

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to education; authorizing a parent or
3 guardian to request that his or her K-5 student be
4 retained in a grade level for academic reasons for a
5 specified school year; requiring that such a request
6 be submitted in a specified manner; requiring school
7 principals to consider such requests if they are
8 timely received; authorizing school principals to
9 consider requests that are not timely received;
10 requiring a school principal who considers a request
11 for retention to inform the student's teachers of the
12 request and collaboratively discuss with the parent or
13 guardian any basis for agreement or disagreement with
14 the request; requiring such discussion to disclose
15 that retention may impact the student's eligibility to
16 participate in high school interscholastic or
17 intrascholastic sports; authorizing the principal,
18 teachers, and parent or guardian to collaborate to
19 develop a customized 1-year education plan for the
20 student in lieu of retaining the student; requiring a
21 parent's or guardian's decision regarding retention to
22 control; requiring a parent or guardian to sign a form
23 provided by the principal indicating the parent or
24 guardian's decision and acknowledging the academic and
25 athletic ramifications of their decision; requiring

26 | such form to be retained in the student's record;
27 | requiring the individual education plan (IEP) team for
28 | a retained student to review and revise the student's
29 | IEP, as appropriate; requiring school districts to
30 | report certain data to the department by a specified
31 | date; amending s. 1004.04, F.S.; amending s. 1012.34,
32 | F.S.; requiring the Commissioner of Education to
33 | provide learning growth data calculated in accordance
34 | with a certain formula to each school district by a
35 | specified date each year; requiring additional
36 | specified strategies to be included in rules
37 | establishing uniform core curricula for each state-
38 | approved teacher preparation program; requiring that
39 | certain teacher preparation programs require students
40 | to demonstrate mastery of general knowledge by passing
41 | the General Knowledge Test of the Florida Teacher
42 | Certification Examination by the time of graduation;
43 | deleting a provision authorizing a teacher preparation
44 | program to waive certain admissions requirements for
45 | up to 10 percent of admitted students; amending s.
46 | 1004.85, F.S.; expanding the instruction that an
47 | educator preparation institute may provide to include
48 | instruction and professional development for part-time
49 | and full-time nondegreed teachers of career programs;
50 | requiring additional specified strategies be

51 demonstrated before approval; amending s. 1012.39,
52 F.S.; revising the minimum qualifications for part-
53 time and full-time nondegreed teachers of career
54 programs; amending s. 1012.56, F.S.; revising the
55 acceptable means of demonstrating mastery of general
56 knowledge to include documentation of receipt of a
57 master's or higher degree from certain postsecondary
58 institutions; revising the criteria for the Department
59 of Education to issue a professional certificate;
60 amending s. 1012.575, F.S.; expanding the entities
61 authorized to design alternative teacher preparation
62 programs; amending s. 1012.986, F.S.; defining the
63 term "educational leader"; providing that the William
64 Cecil Golden Professional Development Program for
65 School Leaders must consist of a network of specified
66 entities; revising the goals of the program; requiring
67 the department to also offer program components
68 through university or educational leadership academies
69 and through educational leadership coaching and
70 mentoring; making technical changes; providing an
71 effective date.

72
73 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

74
75 Section 1. Notwithstanding s. 1008.25, Florida Statutes, a

76 | parent or guardian may request that his or her K-5 public school
77 | student be retained for the 2021-2022 school year in the grade
78 | level to which the student was assigned at the beginning of the
79 | 2020-2021 school year, provided that such request is made for
80 | academic reasons.

81 | (1) A parent or guardian who wishes for his or her student
82 | to be retained as provided by this act must submit, in writing,
83 | to the school principal a retention request that specifies the
84 | academic reasons for the retention. Only requests received by
85 | the principal on or before June 30, 2021, must be considered. A
86 | principal may consider a request received after that date at his
87 | or her discretion.

88 | (2) (a) A principal who considers a retention request
89 | submitted pursuant to this subsection shall inform the student's
90 | teachers of the retention request and collaboratively discuss
91 | with the parent or guardian any basis for agreement or
92 | disagreement with the request. As part of the discussion with
93 | the parent or guardian, the principal shall disclose that
94 | retention may impact the student's eligibility to participate in
95 | high school interscholastic or intrascholastic sports due to the
96 | student's age.

97 | (b) In lieu of retention, the principal, teachers, and
98 | parent or guardian may collaborate to develop a customized 1-
99 | year education plan for the student with the intent of helping
100 | the student return to grade level readiness by the end of the

101 next academic year. Such plan may include, but need not be
102 limited to, supplemental educational support, services, and
103 interventions; summer education; promotion in some, but not all,
104 courses; and midyear promotion.

