

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to education; creating s. 1003.631,
3 F.S.; creating the Schools of Excellence Program;
4 providing for designation as a School of Excellence;
5 providing requirements for a School of Excellence;
6 providing for redesignation; authorizing Schools of
7 Excellence to have specified administrative
8 flexibilities; authorizing certain teachers to earn a
9 professional certificate by completing a specified
10 program; amending s. 1012.56, F.S.; requiring the
11 Department of Education to issue a temporary educator
12 certificate within a specified period; requiring the
13 department to provide electronic notice of the
14 issuance of a temporary certificate to specified
15 entities; requiring the department to provide the
16 applicant an official statement of status of
17 eligibility upon issuance of a temporary certificate;
18 providing content requirements for the statement of
19 status of eligibility; revising the criteria
20 instructional personnel must meet to be issued a
21 professional certificate; requiring the department to
22 provide electronic notification of the expiration of a
23 temporary educator certificate; requiring the State
24 Board of Education to adopt rules providing for the
25 extension of a temporary educator certificate for a

26 | specified period under certain circumstances;
27 | providing that an applicant for professional
28 | certification is not required to take or pass a
29 | specified examination under certain circumstances;
30 | authorizing charter schools and charter management
31 | organizations to develop a professional development
32 | certification and education competency program;
33 | revising program requirements; requiring the
34 | department to adopt standards for the approval of such
35 | programs by a specified date; providing requirements
36 | for such standards; requiring each school district and
37 | charter school to submit its program for approval by a
38 | specified date; providing that certification
39 | requirements may not be met in a program that is not
40 | approved by the department after a specified date;
41 | amending s. 1012.585, F.S.; revising college credit
42 | and inservice hour requirements for renewal of a
43 | professional certificate to include participation in
44 | specified activities; amending s. 1012.98, F.S.;
45 | revising the activities designed to implement the
46 | school community professional development act to
47 | include specified training relating to a professional
48 | development certification and education competency
49 | program; revising requirements for school district
50 | professional development systems; requiring the

51 department to disseminate professional development
52 programs that meet specified criteria; providing an
53 effective date.

54
55 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

56
57 Section 1. Section 1003.631, Florida Statutes, is created
58 to read:

59 1003.631 Schools of Excellence.—The Schools of Excellence
60 Program is established to provide administrative flexibility to
61 the state's top schools so that the instructional personnel and
62 administrative staff at such schools can continue to serve their
63 communities and increase student learning to the best of their
64 professional ability.

65 (1) DESIGNATION.—

66 (a) The State Board of Education shall designate a school
67 as a School of Excellence if the school's percentage of possible
68 points earned in its school grade calculation is in the 80th
69 percentile or higher for schools comprised of the same grade
70 groupings, including elementary schools, middle schools, high
71 schools, and schools with a combination of grade levels, for at
72 least 2 of the last 3 school years. The school must have data
73 for each applicable school grade component pursuant to s.
74 1008.34(3) to be eligible for designation as a School of
75 Excellence. A qualifying school shall retain the designation as

76 | a School of Excellence for up to 3 years, at the end of which
77 | time the school may renew the designation, if:

78 | 1. The school was in the 80th percentile or higher
79 | pursuant to this subsection for 2 of the previous 3 years; and

80 | 2. The school did not receive a school grade lower than
81 | "B" pursuant to s. 1008.34 during any of the previous 3 years.

82 | (b) A school that earns a school grade lower than "B"
83 | pursuant to s. 1008.34 during the 3-year period may not continue
84 | to be designated as a School of Excellence during the remainder
85 | of that 3-year period and loses the administrative flexibilities
86 | provided in subsection (2).

87 | (2) ADMINISTRATIVE FLEXIBILITIES.—A School of Excellence
88 | must be provided the following administrative flexibilities:

89 | (a) Exemption from any provision of law or rule that
90 | expressly requires a minimum period of daily or weekly
91 | instruction in reading.

92 | (b) Principal autonomy as provided under s. 1012.28(8).

93 | (c) For instructional personnel, the substitution of 1
94 | school year of employment at a School of Excellence for 20
95 | inservice points toward the renewal of a professional
96 | certificate, up to 60 inservice points in a 5-year cycle,
97 | pursuant to s. 1012.585(3).

98 | (d) Exemption from compliance with district policies or
99 | procedures that establish times for the start and completion of
100 | the school day.

101 (e) Calculation for compliance with maximum class size
102 pursuant to s. 1003.03(4) based on the average number of
103 students at the school level.

