

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to educator preparation and
3 certification; amending s. 1004.04, F.S.; requiring
4 additional specified strategies to be included in
5 rules establishing uniform core curricula for each
6 state-approved teacher preparation program; requiring
7 that certain teacher preparation programs require
8 students to demonstrate mastery of general knowledge
9 by passing the General Knowledge Test of the Florida
10 Teacher Certification Examination by the time of
11 graduation; deleting a provision authorizing a teacher
12 preparation program to waive certain admissions
13 requirements for up to 10 percent of admitted
14 students; amending s. 1004.85, F.S.; expanding the
15 instruction that an educator preparation institute may
16 provide to include instruction and professional
17 development for part-time and full-time nondegreed
18 teachers of career programs; requiring additional
19 specified strategies be demonstrated before approval;
20 amending s. 1012.39, F.S.; revising the minimum
21 qualifications for part-time and full-time nondegreed
22 teachers of career programs; amending s. 1012.56,
23 F.S.; revising the acceptable means of demonstrating
24 mastery of general knowledge to include documentation
25 of receipt of a master's or higher degree from certain

26 postsecondary institutions; revising the criteria for
27 the Department of Education to issue a professional
28 certificate; amending s. 1012.986, F.S.; defining the
29 term "educational leader"; providing that the William
30 Cecil Golden Professional Development Program for
31 School Leaders must consist of a network of specified
32 entities; revising the goals of the program; requiring
33 the department to also offer program components
34 through university or educational leadership academies
35 and through educational leadership coaching and
36 mentoring; making technical changes; providing an
37 effective date.

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

40
41 Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) and paragraph
42 (b) of subsection (3) of section 1004.04, Florida Statutes, are
43 amended to read:

44 1004.04 Public accountability and state approval for
45 teacher preparation programs.—

46 (2) UNIFORM CORE CURRICULA AND CANDIDATE ASSESSMENT.—

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

50 1. Candidate instruction and assessment in the Florida

51 Educator Accomplished Practices across content areas.

52 2. The use of state-adopted content standards to guide
53 curricula and instruction.

54 3. Scientifically researched and evidence-based reading
55 instructional strategies that improve reading performance for
56 all students, including explicit, systematic, and sequential
57 approaches to teaching phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary,
58 fluency, and text comprehension and multisensory intervention
59 strategies.

60 4. Content literacy and mathematics practices.

61 5. Strategies appropriate for the instruction of English
62 language learners.

63 6. Strategies appropriate for the instruction of students
64 with disabilities.

65 7. Strategies to differentiate instruction based on
66 student needs.

67 8. The use of character-based classroom management.

68 9. Strategies appropriate for the early identification of
69 students in crisis or experiencing a mental health challenge and
70 the referral of such student to a mental health professional for
71 support.

72 10. Strategies to support the use of technology in
73 education and distance learning.

74 (3) INITIAL STATE PROGRAM APPROVAL.—

75 (b) Each teacher preparation program approved by the

76 Department of Education, as provided for by this section, shall
77 require students to meet, at a minimum, the following
78 requirements ~~as prerequisites for admission into the program:~~

79 1. For admission into the program, have a grade point
80 average of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale for the general education
81 component of undergraduate studies or have completed the
82 requirements for a baccalaureate degree with a minimum grade
83 point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale from any college or
84 university accredited by a regional accrediting association as
85 defined by State Board of Education rule or any college or
86 university otherwise approved pursuant to State Board of
87 Education rule.

88 2. Demonstrate mastery of general knowledge ~~sufficient for~~
89 ~~entry into the program,~~ including the ability to read, write,
90 and perform in mathematics, by passing the General Knowledge
91 Test of the Florida Teacher Certification Examination by the
92 time of graduation or, for a graduate level program, obtain a
93 baccalaureate degree from an institution that is accredited or
94 approved pursuant to the rules of the State Board of Education.