105 (c) The parent's or guardian's decision to promote or
106 retain his or her student after discussing the retention request
107 with the principal shall control. The parent or guardian must
108 sign a form provided by the principal indicating the parent or
109 guardian's decision and acknowledging the academic and athletic
110 ramifications of his or her decision. This form must be retained
111 in the student's record.

112 (3) If a student retained under this subsection has an
113 individual education plan (IEP) in effect, the student's IEP
114 team must convene to review and revise the student's IEP, as
115 appropriate.

116 (4) By June 30, 2022, school districts shall report to the
117 Department of Education the number of students retained pursuant
118 to this act for all or part of the 2021-2022 school year.

119 Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (7) of section
120 1012.34, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

121 1012.34 Personnel evaluation procedures and criteria.—

122 (7) MEASUREMENT OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE.—

123 (a) The Commissioner of Education shall approve a formula
124 to measure individual student learning growth on the statewide,
125 standardized assessments in English Language Arts and

126 mathematics administered under s. 1008.22. A third party,
127 independent of the assessment developer, must analyze student
128 learning growth data calculated using the formula and provide
129 access to a data visualization tool that enables teachers to
130 understand and evaluate the data and school administrators to
131 improve instruction, evaluate programs, allocate resources, plan
132 professional development, and communicate with stakeholders. The
133 formula must take into consideration each student's prior
134 academic performance. The formula must not set different
135 expectations for student learning growth based upon a student's
136 gender, race, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status. In the
137 development of the formula, the commissioner shall consider
138 other factors such as a student's attendance record, disability
139 status, or status as an English language learner. The
140 commissioner may select additional formulas to measure student
141 performance as appropriate for the remainder of the statewide,
142 standardized assessments included under s. 1008.22 and continue
143 to select formulas as new assessments are implemented in the
144 state system. By July 31 of each year, the commissioner shall
145 provide to each school district the student learning growth data
146 calculated using the formula.

147 Section 3. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) and paragraph
148 (b) of subsection (3) of section 1004.04, Florida Statutes, are
149 amended to read:

150 1004.04 Public accountability and state approval for

151 teacher preparation programs.—

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

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

156 1. Candidate instruction and assessment in the Florida
157 Educator Accomplished Practices across content areas.

158 2. The use of state-adopted content standards to guide
159 curricula and instruction.

160 3. Scientifically researched and evidence-based reading
161 instructional strategies that improve reading performance for
162 all students, including explicit, systematic, and sequential
163 approaches to teaching phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary,
164 fluency, and text comprehension and multisensory intervention
165 strategies.

166 4. Content literacy and mathematics practices.

167 5. Strategies appropriate for the instruction of English
168 language learners.

169 6. Strategies appropriate for the instruction of students
170 with disabilities.

171 7. Strategies to differentiate instruction based on
172 student needs.

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

174 9. Strategies appropriate for the early identification of
175 students in crisis or experiencing a mental health challenge and

176 | the referral of such student to a mental health professional for
177 | support.

178 | 10. Strategies to support the use of technology in
179 | education and distance learning.

180 | (3) INITIAL STATE PROGRAM APPROVAL.—

181 | (b) Each teacher preparation program approved by the
182 | Department of Education, as provided for by this section, shall
183 | require students to meet, at a minimum, the following
184 | requirements as prerequisites for admission into the program:

185 | 1. For admission into the program, have a grade point
186 | average of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale for the general education
187 | component of undergraduate studies or have completed the
188 | requirements for a baccalaureate degree with a minimum grade
189 | point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale from any college or
190 | university accredited by a regional accrediting association as
191 | defined by State Board of Education rule or any college or
192 | university otherwise approved pursuant to State Board of
193 | Education rule.

194 | 2. Demonstrate mastery of general knowledge ~~sufficient for~~
195 | ~~entry into the program,~~ including the ability to read, write,
196 | and perform in mathematics, by passing the General Knowledge
197 | Test of the Florida Teacher Certification Examination by the
198 | time of graduation or, for a graduate level program, obtain a
199 | baccalaureate degree from an institution that is accredited or
200 | approved pursuant to the rules of the State Board of Education.

