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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
03/02/2021	.	
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The Committee on Education (Wright) recommended the following:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

Delete lines 101 - 123  
and insert:

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

1004.85 Postsecondary educator preparation institutes.—

(2) (a) Postsecondary institutions that are accredited or approved as described in State Board of Education rule may seek approval from the Department of Education to create educator



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12 preparation institutes for the purpose of providing any or all  
13 of the following:

14 1. Professional development instruction to assist teachers  
15 in improving classroom instruction and in meeting certification  
16 or recertification requirements.

17 2. Instruction to assist potential and existing substitute  
18 teachers in performing their duties.

19 3. Instruction to assist paraprofessionals in meeting  
20 education and training requirements.

21 4. Instruction for baccalaureate degree holders to become  
22 certified teachers as provided in this section in order to  
23 increase routes to the classroom for mid-career professionals  
24 who hold a baccalaureate degree and college graduates who were  
25 not education majors.

26 5. Instruction and professional development for part-time  
27 and full-time nondegreed teachers of career programs under s.  
28 1012.39(1)(c).

29 (3) Educator preparation institutes approved pursuant to  
30 this section may offer competency-based certification programs  
31 specifically designed for noneducation major baccalaureate  
32 degree holders to enable program participants to meet the  
33 educator certification requirements of s. 1012.56. An educator  
34 preparation institute choosing to offer a competency-based  
35 certification program pursuant to the provisions of this section  
36 must implement a program previously approved by the Department  
37 of Education for this purpose or a program developed by the  
38 institute and approved by the department for this purpose.  
39 Approved programs shall be available for use by other approved  
40 educator preparation institutes.



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41 (a) Within 90 days after receipt of a request for approval,  
42 the Department of Education shall approve a preparation program  
43 pursuant to the requirements of this subsection or issue a  
44 statement of the deficiencies in the request for approval. The  
45 department shall approve a certification program if the  
46 institute provides evidence of the institute's capacity to  
47 implement a competency-based program that includes each of the  
48 following:

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

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

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

59 d. Content literacy and mathematical practices.

60 e. Strategies appropriate for instruction of English  
61 language learners.

62 f. Strategies appropriate for instruction of students with  
63 disabilities.

64 g. Strategies to differentiate instruction based on student  
65 needs.

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

67 i. Strategies appropriate for the early identification of  
68 students in crisis or experiencing a mental health challenge and  
69 the referral of such students to a mental health professional



70 for support.

71 j. Strategies to support the use of technology in education  
72 and distance learning.

73 2. An educational plan for each participant to meet  
74 certification requirements and demonstrate his or her ability to  
75 teach the subject area for which the participant is seeking  
76 certification, which is based on an assessment of his or her  
77 competency in the areas listed in subparagraph 1.

78 3. Field experiences appropriate to the certification  
79 subject area specified in the educational plan with a diverse  
80 population of students in a variety of challenging environments,  
81 including, but not limited to, high-poverty schools, urban  
82 schools, and rural schools, under the supervision of qualified  
83 educators.

84 4. A certification ombudsman to facilitate the process and  
85 procedures required for participants who complete the program to  
86 meet any requirements related to the background screening  
87 pursuant to s. 1012.32 and educator professional or temporary  
88 certification pursuant to s. 1012.56.

89  
90 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

91 And the title is amended as follows:

92 Delete line 17

93 and insert:

94 nondegreed teachers of career programs; requiring the  
95 Department of Education to approve a certification  
96 program if an institute provides evidence of its  
97 capacity to implement a competency-based program that  
98 includes specified strategies; amending s.