95
96 ~~Each teacher preparation program may waive these admissions~~
97 ~~requirements for up to 10 percent of the students admitted.~~
98 ~~Programs shall implement strategies to ensure that students~~
99 ~~admitted under a waiver receive assistance to demonstrate~~
100 ~~competencies to successfully meet requirements for certification~~

HB 1159

2021

101 ~~and shall annually report to the Department of Education the~~
102 ~~status of each candidate admitted under such a waiver.~~

103 Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) and paragraph
104 (a) of subsection (3) of section 1004.85, Florida Statutes, are
105 amended to read:

106 1004.85 Postsecondary educator preparation institutes.—

107 (2) (a) Postsecondary institutions that are accredited or
108 approved as described in State Board of Education rule may seek
109 approval from the Department of Education to create educator
110 preparation institutes for the purpose of providing any or all
111 of the following:

112 1. Professional development instruction to assist teachers
113 in improving classroom instruction and in meeting certification
114 or recertification requirements.

115 2. Instruction to assist potential and existing substitute
116 teachers in performing their duties.

117 3. Instruction to assist paraprofessionals in meeting
118 education and training requirements.

119 4. Instruction for baccalaureate degree holders to become
120 certified teachers as provided in this section in order to
121 increase routes to the classroom for mid-career professionals
122 who hold a baccalaureate degree and college graduates who were
123 not education majors.

124 5. Instruction and professional development for part-time
125 and full-time nondegreed teachers of career programs under s.

126 | 1012.39(1)(c).

127 | (3) Educator preparation institutes approved pursuant to
128 | this section may offer competency-based certification programs
129 | specifically designed for noneducation major baccalaureate
130 | degree holders to enable program participants to meet the
131 | educator certification requirements of s. 1012.56. An educator
132 | preparation institute choosing to offer a competency-based
133 | certification program pursuant to the provisions of this section
134 | must implement a program previously approved by the Department
135 | of Education for this purpose or a program developed by the
136 | institute and approved by the department for this purpose.
137 | Approved programs shall be available for use by other approved
138 | educator preparation institutes.

139 | (a) Within 90 days after receipt of a request for
140 | approval, the Department of Education shall approve a
141 | preparation program pursuant to the requirements of this
142 | subsection or issue a statement of the deficiencies in the
143 | request for approval. The department shall approve a
144 | certification program if the institute provides evidence of the
145 | institute's capacity to implement a competency-based program
146 | that includes each of the following:

147 | 1.a. Participant instruction and assessment in the Florida
148 | Educator Accomplished Practices across content areas.

149 | b. The use of state-adopted student content standards to
150 | guide curriculum and instruction.

151 c. Scientifically researched and evidence-based reading
152 instructional strategies that improve reading performance for
153 all students, including explicit, systematic, and sequential
154 approaches to teaching phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary,
155 fluency, and text comprehension and multisensory intervention
156 strategies.

157 d. Content literacy and mathematical practices.

158 e. Strategies appropriate for instruction of English
159 language learners.

160 f. Strategies appropriate for instruction of students with
161 disabilities.

162 g. Strategies to differentiate instruction based on
163 student needs.

164 h. The use of character-based classroom management.

165 i. Strategies appropriate for the early identification of
166 students in crisis or experiencing a mental health challenge and
167 the referral of such student to a mental health professional for
168 support.

169 j. Strategies to support the use of technology in education
170 and distance learning.

171
172 2. An educational plan for each participant to meet
173 certification requirements and demonstrate his or her ability to
174 teach the subject area for which the participant is seeking
175 certification, which is based on an assessment of his or her

176 competency in the areas listed in subparagraph 1.

177 3. Field experiences appropriate to the certification
178 subject area specified in the educational plan with a diverse
179 population of students in a variety of challenging environments,
180 including, but not limited to, high-poverty schools, urban
181 schools, and rural schools, under the supervision of qualified
182 educators.

183 4. A certification ombudsman to facilitate the process and
184 procedures required for participants who complete the program to
185 meet any requirements related to the background screening
186 pursuant to s. 1012.32 and educator professional or temporary
187 certification pursuant to s. 1012.56.