201
202 ~~Each teacher preparation program may waive these admissions~~
203 ~~requirements for up to 10 percent of the students admitted.~~
204 ~~Programs shall implement strategies to ensure that students~~
205 ~~admitted under a waiver receive assistance to demonstrate~~
206 ~~competencies to successfully meet requirements for certification~~
207 ~~and shall annually report to the Department of Education the~~
208 ~~status of each candidate admitted under such a waiver.~~

209 Section 4. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) and paragraphs
210 (a) and (b) of subsection (3) of section 1004.85, Florida
211 Statutes, are amended to read:

212 1004.85 Postsecondary educator preparation institutes.—

213 (2) (a) Postsecondary institutions that are accredited or
214 approved as described in State Board of Education rule may seek
215 approval from the Department of Education to create educator
216 preparation institutes for the purpose of providing any or all
217 of the following:

218 1. Professional development instruction to assist teachers
219 in improving classroom instruction and in meeting certification
220 or recertification requirements.

221 2. Instruction to assist potential and existing substitute
222 teachers in performing their duties.

223 3. Instruction to assist paraprofessionals in meeting
224 education and training requirements.

225 4. Instruction for baccalaureate degree holders to become

226 certified teachers as provided in this section in order to
227 increase routes to the classroom for mid-career professionals
228 who hold a baccalaureate degree and college graduates who were
229 not education majors.

230 5. Instruction and professional development for part-time
231 and full-time nondegreed teachers of career programs under s.
232 1012.39(1)(c).

233 (3) Educator preparation institutes approved pursuant to
234 this section may offer competency-based certification programs
235 specifically designed for noneducation major baccalaureate
236 degree holders to enable program participants to meet the
237 educator certification requirements of s. 1012.56. An educator
238 preparation institute choosing to offer a competency-based
239 certification program pursuant to the provisions of this section
240 must implement a program previously approved by the Department
241 of Education for this purpose or a program developed by the
242 institute and approved by the department for this purpose.
243 Approved programs shall be available for use by other approved
244 educator preparation institutes.

245 (a) Within 90 days after receipt of a request for
246 approval, the Department of Education shall approve a
247 preparation program pursuant to the requirements of this
248 subsection or issue a statement of the deficiencies in the
249 request for approval. The department shall approve a
250 certification program if the institute provides evidence of the

251 institute's capacity to implement a competency-based program
252 that includes each of the following:

253 1.a. Participant instruction and assessment in the Florida
254 Educator Accomplished Practices across content areas.

255 b. The use of state-adopted student content standards to
256 guide curriculum and instruction.

257 c. Scientifically researched and evidence-based reading
258 instructional strategies that improve reading performance for
259 all students, including explicit, systematic, and sequential
260 approaches to teaching phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary,
261 fluency, and text comprehension and multisensory intervention
262 strategies.

263 d. Content literacy and mathematical practices.

264 e. Strategies appropriate for instruction of English
265 language learners.

266 f. Strategies appropriate for instruction of students with
267 disabilities.

268 g. Strategies to differentiate instruction based on
269 student needs.

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

271 i. Strategies appropriate for the early identification of
272 students in crisis or experiencing a mental health challenge and
273 the referral of such student to a mental health professional for
274 support.

275 j. Strategies to support the use of technology in

276 | education and distance learning.

277 | 2. An educational plan for each participant to meet
278 | certification requirements and demonstrate his or her ability to
279 | teach the subject area for which the participant is seeking
280 | certification, which is based on an assessment of his or her
281 | competency in the areas listed in subparagraph 1.

282 | 3. Field experiences appropriate to the certification
283 | subject area specified in the educational plan with a diverse
284 | population of students in a variety of challenging environments,
285 | including, but not limited to, high-poverty schools, urban
286 | schools, and rural schools, under the supervision of qualified
287 | educators.

288 | 4. A certification ombudsman to facilitate the process and
289 | procedures required for participants who complete the program to
290 | meet any requirements related to the background screening
291 | pursuant to s. 1012.32 and educator professional or temporary
292 | certification pursuant to s. 1012.56.

293 | (b) Each program participant must:

294 | 1. Meet certification requirements pursuant to s.
295 | 1012.56(1) by obtaining a statement of status of eligibility in
296 | the certification subject area of the educational plan and meet
297 | the requirements of s. 1012.56(2) (a)-(f).

298 | 2. Participate in coursework and field experiences that
299 | are appropriate to his or her educational plan prepared under
300 | paragraph (a).

301 3. Before completion of the program, fully demonstrate his
302 or her ability to teach the subject area for which he or she is
303 seeking certification by documenting a positive impact on
304 student learning growth in a prekindergarten through grade 12
305 setting and, except as provided in s. 1012.56(7)(a)3., achieving
306 a passing score on the professional education competency
307 examination, the basic skills examination, and the subject area
308 examination for the subject area certification which is required
309 by state board rule.

