

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BILL ANALYSIS

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8BILL #: [HB 37](#)

TITLE: Educator Certifications and Training

SPONSOR(S): Daley

COMPANION BILL: [SB 204](#) (Jones)

LINKED BILLS: None

RELATED BILLS: None

Committee References

[Education Administration](#)



[Education & Employment](#)

SUMMARY

Effect of the Bill:

The bill requires the core curricula of educator preparation programs to address strategies and practices relating to mass casualty incidents. The bill specifies that to be eligible to seek an educator certification, an individual must have received training relating to mass casualty incidents. The bill requires the Department of Education to develop a list of approved trainings, which must also be included in the requirements for continuing education or inservice training of instructional personnel.

Fiscal or Economic Impact:

None

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ANALYSIS

EFFECT OF THE BILL:

The bill requires the [core curricula](#) of [educator preparation programs](#) to address strategies and practices relating to mass casualty incidents, including identifying, preventing, preparing, addressing, and responding to such incidents. (Sections [1](#) and [2](#)).

The bill specifies that to be eligible to seek an [educator certification](#), including a professional certificate, temporary certificate, temporary apprenticeship certificate, adjunct educator certificate, or classical education teaching certificate, the individual must have received training relating to mass casualty incidents. (Sections [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), and [5](#)).

The bill also requires the Department of Education (DOE) to develop a list of approved trainings to prepare instructional personnel to identify, prevent, prepare for, address, and respond to mass casualty incidents. Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, the DOE must incorporate the approved trainings into existing requirements for the [continuing education or inservice training](#) of instructional personnel. This requirement may not add to the total hours of continuing education or inservice training currently established by the DOE, nor does it create any new [duty of care or basis of liability](#). (Section [6](#)).

The effective date of the bill is July 1, 2025. (Section [7](#)).

RULEMAKING:

Current law requires the State Board of Education (SBE) to adopt rules which establish uniform core curricula for state-approved teacher preparation programs, allow for the approval of Educator Preparation Institutes, and allow for the issuance and renewal of an educator certification. The bill modifies provisions of law already under the SBE's rulemaking authority, thus allowing the SBE to make rules to implement the bill. The bill also creates new rulemaking authority, allowing the SBE to adopt rules relating to continuing education and inservice training on mass casualty incidents.

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DATE: 3/31/2025

Lawmaking is a legislative power; however, the Legislature may delegate a portion of such power to executive branch agencies to create rules that have the force of law. To exercise this delegated power, an agency must have a grant of rulemaking authority and a law to implement.

RELEVANT INFORMATION

SUBJECT OVERVIEW:

[Educator Preparation Programs](#)

Educator preparation programs are accountable for producing individuals with the competencies and skills necessary to achieve the state's education goals and help all students meet high standards for academic achievement.¹ State-approved educator preparation programs are offered by Florida public and private postsecondary institutions, public school districts, and private providers by which candidates for educator certification can, depending on the type of program, demonstrate mastery of general knowledge, professional preparation and education competence, and subject area knowledge for purposes of attaining an educator certificate.²

There are various state-approved educator preparation programs that individuals may use to receive the training needed to attain teaching credentials, including:³

- Initial Educator Preparation programs
- Educator Preparation Institutes
- District Professional Development Certification and Education Competency Programs.

Initial educator preparation programs are offered at postsecondary institutions and typically culminate in a bachelor's or master's degree. This is a traditional pathway to eligibility for educator certification. Educator Preparation Institutes (EPI) are alternative certification programs offered by postsecondary institutions and qualified private providers for baccalaureate degree holders as an alternative route to educator certification for career changers and college graduates. District professional development certification and education competency program are cohesive, competency-based professional preparation certification programs offered by school districts, charter schools, and charter management organizations by which the instructional staff can satisfy the mastery of professional preparation and education competence requirements.

[Educator Preparation Program Uniform Core Curricula](#)

The SBE must adopt rules to establish uniform core curricula for each state-approved educator preparation program.⁴ These rules must include, at a minimum, the following:⁵

- The Florida Educator Accomplished Practices.⁶
- The state-adopted content standards.
- Scientifically researched and evidence-based reading instructional strategies that improve reading performance for all students, including explicit, systematic, and sequential approaches to teaching phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and text comprehension and multisensory intervention strategies.
- Content literacy and mathematics practices.
- Strategies appropriate for the instruction of English language learners.
- Strategies appropriate for the instruction of students with disabilities.
- Strategies to differentiate instruction based on student needs.