188 Section 3. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section
189 1012.39, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

190 1012.39 Employment of substitute teachers, teachers of
191 adult education, nondegreed teachers of career education, and
192 career specialists; students performing clinical field
193 experience.—

194 (1) Notwithstanding ss. 1012.32, 1012.55, 1012.56, and
195 1012.57, or any other provision of law or rule to the contrary,
196 each district school board shall establish the minimal
197 qualifications for:

198 (c) Part-time and full-time nondegreed teachers of career
199 programs. Qualifications shall be established for nondegreed
200 teachers of career and technical education courses for program

201 clusters that are recognized in the state and are based
202 primarily on successful occupational experience rather than
203 academic training. The qualifications for such teachers shall
204 require:

205 1. The filing of a complete set of fingerprints in the
206 same manner as required by s. 1012.32. Faculty employed solely
207 to conduct postsecondary instruction may be exempted from this
208 requirement.

209 2. Documentation of education and successful occupational
210 experience including documentation of:

211 a. A high school diploma or the equivalent.

212 b. Completion of 6 years of full-time successful
213 occupational experience or the equivalent of part-time
214 experience in the teaching specialization area. The district
215 school board may establish alternative qualifications for
216 teachers with an industry certification in the career area in
217 which they teach.

218 c. Completion of career education training conducted
219 through the local school district inservice master plan or
220 through an educator preparation institute approved by the
221 Department of Education pursuant to s. 1004.85.

222 d. For full-time teachers, completion of professional
223 education training in teaching methods, course construction,
224 lesson planning and evaluation, and teaching special needs
225 students. This training may be completed through coursework from

226 | an accredited or approved institution or an approved district
 227 | teacher education program.

228 | e. Demonstration of successful teaching performance.

229 | f. Documentation of industry certification when state or
 230 | national industry certifications are available and applicable.

231 | Section 4. Subsection (3) and paragraph (a) of subsection
 232 | (7) of section 1012.56, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

233 | 1012.56 Educator certification requirements.—

234 | (3) MASTERY OF GENERAL KNOWLEDGE.—Acceptable means of
 235 | demonstrating mastery of general knowledge are:

236 | (a) Achievement of passing scores on the general knowledge
 237 | examination required by state board rule;

238 | (b) Documentation of a valid professional standard
 239 | teaching certificate issued by another state;

240 | (c) Documentation of a valid certificate issued by the
 241 | National Board for Professional Teaching Standards or a national
 242 | educator credentialing board approved by the State Board of
 243 | Education;

244 | (d) Documentation of two semesters of successful, full-
 245 | time or part-time teaching in a Florida College System
 246 | institution, state university, or private college or university
 247 | that awards an associate or higher degree and is an accredited
 248 | institution or an institution of higher education identified by
 249 | the Department of Education as having a quality program; ~~or~~

250 | (e) Achievement of passing scores, identified in state

251 board rule, on national or international examinations that test
252 comparable content and relevant standards in verbal, analytical
253 writing, and quantitative reasoning skills, including, but not
254 limited to, the verbal, analytical writing, and quantitative
255 reasoning portions of the Graduate Record Examination. Passing
256 scores identified in state board rule must be at approximately
257 the same level of rigor as is required to pass the general
258 knowledge examinations; or

259 (f) Documentation of receipt of a master's or higher
260 degree from an accredited postsecondary educational institution
261 that the Department of Education has identified as having a
262 quality program resulting in a baccalaureate degree or higher.

263
264 A school district that employs an individual who does not
265 achieve passing scores on any subtest of the general knowledge
266 examination must provide information regarding the availability
267 of state-level and district-level supports and instruction to
268 assist him or her in achieving a passing score. Such information
269 must include, but need not be limited to, state-level test
270 information guides, school district test preparation resources,
271 and preparation courses offered by state universities and
272 Florida College System institutions.

273 (7) TYPES AND TERMS OF CERTIFICATION.—

274 (a) The Department of Education shall issue a professional
275 certificate for a period not to exceed 5 years to any applicant

276 | who fulfills one of the following:

277 | 1. Meets all the applicable requirements outlined in

278 | subsection (2).

279 | 2. For a professional certificate covering grades 6

280 | through 12:

281 | a. Meets the applicable requirements of paragraphs (2) (a)-

282 | (h).

283 | b. Holds a master's or higher degree in the area of

284 | science, technology, engineering, or mathematics.

285 | c. Teaches a high school course in the subject of the

286 | advanced degree.

287 | d. Is rated highly effective as determined by the

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

289 | on student performance as measured by a statewide, standardized

290 | assessment or an Advanced Placement, Advanced International

291 | Certificate of Education, or International Baccalaureate

292 | examination.