310 Section 5. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section
311 1012.39, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

312 1012.39 Employment of substitute teachers, teachers of
313 adult education, nondegreed teachers of career education, and
314 career specialists; students performing clinical field
315 experience.—

316 (1) Notwithstanding ss. 1012.32, 1012.55, 1012.56, and
317 1012.57, or any other provision of law or rule to the contrary,
318 each district school board shall establish the minimal
319 qualifications for:

320 (c) Part-time and full-time nondegreed teachers of career
321 programs. Qualifications shall be established for nondegreed
322 teachers of career and technical education courses for program
323 clusters that are recognized in the state and are based
324 primarily on successful occupational experience rather than
325 academic training. The qualifications for such teachers shall

326 | require:

327 | 1. The filing of a complete set of fingerprints in the
328 | same manner as required by s. 1012.32. Faculty employed solely
329 | to conduct postsecondary instruction may be exempted from this
330 | requirement.

331 | 2. Documentation of education and successful occupational
332 | experience including documentation of:

333 | a. A high school diploma or the equivalent.

334 | b. Completion of 6 years of full-time successful
335 | occupational experience or the equivalent of part-time
336 | experience in the teaching specialization area. The district
337 | school board may establish alternative qualifications for
338 | teachers with an industry certification in the career area in
339 | which they teach.

340 | c. Completion of career education training conducted
341 | through the local school district inservice master plan or
342 | through an educator preparation institute approved by the
343 | Department of Education pursuant to s. 1004.85.

344 | d. For full-time teachers, completion of professional
345 | education training in teaching methods, course construction,
346 | lesson planning and evaluation, and teaching special needs
347 | students. This training may be completed through coursework from
348 | an accredited or approved institution or an approved district
349 | teacher education program.

350 | e. Demonstration of successful teaching performance.

351 f. Documentation of industry certification when state or
 352 national industry certifications are available and applicable.

353 Section 6. Subsection (3) and paragraph (a) of subsection
 354 (7) of section 1012.56, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

355 1012.56 Educator certification requirements.—

356 (3) MASTERY OF GENERAL KNOWLEDGE.—Acceptable means of
 357 demonstrating mastery of general knowledge are:

358 (a) Achievement of passing scores on the general knowledge
 359 examination required by state board rule;

360 (b) Documentation of a valid professional standard
 361 teaching certificate issued by another state;

362 (c) Documentation of a valid certificate issued by the
 363 National Board for Professional Teaching Standards or a national
 364 educator credentialing board approved by the State Board of
 365 Education;

366 (d) Documentation of two semesters of successful, full-
 367 time or part-time teaching in a Florida College System
 368 institution, state university, or private college or university
 369 that awards an associate or higher degree and is an accredited
 370 institution or an institution of higher education identified by
 371 the Department of Education as having a quality program; ~~or~~

372 (e) Achievement of passing scores, identified in state
 373 board rule, on national or international examinations that test
 374 comparable content and relevant standards in verbal, analytical
 375 writing, and quantitative reasoning skills, including, but not

376 limited to, the verbal, analytical writing, and quantitative
377 reasoning portions of the Graduate Record Examination. Passing
378 scores identified in state board rule must be at approximately
379 the same level of rigor as is required to pass the general
380 knowledge examinations; or

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

385

386 A school district that employs an individual who does not
387 achieve passing scores on any subtest of the general knowledge
388 examination must provide information regarding the availability
389 of state-level and district-level supports and instruction to
390 assist him or her in achieving a passing score. Such information
391 must include, but need not be limited to, state-level test
392 information guides, school district test preparation resources,
393 and preparation courses offered by state universities and
394 Florida College System institutions.

395 (7) TYPES AND TERMS OF CERTIFICATION.—

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

399 1. Meets all the applicable requirements outlined in
400 subsection (2).

401 2. For a professional certificate covering grades 6
402 through 12:

403 a. Meets the applicable requirements of paragraphs (2)(a)-
404 (h).

405 b. Holds a master's or higher degree in the area of
406 science, technology, engineering, or mathematics.

407 c. Teaches a high school course in the subject of the
408 advanced degree.

409 d. Is rated highly effective as determined by the
410 teacher's performance evaluation under s. 1012.34, based in part
411 on student performance as measured by a statewide, standardized
412 assessment or an Advanced Placement, Advanced International
413 Certificate of Education, or International Baccalaureate
414 examination.

415 e. Achieves a passing score on the Florida professional
416 education competency examination required by state board rule.

