

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to educator certifications and  
3           training; amending s. 1004.04, F.S.; revising the core  
4           curricula for certain teacher preparation programs to  
5           include training relating to mass casualty incidents;  
6           amending s. 1004.85, F.S.; requiring certain  
7           postsecondary educator preparation institution  
8           programs to include training relating to mass casualty  
9           incidents; amending s. 1012.55, F.S.; conforming a  
10          cross-reference; amending s. 1012.56, F.S.; revising  
11          the certified educator eligibility criteria to require  
12          such persons to receive training in mass casualty  
13          incidents; amending s. 1012.57, F.S.; requiring  
14          persons who hold adjunct teaching certificates to  
15          receive training in mass casualty incidents; creating  
16          s. 1012.5841, F.S.; requiring the Department of  
17          Education to develop a list of approved trainings  
18          relating to mass casualty incidents; beginning in a  
19          specified school year, requiring the department to  
20          include such trainings in existing continuing  
21          education and inservice training requirements for  
22          instructional personnel; providing applicability;  
23          authorizing the State Board of Education to adopt  
24          rules; providing an effective date.

25

26 | Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

27 |

28 |       **Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section**  
 29 | **1004.04, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

30 |       1004.04 Public accountability and state approval for  
 31 | teacher preparation programs.—

32 |       (2) UNIFORM CORE CURRICULA AND CANDIDATE ASSESSMENT.—

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

36 |       1. Candidate instruction and assessment in the Florida  
 37 | Educator Accomplished Practices across content areas.

38 |       2. The use of state-adopted content standards to guide  
 39 | curricula and instruction.

40 |       3. Scientifically researched and evidence-based reading  
 41 | instructional strategies grounded in the science of reading  
 42 | which improve reading performance for all students, including  
 43 | explicit, systematic, and sequential approaches to teaching  
 44 | phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and text  
 45 | comprehension and multisensory intervention strategies. The  
 46 | primary instructional strategy for teaching word reading is  
 47 | phonics instruction for decoding and encoding. Instructional  
 48 | strategies for foundational skills may not employ the three-  
 49 | cueing system model of reading or visual memory as a basis for  
 50 | teaching word reading. Instructional strategies may include

51 visual information and strategies that improve background and  
52 experiential knowledge, add context, and increase oral language  
53 and vocabulary to support comprehension, but may not be used to  
54 teach word reading.

55 4. Content literacy and mathematics practices.

56 5. Strategies appropriate for the instruction of English  
57 language learners.

58 6. Strategies appropriate for the instruction of students  
59 with disabilities.

60 7. Strategies to differentiate instruction based on  
61 student needs.

62 8. Strategies and practices to support evidence-based  
63 content aligned to state standards and grading practices.

64 9. Strategies appropriate for the early identification of  
65 a student in crisis or experiencing a mental health challenge  
66 and the referral of such student to a mental health professional  
67 for support.

68 10. Strategies to support the use of technology in  
69 education and distance learning.

70 11. Strategies and practices to support effective,  
71 research-based assessment and grading practices aligned to the  
72 state's academic standards.

73 12. Strategies and practices on identifying, preventing,  
74 preparing, addressing, and responding to mass casualty  
75 incidents.

76           **Section 2. Paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (3) of**  
77 **section 1004.85, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

78           1004.85 Postsecondary educator preparation institutes.—

79           (3) Educator preparation institutes approved pursuant to  
80 this section may offer competency-based certification programs  
81 specifically designed for noneducation major baccalaureate  
82 degree holders to enable program participants to meet the  
83 educator certification requirements of s. 1012.56. An educator  
84 preparation institute choosing to offer a competency-based  
85 certification program pursuant to the provisions of this section  
86 must implement a program developed by the institute and approved  
87 by the department for this purpose. Approved programs shall be  
88 available for use by other approved educator preparation  
89 institutes.

90           (a) Within 90 days after receipt of a request for  
91 approval, the Department of Education shall approve a  
92 preparation program pursuant to the requirements of this  
93 subsection or issue a statement of the deficiencies in the  
94 request for approval. The department shall approve a  
95 certification program if the institute provides evidence of the  
96 institute's capacity to implement a competency-based program  
97 that instructs and assesses each candidate in the following:

98           1.a. The Florida Educator Accomplished Practices approved  
99 by the state board.

100           b. The state academic standards provided under s. 1003.41,

101 including scientifically based reading instruction, content  
102 literacy, and mathematical practices, for each subject  
103 identified on the statement of status of eligibility or the  
104 temporary certificate.