293 | e. Achieves a passing score on the Florida professional

294 | education competency examination required by state board rule.

295 | 3. Meets the applicable requirements of paragraphs (2) (a)-

296 | (h) and completes a professional preparation and education

297 | competence program approved by the department pursuant to

298 | paragraph (8) (c) or an educator preparation institute approved

299 | by the department pursuant to s. 1004.85. An applicant who

300 | completes one of these programs ~~the program~~ and is rated highly

301 effective as determined by his or her performance evaluation
302 under s. 1012.34 is not required to take or achieve a passing
303 score on the professional education competency examination in
304 order to be awarded a professional certificate.

305
306 Each temporary certificate is valid for 3 school fiscal years
307 and is nonrenewable. At least 1 year before an individual's
308 temporary certificate is set to expire, the department shall
309 electronically notify the individual of the date on which his or
310 her certificate will expire and provide a list of each method by
311 which the qualifications for a professional certificate can be
312 completed. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to
313 allow the department to extend the validity period of a
314 temporary certificate for 2 years when the requirements for the
315 professional certificate were not completed due to the serious
316 illness or injury of the applicant, the military service of an
317 applicant's spouse, other extraordinary extenuating
318 circumstances, or if the certificateholder is rated highly
319 effective in the immediate prior year's performance evaluation
320 pursuant to s. 1012.34 or has completed a 2-year mentorship
321 program pursuant to s. 1012.56(8). The department shall extend
322 the temporary certificate upon approval by the Commissioner of
323 Education. A written request for extension of the certificate
324 shall be submitted by the district school superintendent, the
325 governing authority of a university lab school, the governing

HB 1159

2021

326 authority of a state-supported school, or the governing
327 authority of a private school.

328 Section 5. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 1012.986,
329 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

330 1012.986 William Cecil Golden Professional Development
331 Program for School Leaders.—

332 (1) There is established the William Cecil Golden
333 Professional Development Program for School Leaders to provide
334 high-quality ~~high~~ standards and sustained support for
335 educational ~~principals as instructional~~ leaders. For purposes of
336 this section, the term "educational leader" means teacher
337 leaders, assistant principals, principals, or school district
338 leaders. The program shall consist of a collaborative network of
339 school districts, state-approved educational leadership
340 programs, regional consortia, charter management organizations,
341 and state and national professional leadership organizations to
342 respond to educational ~~instructional~~ leadership needs throughout
343 the state. The network shall support the human-resource
344 development needs of educational leaders ~~principals, principal~~
345 ~~leadership teams, and candidates for principal leadership~~
346 ~~positions~~ using the framework of leadership standards adopted by
347 the State Board of Education, ~~the Southern Regional Education~~
348 ~~Board, and the National Staff Development Council.~~ The goal of
349 the network leadership program is to:

350 (a) Provide resources to support and enhance the roles of

351 educational leaders ~~principal's role as the instructional~~
352 ~~leader.~~

353 (b) Maintain a clearinghouse and disseminate data-
354 supported information related to the continued enhancement of
355 ~~enhanced~~ student achievement and learning, civic education,
356 coaching and mentoring, mental health awareness, technology in
357 education, distance learning, and school safety, based on
358 educational research and best practices.

359 (c) ~~Build the capacity to~~ Increase the quality and
360 capacity of educational leadership development programs ~~for~~
361 ~~preservice education for aspiring principals and inservice~~
362 ~~professional development for principals and principal leadership~~
363 ~~teams.~~

364 (d) Support evidence-based leadership ~~best teaching and~~
365 ~~research-based instructional~~ practices through dissemination and
366 modeling at the preservice and inservice levels for educational
367 leaders ~~both teachers and principals.~~

368 (2) The Department of Education shall coordinate through
369 the network identified in subsection (1) to offer the program
370 components through multiple delivery systems, including:

371 (a) Approved school district training programs.

372 (b) Interactive technology-based instruction.

373 (c) Regional consortium service organizations pursuant to
374 s. 1001.451.

375 (d) State, regional, university, or local educational

HB 1159

2021

376 | leadership academies.

377 | (e) Educational leadership coaching and mentoring.

378 | Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.