417 3. Meets the applicable requirements of paragraphs (2)(a)-
418 (h) and completes a professional preparation and education
419 competence program approved by the department pursuant to
420 paragraph (8)(c) or an educator preparation institute approved
421 by the department pursuant to s. 1004.85. An applicant who
422 completes one of these programs ~~the program~~ and is rated highly
423 effective as determined by his or her performance evaluation
424 under s. 1012.34 is not required to take or achieve a passing
425 score on the professional education competency examination in

426 | order to be awarded a professional certificate.

427 |

428 | Each temporary certificate is valid for 3 school fiscal years
429 | and is nonrenewable. At least 1 year before an individual's
430 | temporary certificate is set to expire, the department shall
431 | electronically notify the individual of the date on which his or
432 | her certificate will expire and provide a list of each method by
433 | which the qualifications for a professional certificate can be
434 | completed. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to
435 | allow the department to extend the validity period of a
436 | temporary certificate for 2 years when the requirements for the
437 | professional certificate were not completed due to the serious
438 | illness or injury of the applicant, the military service of an
439 | applicant's spouse, other extraordinary extenuating
440 | circumstances, or if the certificateholder is rated highly
441 | effective in the immediate prior year's performance evaluation
442 | pursuant to s. 1012.34 or has completed a 2-year mentorship
443 | program pursuant to s. 1012.56(8). The department shall extend
444 | the temporary certificate upon approval by the Commissioner of
445 | Education. A written request for extension of the certificate
446 | shall be submitted by the district school superintendent, the
447 | governing authority of a university lab school, the governing
448 | authority of a state-supported school, or the governing
449 | authority of a private school.

450 | Section 7. Section 1012.575, Florida Statutes, is amended

451 to read:

452 1012.575 Alternative preparation programs for certified
453 teachers to add additional coverage.—A district school board, or
454 an organization of private schools or a consortium of charter
455 schools with an approved professional development system as
456 described in s. 1012.98(6), may design alternative teacher
457 preparation programs to enable persons already certificated to
458 add an additional coverage to their certificates. Each
459 alternative teacher preparation program shall be reviewed and
460 approved by the Department of Education to assure that persons
461 who complete the program are competent in the necessary areas of
462 subject matter specialization. Two or more school districts may
463 jointly participate in an alternative preparation program for
464 teachers.

465 Section 8. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 1012.986,
466 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

467 1012.986 William Cecil Golden Professional Development
468 Program for School Leaders.—

469 (1) There is established the William Cecil Golden
470 Professional Development Program for School Leaders to provide
471 high-quality ~~high~~ standards and sustained support for
472 educational ~~principals as instructional~~ leaders. For purposes of
473 this section, the term "educational leader" means teacher
474 leaders, assistant principals, principals, or school district
475 leaders. The program shall consist of a collaborative network of

476 school districts, state-approved educational leadership
477 programs, regional consortia, charter management organizations,
478 and state and national professional leadership organizations to
479 respond to educational ~~instructional~~ leadership needs throughout
480 the state. The network shall support the human-resource
481 development needs of educational leaders ~~principals, principal~~
482 ~~leadership teams, and candidates for principal leadership~~
483 ~~positions~~ using the framework of leadership standards adopted by
484 the State Board of Education, ~~the Southern Regional Education~~
485 ~~Board, and the National Staff Development Council~~. The goal of
486 the network leadership program is to:

487 (a) Provide resources to support and enhance the roles of
488 educational leaders ~~principal's role as the instructional~~
489 ~~leader~~.

490 (b) Maintain a clearinghouse and disseminate data-
491 supported information related to the continued enhancement of
492 ~~enhanced~~ student achievement and learning, civic education,
493 coaching and mentoring, mental health awareness, technology in
494 education, distance learning, and school safety, based on
495 educational research and best practices.

496 (c) ~~Build the capacity to~~ Increase the quality and
497 capacity of educational leadership development programs ~~for~~
498 ~~preservice education for aspiring principals and inservice~~
499 ~~professional development for principals and principal leadership~~
500 ~~teams~~.

501 (d) Support evidence-based leadership ~~best teaching and~~
502 ~~research-based instructional~~ practices through dissemination and
503 modeling at the preservice and inservice levels for educational
504 leaders ~~both teachers and principals~~.

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

508 (a) Approved school district training programs.

509 (b) Interactive technology-based instruction.

510 (c) Regional consortium service organizations pursuant to
511 s. 1001.451.

512 (d) State, regional, university, or local educational
513 leadership academies.

514 (e) Educational leadership coaching and mentoring.

515 Section 9. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.