105 c. Scientifically researched and evidence-based reading  
106 instructional strategies grounded in the science of reading  
107 which improve reading performance for all students, including  
108 explicit, systematic, and sequential approaches to teaching  
109 phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and text  
110 comprehension and multisensory intervention strategies. The  
111 primary instructional strategy for teaching word reading is  
112 phonics instruction for decoding and encoding. Instructional  
113 strategies for foundational skills may not employ the three-  
114 cueing system model of reading or visual memory as a basis for  
115 teaching word reading. Instructional strategies may include  
116 visual information and strategies which improve background and  
117 experiential knowledge, add context, and increase oral language  
118 and vocabulary to support comprehension, but may not be used to  
119 teach word reading.

120 d. Strategies and practices on identifying, preventing,  
121 preparing, addressing, and responding to mass casualty  
122 incidents.

123 2. An educational plan for each participant to meet  
124 certification requirements and demonstrate his or her ability to  
125 teach the subject area for which the participant is seeking

126 certification, which is based on an assessment of his or her  
127 competency in the areas listed in subparagraph 1.

128 3. Field experiences appropriate to the certification  
129 subject area specified in the educational plan under the  
130 supervision of qualified educators. The state board shall  
131 determine in rule the amount of field experience necessary to  
132 serve as the teacher of record, beginning with candidates  
133 entering a program in the 2023-2024 school year.

134 4. A certification ombudsman to facilitate the process and  
135 procedures required for participants who complete the program to  
136 meet any requirements related to the background screening  
137 pursuant to s. 1012.32 and educator professional or temporary  
138 certification pursuant to s. 1012.56.

139 (b) Each program participant must:

140 1. Meet certification requirements pursuant to s.  
141 1012.56(1) by obtaining a statement of status of eligibility in  
142 the certification subject area of the educational plan and meet  
143 the requirements of s. 1012.56(2)(a)-(g) ~~s. 1012.56(2)(a)-(f)~~  
144 before participating in field experiences.

145 2. Demonstrate competency and participate in field  
146 experiences that are appropriate to his or her educational plan  
147 prepared under paragraph (a). Beginning with candidates entering  
148 an educator preparation institute in the 2022-2023 school year,  
149 a candidate for certification in a coverage area identified  
150 pursuant to s. 1012.585(3)(f) must successfully complete all

151 competencies for a reading endorsement, including completion of  
152 the endorsement practicum through the candidate's field  
153 experience, in order to graduate from the program.

154 3. Before completion of the program, fully demonstrate his  
155 or her ability to teach the subject area for which he or she is  
156 seeking certification by documenting a positive impact on  
157 student learning growth in a prekindergarten through grade 12  
158 setting and, except as provided in s. 1012.56(7)(a)3., achieving  
159 a passing score on the professional education competency  
160 examination, the basic skills examination, and the subject area  
161 examination for the subject area certification which is required  
162 by state board rule.

163 **Section 3. Subsection (5) of section 1012.55, Florida**  
164 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

165 1012.55 Positions for which certificates required.—

166 (5) Notwithstanding this section and ss. 1012.32 and  
167 1012.56, or any other provision of law or rule to the contrary,  
168 the State Board of Education shall adopt rules to allow for the  
169 issuance of a classical education teaching certificate, upon the  
170 request of a classical school, to any applicant who fulfills the  
171 requirements of s. 1012.56(2)(a)-(g) ~~s. 1012.56(2)(a)-(f)~~ and  
172 (11) and any other criteria established by the department. Such  
173 certificate is only valid at a classical school. For the  
174 purposes of this subsection, the term "classical school" means a  
175 school that implements and provides professional learning in a

176 classical education school model that emphasizes the development  
177 of students in the principles of moral character and civic  
178 virtue through a well-rounded education in the liberal arts and  
179 sciences that is based on the classical trivium stages of  
180 grammar, logic, and rhetoric.

181 **Section 4. Paragraphs (g), (h), and (i) of subsection (2)**  
182 **of section 1012.56, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as**  
183 **paragraphs (h), (i), and (j), respectively, paragraphs (a), (b),**  
184 **and (d) of subsection (7) are amended, and a new paragraph (g)**  
185 **is added to subsection (2) of that section, to read:**

186 1012.56 Educator certification requirements.—

187 (2) ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA.—To be eligible to seek  
188 certification, a person must:

189 (g) Have received training that includes strategies and  
190 practices on identifying, preventing, preparing, addressing, and  
191 responding to mass casualty incidents.

192 (7) TYPES AND TERMS OF CERTIFICATION.—

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

196 1. Meets all the applicable requirements outlined in  
197 subsection (2).

198 2. For a professional certificate covering grades 6  
199 through 12:

200 a. Meets the applicable requirements of paragraphs (2) (a)–



201 (i) ~~(2)(a)-(h)~~.

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

204       c. Teaches a high school course in the subject of the  
205 advanced degree.

206       d. Is rated highly effective as determined by the  
207 teacher's performance evaluation under s. 1012.34, based in part  
208 on student performance as measured by a statewide, standardized  
209 assessment or an Advanced Placement, Advanced International  
210 Certificate of Education, or International Baccalaureate  
211 examination.

