approved teacher training activity, serving on an
285 | instructional materials committee or a state board or commission
286 | that deals with educational issues, or serving on an advisory
287 | council created pursuant to s. 1001.452.

288 | Section 3. Paragraph (e) is added to subsection (3) of
289 | section 1012.98, Florida Statutes, and paragraph (b) of
290 | subsection (4) and subsections (10) and (11) are amended, to
291 | read:

292 | 1012.98 School Community Professional Development Act.—

293 | (3) The activities designed to implement this section
294 | must:

295 | (e) Provide training to teacher mentors as part of the
296 | professional development certification and education competency
297 | program under s. 1012.56(8) (a). The training must include
298 | components on teacher development, peer coaching, time
299 | management, and other related topics as determined by the
300 | Department of Education.

301 (4) The Department of Education, school districts,
302 schools, Florida College System institutions, and state
303 universities share the responsibilities described in this
304 section. These responsibilities include the following:

305 (b) Each school district shall develop a professional
306 development system as specified in subsection (3). The system
307 shall be developed in consultation with teachers, teacher-
308 educators of Florida College System institutions and state
309 universities, business and community representatives, and local
310 education foundations, consortia, and professional
311 organizations. The professional development system must:

312 1. Be approved by the department. All substantial
313 revisions to the system shall be submitted to the department for
314 review for continued approval.

315 2. Be based on analyses of student achievement data and
316 instructional strategies and methods that support rigorous,
317 relevant, and challenging curricula for all students. Schools
318 and districts, in developing and refining the professional
319 development system, shall also review and monitor school
320 discipline data; school environment surveys; assessments of
321 parental satisfaction; performance appraisal data of teachers,
322 managers, and administrative personnel; and other performance
323 indicators to identify school and student needs that can be met
324 by improved professional performance.

325 3. Provide inservice activities coupled with followup

326 support appropriate to accomplish district-level and school-
327 level improvement goals and standards. The inservice activities
328 for instructional personnel shall focus on analysis of student
329 achievement data, ongoing formal and informal assessments of
330 student achievement, identification and use of enhanced and
331 differentiated instructional strategies that emphasize rigor,
332 relevance, and reading in the content areas, enhancement of
333 subject content expertise, integrated use of classroom
334 technology that enhances teaching and learning, classroom
335 management, parent involvement, and school safety.

336 4. Provide inservice activities and support targeted to
337 the individual needs of new teachers participating in the
338 professional development certification and education competency
339 program under s. 1012.56(8) (a).

340 5.4. Include a master plan for inservice activities,
341 pursuant to rules of the State Board of Education, for all
342 district employees from all fund sources. The master plan shall
343 be updated annually by September 1, must be based on input from
344 teachers and district and school instructional leaders, and must
345 use the latest available student achievement data and research
346 to enhance rigor and relevance in the classroom. Each district
347 inservice plan must be aligned to and support the school-based
348 inservice plans and school improvement plans pursuant to s.
349 1001.42(18). Each district inservice plan must provide a
350 description of the training that middle grades instructional

351 personnel and school administrators receive on the district's
352 code of student conduct adopted pursuant to s. 1006.07;
353 integrated digital instruction and competency-based instruction
354 and CAPE Digital Tool certificates and CAPE industry
355 certifications; classroom management; student behavior and
356 interaction; extended learning opportunities for students; and
357 instructional leadership. District plans must be approved by the
358 district school board annually in order to ensure compliance
359 with subsection (1) and to allow for dissemination of research-
360 based best practices to other districts. District school boards
361 must submit verification of their approval to the Commissioner
362 of Education no later than October 1, annually. Each school
363 principal may establish and maintain an individual professional
364 development plan for each instructional employee assigned to the
365 school as a seamless component to the school improvement plans
366 developed pursuant to s. 1001.42(18). An individual professional
367 development plan must be related to specific performance data
368 for the students to whom the teacher is assigned, define the
369 inservice objectives and specific measurable improvements
370 expected in student performance as a result of the inservice
371 activity, and include an evaluation component that determines
372 the effectiveness of the professional development plan.

373 ~~6.5.~~ Include inservice activities for school
374 administrative personnel that address updated skills necessary
375 for instructional leadership and effective school management

376 | pursuant to s. 1012.986.

377 | ~~7.6.~~ Provide for systematic consultation with regional and
378 | state personnel designated to provide technical assistance and
379 | evaluation of local professional development programs.

380 | ~~8.7.~~ Provide for delivery of professional development by
381 | distance learning and other technology-based delivery systems to
382 | reach more educators at lower costs.

383 | ~~9.8.~~ Provide for the continuous evaluation of the quality
384 | and effectiveness of professional development programs in order
385 | to eliminate ineffective programs and strategies and to expand
386 | effective ones. Evaluations must consider the impact of such
387 | activities on the performance of participating educators and
388 | their students' achievement and behavior.

389 | ~~10.9.~~ For middle grades, emphasize:

390 | a. Interdisciplinary planning, collaboration, and
391 | instruction.

392 | b. Alignment of curriculum and instructional materials to
393 | the state academic standards adopted pursuant to s. 1003.41.

394 | c. Use of small learning communities; problem-solving,
395 | inquiry-driven research and analytical approaches for students;
396 | strategies and tools based on student needs; competency-based
397 | instruction; integrated digital instruction; and project-based
398 | instruction.

399 |

400 | Each school that includes any of grades 6, 7, or 8 must include

401 in its school improvement plan, required under s. 1001.42(18), a
402 description of the specific strategies used by the school to
403 implement each item listed in this subparagraph.

404 (10) For instructional personnel and administrative
405 personnel who have been evaluated as less than effective, a
406 district school board shall require participation in specific
407 professional development programs as provided in subparagraph
408 (4)(b)5. ~~(4)(b)4.~~ as part of the improvement prescription.

409 (11) The department shall disseminate to the school
410 community proven model professional development programs that
411 have demonstrated success in increasing rigorous and relevant
412 content, increasing student achievement and engagement, ~~and~~
413 meeting identified student needs, and providing effective
414 mentorship activities to new teachers and training to teacher
415 mentors. The methods of dissemination must include a web-based
416 statewide performance-support system including a database of
417 exemplary professional development activities, a listing of
418 available professional development resources, training programs,
419 and available technical assistance.

420 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.