104 (3) TEACHER CERTIFICATION.—A temporary certificateholder
105 under s. 1012.56(7)(b) who is employed by a School of Excellence
106 may earn a professional certificate by meeting the requirements
107 of s. 1012.56(7)(a)3.

108 Section 2. Paragraph (c) of subsection (8) of section
109 1012.56, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as paragraph (d),
110 subsection (1), subsection (7), and paragraph (a) of subsection
111 (8) are amended, and a new paragraph (c) is added to subsection
112 (8) of that section, to read:

113 1012.56 Educator certification requirements.—

114 (1) APPLICATION.—Each person seeking certification
115 pursuant to this chapter shall submit a completed application
116 containing the applicant's social security number to the
117 Department of Education and remit the fee required pursuant to
118 s. 1012.59 and rules of the State Board of Education. Pursuant
119 to the federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity
120 Reconciliation Act of 1996, each party is required to provide
121 his or her social security number in accordance with this
122 section. Disclosure of social security numbers obtained through
123 this requirement is limited to the purpose of administration of
124 the Title IV-D program of the Social Security Act for child
125 support enforcement.

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

129 ~~(a) If the applicant meets the requirements,~~ a professional
 130 certificate to a qualifying applicant covering the
 131 classification, level, and area for which the applicant is
 132 deemed qualified and a document explaining the requirements for
 133 renewal of the professional certificate.

134 (b) The department shall issue a temporary certificate to
 135 a qualifying applicant within 14 calendar days after receipt of
 136 a request from ~~if the applicant meets the requirements and if~~
 137 ~~requested by~~ an employing school district or an employing
 138 private school with a professional education competence
 139 demonstration program pursuant to paragraphs (6) (f) and (8) (b).
 140 ~~The,~~ a temporary certificate must cover ~~covering~~ the
 141 classification, level, and area for which the applicant is
 142 deemed qualified. The department shall electronically notify the
 143 applicant's employing school district or employing private
 144 school that the temporary certificate has been issued and
 145 provide the applicant an official statement of status of
 146 eligibility at the time the certificate is issued. ~~and an~~
 147 ~~official statement of status of eligibility; or~~

148 (c) Pursuant to s. 120.60, the department shall issue
 149 within 90 calendar days after the stamped receipted date of the
 150 completed application, if an applicant does not meet the

151 requirements for either certificate, an official statement of
152 status of eligibility.

153
154 The statement of status of eligibility must be provided
155 electronically and must advise the applicant of any
156 qualifications that must be completed to qualify for
157 certification. Each method by which an applicant can complete
158 the qualifications for a professional certificate must be
159 included in the statement of status of eligibility. Each
160 statement of status of eligibility is valid for 3 years after
161 its date of issuance, except as provided in paragraph (2) (d).

162 (7) TYPES AND TERMS OF CERTIFICATION.—

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

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

167 2. ~~or,~~ For a professional certificate covering grades 6
168 through 12, ~~any applicant who:~~

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

170 ~~b.2.~~ Holds a master's or higher degree in the area of
171 science, technology, engineering, or mathematics.

172 ~~c.3.~~ Teaches a high school course in the subject of the
173 advanced degree.

174 ~~d.4.~~ Is rated highly effective as determined by the
175 teacher's performance evaluation under s. 1012.34, based in part

176 on student performance as measured by a statewide, standardized
177 assessment or an Advanced Placement, Advanced International
178 Certificate of Education, or International Baccalaureate
179 examination.

180 ~~e.5.~~ Achieves a passing score on the Florida professional
181 education competency examination required by state board rule.

182 3. Meets the requirements of paragraphs (2)(a)-(h) and
183 completes a professional preparation and education competence
184 program approved by the department pursuant to paragraph (8)(c).
185 An applicant who completes the program and is rated highly
186 effective as determined by his or her performance evaluation
187 under s. 1012.34 is not required to take or achieve a passing
188 score on the professional education competency examination in
189 order to be awarded a professional certificate.

190 (b) The department shall issue a temporary certificate to
191 any applicant who completes the requirements outlined in
192 paragraphs (2)(a)-(f) and completes the subject area content
193 requirements specified in state board rule or demonstrates
194 mastery of subject area knowledge pursuant to subsection (5) and
195 holds an accredited degree or a degree approved by the
196 Department of Education at the level required for the subject
197 area specialization in state board rule.

198 (c) The department shall issue one nonrenewable 2-year
199 temporary certificate and one nonrenewable 5-year professional
200 certificate to a qualified applicant who holds a bachelor's

201 degree in the area of speech-language impairment to allow for
202 completion of a master's degree program in speech-language
203 impairment.