¹ [Section 1004.04\(1\)\(b\), F.S.](#)

² [Rule 6A-5.066, F.A.C.](#); [ss. 1004.04\(3\)\(a\)](#) and [1004.85\(1\), F.S.](#)

³ [Rule 6A-5.066, F.A.C.](#)

⁴ [Section 1004.04\(2\)\(a\), F.S.](#)

⁵ [Section 1004.04\(2\)\(b\), F.S.](#)

⁶ [Rule 6A-5.065, F.A.C.](#) The Florida Educator Accomplished Practices (FEAP) are Florida's core standards for effective educators and provide valuable guidance to Florida's public-school educators and educator preparation programs throughout the state on what educators are expected to know and be able to do.

- Strategies and practices to support evidence-based content aligned to state standards and grading practices.
- Strategies appropriate for the early identification of a student in crisis or experiencing a mental health challenge and the referral of such student to a mental health professional for support.
- Strategies to support the use of technology in education and distance learning.
- Strategies and practices to support effective, research-based assessment and grading practices aligned to the state’s academic standards.

Each educator-candidate must be instructed and assessed on the uniform core curricula in his or her program concentration area during course work and field experiences. Additionally, each candidate must demonstrate an ability to positively impact student learning growth during the field experience and pass the Florida Teacher Certification Examination.⁷

Educator Certification

While there are several certification pathways, any individual seeking certification must meet the following general eligibility requirements:⁸

- be at least 18 years of age;
- sign an affidavit attesting that the applicant will uphold the United States and State Constitutions;
- submit to fingerprinting and background screening and not have a criminal history that requires the applicant’s disqualification from certification or employment;
- be of good moral character; and
- be competent and capable of performing the duties, functions, and responsibilities of a teacher.

After meeting eligibility requirements, an individual may choose a certification route. The DOE issues several types of educator certificates, including:

- Professional Certificate: Florida’s standard type of educator certification; valid for 5 years and renewable.⁹
- Temporary Certificates: Temporary and Military Veterans Temporary certificates cover employment in full-time positions for which educator certification is required; valid for 5 years and generally nonrenewable.¹⁰ Temporary Teacher Internship and Temporary Teacher Apprenticeship certificates are also valid for 5 years and nonrenewable.¹¹
- Classical Education Teaching Certificate: Issued upon the request of a classical school and only valid at a classical school; valid for 5 years and renewable.¹²

District school boards and charter school governing boards may issue an Adjunct Certificate to applicants meeting the general eligibility requirements for a professional certificate and demonstrating subject area expertise. It is valid for part-time or full-time positions, for up to 5 years for a full-time position, and is nonrenewable.¹³

For all certifications, candidates must submit an application and satisfy general eligibility and certificate-specific requirements.¹⁴

Continuing Education

To renew a professional certification, an educator must submit an application,¹⁵ pay a fee,¹⁶ and earn at least six college credits or 120 inservice points.¹⁷ At least three college credits or 60 inservice points must be earned in

⁷ [Section 1004.04\(2\)\(c\)-\(d\), F.S.](#)

⁸ [Section 1012.56\(2\)\(a\)-\(f\), F.S.](#)

⁹ [Section 1012.56\(7\)\(a\), F.S.; r. 6A-4.004\(5\), F.A.C.](#)

¹⁰ [Section 1012.56\(7\)\(b\)1.-2. and \(f\), F.S.; r. 6A-4.004\(1\)-\(2\), F.A.C.](#)

¹¹ [Section 1012.56\(7\)\(b\)3., \(d\), and \(f\), F.S.; r. 6A-4.004\(3\)-\(4\), F.A.C.](#)

¹² [Section 1012.55\(5\), F.S.; r. 6A-4.004\(10\), F.S.](#)

¹³ [Section 1012.57, F.S.](#)

¹⁴ [Section 1012.56, F.S.; r. 6A-4.004, F.A.C.](#)

¹⁵ [Rule 6A-4.0051\(3\)\(c\), F.A.C.](#)

each subject area for which renewal is sought.¹⁸ The renewal period may be extended to include two successive renewal periods up to 10 years to enable educators who are certified in three or more subject areas to earn the required credits or inservice points in each subject area.¹⁹ In addition to credits or inservice points required in the subject area, credits or inservice points may be earned in courses in clinical educator training, mentorship and induction activities, literacy and computational skills acquisition, exceptional student education, child development, drug abuse, child abuse, limited English proficiency, dropout prevention, and other topics.²⁰