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

214       3. Meets the applicable requirements of paragraphs (2)(a)-  
215 (i) ~~(2)(a)-(h)~~ and completes a professional learning  
216 certification program approved by the department pursuant to  
217 paragraph (8)(c) or an educator preparation institute approved  
218 by the department pursuant to s. 1004.85. An applicant who  
219 completes one of these programs and is rated highly effective as  
220 determined by his or her performance evaluation under s. 1012.34  
221 is not required to take or achieve a passing score on the  
222 professional education competency examination in order to be  
223 awarded a professional certificate.

224       (b) The department shall issue a temporary certificate to  
225 any applicant who:

226           1. Completes the requirements outlined in paragraphs  
227 (2) (a) - (g) ~~(2) (a) - (f)~~ and completes the subject area content  
228 requirements specified in state board rule or demonstrates  
229 mastery of subject area knowledge pursuant to subsection (5) and  
230 holds an accredited degree or a degree approved by the  
231 Department of Education at the level required for the subject  
232 area specialization in state board rule;

233           2. For a subject area specialization for which the state  
234 board otherwise requires a bachelor's degree, documents 48  
235 months of active-duty military service with an honorable  
236 discharge or a medical separation; completes the requirements  
237 outlined in paragraphs (2) (a), (b), and (d) - (g) ~~(d) - (f)~~;  
238 completes the subject area content requirements specified in  
239 state board rule or demonstrates mastery of subject area  
240 knowledge pursuant to subsection (5); and documents completion  
241 of 60 college credits with a minimum cumulative grade point  
242 average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale, as provided by one or more  
243 accredited institutions of higher learning or a nonaccredited  
244 institution of higher learning identified by the Department of  
245 Education as having a quality program resulting in a bachelor's  
246 degree or higher; or

247           3. Is enrolled in a state-approved teacher preparation  
248 program under s. 1004.04; is actively completing the required  
249 program field experience or internship at a public school;  
250 completes the requirements outlined in paragraphs (2) (a), (b),

251 and (d)-(g) ~~(d)-(f)~~; completes the subject area content  
252 requirements specified in state board rule or demonstrates  
253 mastery of subject area knowledge pursuant to subsection (5);  
254 and documents completion of 60 college credits with a minimum  
255 cumulative grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale, as  
256 provided by one or more accredited institutions of higher  
257 learning or a nonaccredited institution of higher learning  
258 identified by the Department of Education as having a quality  
259 program resulting in a bachelor's degree or higher.

260 (d) The department shall issue a temporary apprenticeship  
261 certificate to any applicant who meets the requirements of  
262 paragraphs (2) (a), (b), and (d)-(g) ~~(d)-(f)~~.

263  
264 At least 1 year before an individual's temporary certificate is  
265 set to expire, the department shall electronically notify the  
266 individual of the date on which his or her certificate will  
267 expire and provide a list of each method by which the  
268 qualifications for a professional certificate can be completed.

269 **Section 5. Subsection (1) of section 1012.57, Florida**  
270 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

271 1012.57 Certification of adjunct educators.—

272 (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of ss. 1012.32,  
273 1012.55, and 1012.56, or any other provision of law or rule to  
274 the contrary, district school boards and charter school  
275 governing boards shall adopt rules to allow for the issuance of

276 an adjunct teaching certificate to any applicant who fulfills  
277 the requirements of s. 1012.56(2)(a)-(g) ~~s. 1012.56(2)(a)-(f)~~  
278 and (11) and who has expertise in the subject area to be taught.  
279 An applicant is considered to have expertise in the subject area  
280 to be taught if the applicant demonstrates sufficient subject  
281 area mastery through passage of a subject area test or has  
282 achieved an industry certification in the subject area to be  
283 taught.

284 **Section 6. Section 1012.5841, Florida Statutes, is created**  
285 **to read:**

286 1012.5841 Continuing education and inservice training for  
287 identifying, preventing, preparing, addressing, and responding  
288 to mass casualty incidents.-

289 (1) The Department of Education shall develop a list of  
290 approved trainings to prepare instructional personnel to  
291 identify, prevent, prepare for, address, and respond to mass  
292 casualty incidents.

293 (2) Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, the  
294 department shall incorporate the training included in the list  
295 required under subsection (1) into existing requirements for the  
296 continuing education or inservice training of instructional  
297 personnel. The requirements of this section may not add to the  
298 total hours required for continuing education or inservice  
299 training as currently established by the department.

300 (3) A person has no cause of action for any loss or damage

301 caused by an act or omission resulting from the implementation  
302 of this section or resulting from any training required by this  
303 section unless the loss or damage was caused by willful or  
304 wanton misconduct. This section does not create any new duty of  
305 care or basis of liability.

306 (4) The State Board of Education may adopt rules to  
307 implement this section.

308 **Section 7.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.