204

205 Each temporary certificate is valid for 3 school fiscal years
206 and is nonrenewable. However, the requirement in paragraph
207 (2) (g) must be met within 1 calendar year of the date of
208 employment under the temporary certificate. Individuals who are
209 employed under contract at the end of the 1 calendar year time
210 period may continue to be employed through the end of the school
211 year in which they have been contracted. A school district shall
212 not employ, or continue the employment of, an individual in a
213 position for which a temporary certificate is required beyond
214 this time period if the individual has not met the requirement
215 of paragraph (2) (g). At least 1 year before an individual's
216 temporary certificate is set to expire, the department shall
217 electronically notify the individual of the date on which his or
218 her certificate will expire and provide a list of each method by
219 which the qualifications for a professional certificate can be
220 completed. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to
221 allow the department to extend the validity period of a
222 temporary certificate for 2 years when the requirements for the
223 professional certificate, not including the requirement in
224 paragraph (2) (g), were not completed due to the serious illness
225 or injury of the applicant or other extraordinary extenuating

226 | circumstances or for 1 year if the temporary certificate holder
227 | is rated effective or highly effective based solely on a student
228 | learning growth formula approved by the Commissioner of
229 | Education pursuant to s. 1012.34(8). The department shall
230 | reissue the temporary certificate for 2 additional years upon
231 | approval by the Commissioner of Education. A written request for
232 | reissuance of the certificate shall be submitted by the district
233 | school superintendent, the governing authority of a university
234 | lab school, the governing authority of a state-supported school,
235 | or the governing authority of a private school.

236 | (8) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATION AND EDUCATION
237 | COMPETENCY PROGRAM.—

238 | (a) The Department of Education shall develop and each
239 | school district, charter school, and charter management
240 | organization may provide a cohesive competency-based
241 | professional development certification and education competency
242 | program by which ~~members of a school district's~~ instructional
243 | staff may satisfy the mastery of professional preparation and
244 | education competence requirements specified in subsection (6)
245 | and rules of the State Board of Education. Participants must
246 | hold a state-issued temporary certificate. A school district,
247 | charter school, or charter management organization that
248 | implements the program shall provide a competency-based
249 | certification program developed by the Department of Education
250 | or developed by the district, charter school, or charter

251 management organization and approved by the Department of
252 Education. The program shall include the following:

253 1. A minimum period of initial preparation before assuming
254 duties as the teacher of record.

255 2. An option for collaboration with ~~between school~~
256 ~~districts and~~ other supporting agencies or educational entities
257 for implementation.

258 3. A teacher mentorship and induction ~~An experienced peer-~~
259 ~~mentor~~ component.

260 a. Each individual selected by the district as a ~~peer~~
261 mentor:

262 I. Must hold a valid professional certificate issued
263 pursuant to this section; ~~and~~

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

266 III. Must have completed specialized training in clinical
267 supervision and participate in ongoing mentor training provided
268 through the coordinated system of professional development under
269 s. 1012.98(3)(e);

270 IV. Must have earned an effective or highly effective
271 rating on the prior year's performance evaluation under s.
272 1012.34; and

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

275 b. The teacher mentorship and induction component must, at

276 a minimum, provide weekly opportunities for mentoring and
277 induction activities, including common planning time, ongoing
278 professional development targeted to a teacher's needs,
279 opportunities for a teacher to observe other teachers, co-
280 teaching experiences, and reflection and followup discussions.
281 Mentorship and induction activities must be provided for an
282 applicant's first year in the program and may be provided until
283 the applicant attains his or her professional certificate in
284 accordance with this section. A principal who is rated highly
285 effective as determined by his or her performance evaluation
286 under s. 1012.34 must be provided flexibility in selecting
287 professional development activities under this paragraph;
288 however, the activities must be approved by the department as
289 part of the district's, charter school's, or charter management
290 organization's program.

291 4. An assessment of teaching performance aligned to the
292 district's system for personnel evaluation under s. 1012.34
293 which provides for:

294 a. An initial evaluation of each educator's competencies
295 to determine an appropriate individualized professional
296 development plan.

297 b. A summative evaluation to assure successful completion
298 of the program.

299 5. Professional education preparation content knowledge,
300 which must be included in the mentoring and induction activities

301 under subparagraph 3., that includes, but is not limited to, the
302 following:

303 a. The state standards provided under s. 1003.41,
304 including scientifically based reading instruction, content
305 literacy, and mathematical practices, for each subject
306 identified on the temporary certificate.