Applicants for renewal of a professional certificate must earn at least one college credit or the equivalent amount of inservice points in the area of instruction for teaching students with disabilities.²¹

For professional certificates with specialization areas that include reading instruction or intervention for students in kindergarten through grade 6 and a beginning validity date on or after July 1, 2020, educators must complete two college credits or the equivalent amount of inservice points in specific reading instruction and intervention strategies for renewal of coverages specified in SBE rule.²²

Certification in subject areas may also be renewed by earning a passing score on the corresponding Florida-developed subject area test or standardized examination specified in SBE rule.²³ Certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) is deemed to meet certification renewal requirements for the life of the certificate, in the corresponding certification subject area.²⁴

[Duty of Care and Basis of Liability](#)

Duty of care refers to a legal obligation requiring conformance to a certain standard of conduct to protect others against unreasonable risk. For a teacher, this would include an obligation to provide a safe learning environment for students. Basis of liability refers to an action or omission for which a person can be held legally responsible.

Florida's Teachers' Bill of Rights requires that a teacher, except in cases of excessive force or cruel and unusual punishment, may not be held civilly or criminally liable for actions carried out in conformity with SBE rules. Teachers have access to liability coverage through the DOE's educator liability insurance program.²⁵

An example of this language is found in statute relating to continuing education and inservice training for youth suicide awareness and prevention. Participating in the training does not create any new duty of care or basis of liability for instructional personnel.²⁶

¹⁶ The fee for a certification renewal is \$75. [Rules 6A-4.0051\(3\)\(c\)](#) and [6A-4.0012\(1\)\(b\)1., F.A.C.](#)

¹⁷ [Section 1012.585\(3\)\(a\), F.S.](#) Applicants may combine college credits and inservice points to meet this requirement. One semester hour of college credit is equivalent to 20 inservice points. [Rule 6A-4.0051\(1\)\(a\)2., F.A.C.](#)

¹⁸ [Section 1012.585\(3\)\(a\), F.S.](#)

¹⁹ [Section 1012.585\(3\)\(c\), F.S.](#); [r. 6A-4.0051\(2\)\(c\), F.A.C.](#)

²⁰ [Section 1012.585\(3\)\(a\), F.S.](#) However, inservice points may be earned only once each 5-year validity period for any mandatory training topic that is not linked to student learning or professional growth. [Section 1012.585\(3\)\(h\), F.S.](#)

²¹ [Section 1012.585\(3\)\(e\), F.S.](#) This required training may not add to the total hours required by the DOE for continuing education or inservice training. *Id.*

²² [Section 1012.585\(3\)\(f\), F.S.](#); [r. 6A-4.0051\(7\), F.A.C.](#)

²³ [Section 1012.585\(3\)\(b\), F.S.](#) For the purposes of renewing a professional certificate, passage of a subject area examination is equivalent to 3 semester hours of college credit. [Rule 6A-4.0051\(1\)\(b\), F.A.C.](#)

²⁴ [Section 1012.585\(2\)\(b\), F.S.](#); [r. 6A-4.0051\(1\)\(c\), F.A.C.](#)

²⁵ [Sections 1012.75](#) and [1015.03\(2\), F.S.](#)

²⁶ [Section 1012.583\(4\), F.S.](#)

RECENT LEGISLATION:

YEAR	BILL #	HOUSE SPONSOR(S)	SENATE SPONSOR	OTHER INFORMATION
2022	CS/CS/CS/HB 1421	Hawkins, Hunschofsky	Gruters	The bill became law on July 1, 2023.
2021	CS/HB 1159	Busatta	Wright	The bill became law on July 1, 2021.

OTHER RESOURCES:

[Florida Department of Education - Educator Preparation](#)

[Florida Department of Education - The Florida Educator Accomplished Practices](#)

[Florida Department of Education - Educator Certification](#)

BILL HISTORY

COMMITTEE REFERENCE	ACTION	DATE	STAFF DIRECTOR/ POLICY CHIEF	ANALYSIS PREPARED BY
Education Administration Subcommittee			Sleap	Blalock
Education & Employment Committee				