

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to education; amending s. 1004.04,  
3           F.S.; revising student requirements for entrance into  
4           certain teacher preparation programs; deleting  
5           authorization for a teacher preparation program to  
6           waive such requirements for certain students; amending  
7           s. 1012.585, F.S.; providing limitations for inservice  
8           points a teacher may earn for certain mandatory  
9           training topics; amending s. 1012.98, F.S.; requiring  
10          district school boards to calculate an amount of  
11          specified funds for use by teachers for professional  
12          development; requiring the Department of Education to  
13          identify specified professional development  
14          opportunities; amending s. 1013.44, F.S.; prohibiting  
15          costs associated with certain solar energy systems  
16          from being included in certain cost per student  
17          station limitations; requiring the Commissioner of  
18          Education to submit a report to specified entities by  
19          December 1, 2020, on the feasibility of implementing a  
20          certain program; providing effective dates.

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

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24          Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section  
25          1004.04, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

26 1004.04 Public accountability and state approval for  
 27 teacher preparation programs.—

28 (3) INITIAL STATE PROGRAM APPROVAL.—

29 (b) Each teacher preparation program approved by the  
 30 Department of Education, as provided for by this section, shall  
 31 require students, at a minimum, to ~~meet, at a minimum,~~ the  
 32 ~~following as prerequisites for admission into the program:~~

33 1. Have a grade point average of at least 2.5 on a 4.0  
 34 scale for the general education component of undergraduate  
 35 studies or have completed the requirements for a baccalaureate  
 36 degree with a minimum grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale  
 37 from any college or university accredited by a regional  
 38 accrediting association as defined by State Board of Education  
 39 rule or any college or university otherwise approved pursuant to  
 40 State Board of Education rule.

41 2. Demonstrate mastery of general knowledge ~~sufficient for~~  
 42 ~~entry into the program,~~ including the ability to read, write,  
 43 and perform in mathematics, by passing the General Knowledge  
 44 Test of the Florida Teacher Certification Examination or, for a  
 45 graduate level program, obtain a baccalaureate degree from an  
 46 institution that is accredited or approved pursuant to the rules  
 47 of the State Board of Education.

48  
 49 ~~Each teacher preparation program may waive these admissions~~  
 50 ~~requirements for up to 10 percent of the students admitted.~~

51 ~~Programs shall implement strategies to ensure that students~~  
52 ~~admitted under a waiver receive assistance to demonstrate~~  
53 ~~competencies to successfully meet requirements for certification~~  
54 ~~and shall annually report to the Department of Education the~~  
55 ~~status of each candidate admitted under such a waiver.~~

56 Section 2. Paragraph (g) is added to subsection (3) of  
57 section 1012.585, Florida Statutes, to read:

58 1012.585 Process for renewal of professional  
59 certificates.—

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

62 (g) A teacher may earn inservice points only once during  
63 each 5-year validity period for any mandatory training topic  
64 that is not linked to student learning or professional growth.

65 Section 3. Subsection (5) of section 1012.98, Florida  
66 Statutes, is amended to read:

67 1012.98 School Community Professional Development Act.—

68 (5) Each district school board shall provide funding for  
69 the professional development system as required by s. 1011.62  
70 and the General Appropriations Act, and shall direct  
71 expenditures from other funding sources to continuously  
72 strengthen the system in order to increase student achievement  
73 and support instructional staff in enhancing rigor and relevance  
74 in the classroom. Each district school board shall calculate a  
75 proportionate share of professional development funds for each

76 | teacher and allow each teacher to use up to 25 percent of the  
77 | proportionate share of Instructional Staff Training Services on  
78 | professional development that addresses the academic needs of  
79 | students or an identified area of professional growth for the  
80 | teacher. The department shall identify professional development  
81 | opportunities that require the teacher to demonstrate  
82 | proficiency in a specific classroom practice. A school district  
83 | may coordinate its professional development program with that of  
84 | another district, with an educational consortium, or with a  
85 | Florida College System institution or university, especially in  
86 | preparing and educating personnel. Each district school board  
87 | shall make available inservice activities to instructional  
88 | personnel of nonpublic schools in the district and the state  
89 | certified teachers who are not employed by the district school  
90 | board on a fee basis not to exceed the cost of the activity per  
91 | all participants.

92 | Section 4. Subsection (4) is added to section 1013.44,  
93 | Florida Statutes, to read:

94 | 1013.44 Low-energy use design; solar energy systems;  
95 | swimming pool heaters.—

96 | (4) Any costs associated with a solar energy system that  
97 | is located on the property of an educational facility may not be  
98 | included in the total cost per student station limitations on  
99 | new construction established in s. 1013.64(6)(b).

100 | Section 5. Pathways in Technology Early College High

101 School (P-TECH) program.—

102 (1) By December 1, 2020, the Commissioner of Education  
103 shall submit to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the  
104 Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Board of Governors,  
105 and the State Board of Education a report with recommendations  
106 that address the feasibility of implementing the Pathways in  
107 Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) program, or a  
108 similar program, in Florida. The P-TECH program must:

109 (a) Incorporate secondary and postsecondary education with  
110 workforce education and work experience through a flexible 6-  
111 year integrated model.

112 (b) Allow students to earn a high school diploma, an  
113 associate degree, and applicable industry certifications and  
114 gain work experience within 6 years after enrolling in the 9th  
115 grade.

116 (c) Have an open enrollment policy that encourages a  
117 diverse student body, including students from low-income  
118 families and first-generation college students.

119 (d) Support student success through flexible class  
120 scheduling, advising and mentoring components, and other wrap-  
121 around services.

122 (e) Provide seamless articulation with Florida's  
123 postsecondary institutions.

124 (2) The report must, at a minimum, include the following:

125 (a) Timelines for implementing a P-TECH program, or a

126 similar program, as described in subsection (1), including  
127 courses of study which support program completion in 4 to 6  
128 years and which meet regional workforce demand.

129 (b) A funding model that provides the P-TECH program, or a  
130 similar program, at no cost to students. The funding model may  
131 incorporate K-12, postsecondary, and workforce funding, grants,  
132 scholarships, and other funding options.

133 (c) Partnerships with industries and businesses, which  
134 include private investment, work-based training, internships,  
135 and priority placement for job opportunities upon graduation.

136 (d) Recommendations for modifications, if any, to the  
137 school and school district accountability requirements of s.  
138 1008.34, Florida Statutes.

139 (3) This section shall take effect upon this act becoming  
140 a law and shall expire on December 1, 2020.

141 Section 6. Except as otherwise provided and except for  
142 this section, which shall take effect upon this act becoming a  
143 law, this act shall take effect July 1, 2020.