307 b. The educator-accomplished practices approved by the
308 state board.

309 c. A variety of data indicators for monitoring student
310 progress.

311 d. Methodologies for teaching students with disabilities.

312 e. Methodologies for teaching students of limited English
313 proficiency appropriate for each subject area identified on the
314 temporary certificate.

315 f. Techniques and strategies for operationalizing the role
316 of the teacher in assuring a safe learning environment for
317 students.

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

322 (c) No later than December 31, 2017, the department shall
323 adopt standards for the approval of professional development
324 certification and education competency programs, including
325 standards for the teacher mentorship and induction component,

326 under paragraph (a). Standards for the teacher mentorship and
327 induction component must include program administration and
328 evaluation; mentor roles, selection, and training; beginning
329 teacher assessment and professional development; and teacher
330 content knowledge and practices aligned to the Florida Educator
331 Accomplished Practices. Each school district or charter school
332 with a program under this subsection must submit its program,
333 including the teacher mentorship and induction component, to the
334 department for approval no later than June 30, 2018. After
335 December 31, 2018, a teacher may not satisfy requirements for a
336 professional certificate through a professional development
337 certification and education competency program under paragraph
338 (a) unless the program has been approved by the department
339 pursuant to this paragraph.

340 Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section
341 1012.585, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

342 1012.585 Process for renewal of professional
343 certificates.—

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

346 (a) The applicant must earn a minimum of 6 college credits
347 or 120 inservice points or a combination thereof. For each area
348 of specialization to be retained on a certificate, the applicant
349 must earn at least 3 of the required credit hours or equivalent
350 inservice points in the specialization area. Education in

351 "clinical educator" training pursuant to s. 1004.04(5)(b);
352 participation in mentorship and induction activities, including
353 as a mentor, pursuant to s. 1012.56(8)(a); and credits or points
354 that provide training in the area of scientifically researched,
355 knowledge-based reading literacy and computational skills
356 acquisition, exceptional student education, normal child
357 development, and the disorders of development may be applied
358 toward any specialization area. Credits or points that provide
359 training in the areas of drug abuse, child abuse and neglect,
360 strategies in teaching students having limited proficiency in
361 English, or dropout prevention, or training in areas identified
362 in the educational goals and performance standards adopted
363 pursuant to ss. 1000.03(5) and 1008.345 may be applied toward
364 any specialization area. Credits or points earned through
365 approved summer institutes may be applied toward the fulfillment
366 of these requirements. Inservice points may also be earned by
367 participation in professional growth components approved by the
368 State Board of Education and specified pursuant to s. 1012.98 in
369 the district's approved master plan for inservice educational
370 training, including, but not limited to, serving as a trainer in
371 an approved teacher training activity, serving on an
372 instructional materials committee or a state board or commission
373 that deals with educational issues, or serving on an advisory
374 council created pursuant to s. 1001.452.

375 Section 4. Paragraph (e) is added to subsection (3) of

376 section 1012.98, Florida Statutes, and paragraph (b) of
377 subsection (4) and subsections (10) and (11) are amended, to
378 read:

379 1012.98 School Community Professional Development Act.—

380 (3) The activities designed to implement this section
381 must:

382 (e) Provide training to teacher mentors as part of the
383 professional development certification and education competency
384 program under s. 1012.56(8) (a). The training must include
385 components on teacher development, peer coaching, time
386 management, and other related topics as determined by the
387 Department of Education.

388 (4) The Department of Education, school districts,
389 schools, Florida College System institutions, and state
390 universities share the responsibilities described in this
391 section. These responsibilities include the following:

392 (b) Each school district shall develop a professional
393 development system as specified in subsection (3). The system
394 shall be developed in consultation with teachers, teacher-
395 educators of Florida College System institutions and state
396 universities, business and community representatives, and local
397 education foundations, consortia, and professional
398 organizations. The professional development system must:

399 1. Be approved by the department. All substantial
400 revisions to the system shall be submitted to the department for

401 review for continued approval.

402 2. Be based on analyses of student achievement data and
403 instructional strategies and methods that support rigorous,
404 relevant, and challenging curricula for all students. Schools
405 and districts, in developing and refining the professional
406 development system, shall also review and monitor school
407 discipline data; school environment surveys; assessments of
408 parental satisfaction; performance appraisal data of teachers,
409 managers, and administrative personnel; and other performance
410 indicators to identify school and student needs that can be met
411 by improved professional performance.

412 3. Provide inservice activities coupled with followup
413 support appropriate to accomplish district-level and school-
414 level improvement goals and standards. The inservice activities
415 for instructional personnel shall focus on analysis of student
416 achievement data, ongoing formal and informal assessments of
417 student achievement, identification and use of enhanced and
418 differentiated instructional strategies that emphasize rigor,
419 relevance, and reading in the content areas, enhancement of
420 subject content expertise, integrated use of classroom
421 technology that enhances teaching and learning, classroom
422 management, parent involvement, and school safety.

423 4. Provide inservice activities and support targeted to
424 the individual needs of new teachers participating in the
425 professional development certification and education competency

426 | program under s. 1012.56(8)(a).

427 | 5.4. Include a master plan for inservice activities,
428 | pursuant to rules of the State Board of Education, for all
429 | district employees from all fund sources. The master plan shall
430 | be updated annually by September 1, must be based on input from
431 | teachers and district and school instructional leaders, and must
432 | use the latest available student achievement data and research
433 | to enhance rigor and relevance in the classroom. Each district
434 | inservice plan must be aligned to and support the school-based
435 | inservice plans and school improvement plans pursuant to s.
436 | 1001.42(18). Each district inservice plan must provide a
437 | description of the training that middle grades instructional
438 | personnel and school administrators receive on the district's
439 | code of student conduct adopted pursuant to s. 1006.07;
440 | integrated digital instruction and competency-based instruction
441 | and CAPE Digital Tool certificates and CAPE industry
442 | certifications; classroom management; student behavior and
443 | interaction; extended learning opportunities for students; and
444 | instructional leadership. District plans must be approved by the
445 | district school board annually in order to ensure compliance
446 | with subsection (1) and to allow for dissemination of research-
447 | based best practices to other districts. District school boards
448 | must submit verification of their approval to the Commissioner
449 | of Education no later than October 1, annually. Each school
450 | principal may establish and maintain an individual professional

451 development plan for each instructional employee assigned to the
452 school as a seamless component to the school improvement plans
453 developed pursuant to s. 1001.42(18). An individual professional
454 development plan must be related to specific performance data
455 for the students to whom the teacher is assigned, define the
456 inservice objectives and specific measurable improvements
457 expected in student performance as a result of the inservice
458 activity, and include an evaluation component that determines
459 the effectiveness of the professional development plan.

460 ~~6.5.~~ Include inservice activities for school
461 administrative personnel that address updated skills necessary
462 for instructional leadership and effective school management
463 pursuant to s. 1012.986.

464 ~~7.6.~~ Provide for systematic consultation with regional and
465 state personnel designated to provide technical assistance and
466 evaluation of local professional development programs.

467 ~~8.7.~~ Provide for delivery of professional development by
468 distance learning and other technology-based delivery systems to
469 reach more educators at lower costs.

470 ~~9.8.~~ Provide for the continuous evaluation of the quality
471 and effectiveness of professional development programs in order
472 to eliminate ineffective programs and strategies and to expand
473 effective ones. Evaluations must consider the impact of such
474 activities on the performance of participating educators and
475 their students' achievement and behavior.

476 10.9. For middle grades, emphasize:
 477 a. Interdisciplinary planning, collaboration, and
 478 instruction.
 479 b. Alignment of curriculum and instructional materials to
 480 the state academic standards adopted pursuant to s. 1003.41.
 481 c. Use of small learning communities; problem-solving,
 482 inquiry-driven research and analytical approaches for students;
 483 strategies and tools based on student needs; competency-based
 484 instruction; integrated digital instruction; and project-based
 485 instruction.
 486
 487 Each school that includes any of grades 6, 7, or 8 must include
 488 in its school improvement plan, required under s. 1001.42(18), a
 489 description of the specific strategies used by the school to
 490 implement each item listed in this subparagraph.
 491 (10) For instructional personnel and administrative
 492 personnel who have been evaluated as less than effective, a
 493 district school board shall require participation in specific
 494 professional development programs as provided in subparagraph
 495 (4)(b)5. ~~(4)(b)4.~~ as part of the improvement prescription.
 496 (11) The department shall disseminate to the school
 497 community proven model professional development programs that
 498 have demonstrated success in increasing rigorous and relevant
 499 content, increasing student achievement and engagement, ~~and~~
 500 meeting identified student needs, and providing effective

501 | mentorship activities to new teachers and training to teacher
502 | mentors. The methods of dissemination must include a web-based
503 | statewide performance-support system including a database of
504 | exemplary professional development activities, a listing of
505 | available professional development resources, training programs,
506 | and available technical assistance.

507 | Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.