

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; providing
 16 an effective date.

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 18 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 20 **Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section**
 21 **1004.04, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

22 1004.04 Public accountability and state approval for
 23 teacher preparation programs.—

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

25 (b) The rules to establish uniform core curricula for each

26 | state-approved teacher preparation program must include, but are
27 | not limited to, the following:

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

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

32 | 3. Scientifically researched and evidence-based reading
33 | instructional strategies grounded in the science of reading
34 | which improve reading performance for all students, including
35 | explicit, systematic, and sequential approaches to teaching
36 | phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and text
37 | comprehension and multisensory intervention strategies. The
38 | primary instructional strategy for teaching word reading is
39 | phonics instruction for decoding and encoding. Instructional
40 | strategies for foundational skills may not employ the three-
41 | cueing system model of reading or visual memory as a basis for
42 | teaching word reading. Instructional strategies may include
43 | visual information and strategies that improve background and
44 | experiential knowledge, add context, and increase oral language
45 | and vocabulary to support comprehension, but may not be used to
46 | teach word reading.

47 | 4. Content literacy and mathematics practices.

48 | 5. Strategies appropriate for the instruction of English
49 | language learners.

50 | 6. Strategies appropriate for the instruction of students

51 with disabilities.

52 7. Strategies to differentiate instruction based on
53 student needs.

54 8. Strategies and practices to support evidence-based
55 content aligned to state standards and grading practices.

56 9. Strategies appropriate for the early identification of
57 a student in crisis or experiencing a mental health challenge
58 and the referral of such student to a mental health professional
59 for support.

60 10. Strategies to support the use of technology in
61 education and distance learning.

62 11. Strategies and practices to support effective,
63 research-based assessment and grading practices aligned to the
64 state's academic standards.

65 12. Strategies and practices on identifying, preventing,
66 preparing, addressing, and responding to mass casualty
67 incidents.

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

70 1004.85 Postsecondary educator preparation institutes.—

71 (3) Educator preparation institutes approved pursuant to
72 this section may offer competency-based certification programs
73 specifically designed for noneducation major baccalaureate
74 degree holders to enable program participants to meet the
75 educator certification requirements of s. 1012.56. An educator

76 preparation institute choosing to offer a competency-based
77 certification program pursuant to the provisions of this section
78 must implement a program developed by the institute and approved
79 by the department for this purpose. Approved programs shall be
80 available for use by other approved educator preparation
81 institutes.

82 (a) Within 90 days after receipt of a request for
83 approval, the Department of Education shall approve a
84 preparation program pursuant to the requirements of this
85 subsection or issue a statement of the deficiencies in the
86 request for approval. The department shall approve a
87 certification program if the institute provides evidence of the
88 institute's capacity to implement a competency-based program
89 that instructs and assesses each candidate in the following:

90 1.a. The Florida Educator Accomplished Practices approved
91 by the state board.

92 b. The state academic standards provided under s. 1003.41,
93 including scientifically based reading instruction, content
94 literacy, and mathematical practices, for each subject
95 identified on the statement of status of eligibility or the
96 temporary certificate.

97 c. Scientifically researched and evidence-based reading
98 instructional strategies grounded in the science of reading
99 which improve reading performance for all students, including
100 explicit, systematic, and sequential approaches to teaching

101 phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and text
102 comprehension and multisensory intervention strategies. The
103 primary instructional strategy for teaching word reading is
104 phonics instruction for decoding and encoding. Instructional
105 strategies for foundational skills may not employ the three-
106 cueing system model of reading or visual memory as a basis for
107 teaching word reading. Instructional strategies may include
108 visual information and strategies which improve background and
109 experiential knowledge, add context, and increase oral language
110 and vocabulary to support comprehension, but may not be used to
111 teach word reading.

112 d. Strategies and practices on identifying, preventing,
113 preparing, addressing, and responding to mass casualty
114 incidents.

115 2. An educational plan for each participant to meet
116 certification requirements and demonstrate his or her ability to
117 teach the subject area for which the participant is seeking
118 certification, which is based on an assessment of his or her
119 competency in the areas listed in subparagraph 1.

120 3. Field experiences appropriate to the certification
121 subject area specified in the educational plan under the
122 supervision of qualified educators. The state board shall
123 determine in rule the amount of field experience necessary to
124 serve as the teacher of record, beginning with candidates
125 entering a program in the 2023-2024 school year.

126 4. A certification ombudsman to facilitate the process and
 127 procedures required for participants who complete the program to
 128 meet any requirements related to the background screening
 129 pursuant to s. 1012.32 and educator professional or temporary
 130 certification pursuant to s. 1012.56.

131 (b) Each program participant must:

132 1. Meet certification requirements pursuant to s.
 133 1012.56(1) by obtaining a statement of status of eligibility in
 134 the certification subject area of the educational plan and meet
 135 the requirements of s. 1012.56(2)(a)-(g) ~~s. 1012.56(2)(a)-(f)~~
 136 before participating in field experiences.

137 2. Demonstrate competency and participate in field
 138 experiences that are appropriate to his or her educational plan
 139 prepared under paragraph (a). Beginning with candidates entering
 140 an educator preparation institute in the 2022-2023 school year,
 141 a candidate for certification in a coverage area identified
 142 pursuant to s. 1012.585(3)(f) must successfully complete all
 143 competencies for a reading endorsement, including completion of
 144 the endorsement practicum through the candidate's field
 145 experience, in order to graduate from the program.

146 3. Before completion of the program, fully demonstrate his
 147 or her ability to teach the subject area for which he or she is
 148 seeking certification by documenting a positive impact on
 149 student learning growth in a prekindergarten through grade 12
 150 setting and, except as provided in s. 1012.56(7)(a)3., achieving

151 a passing score on the professional education competency
152 examination, the basic skills examination, and the subject area
153 examination for the subject area certification which is required
154 by state board rule.

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

157 1012.55 Positions for which certificates required.—

158 (5) Notwithstanding this section and ss. 1012.32 and
159 1012.56, or any other provision of law or rule to the contrary,
160 the State Board of Education shall adopt rules to allow for the
161 issuance of a classical education teaching certificate, upon the
162 request of a classical school, to any applicant who fulfills the
163 requirements of s. 1012.56(2)(a)-(g) ~~s. 1012.56(2)(a)-(f)~~ and
164 (11) and any other criteria established by the department. Such
165 certificate is only valid at a classical school. For the
166 purposes of this subsection, the term "classical school" means a
167 school that implements and provides professional learning in a
168 classical education school model that emphasizes the development
169 of students in the principles of moral character and civic
170 virtue through a well-rounded education in the liberal arts and
171 sciences that is based on the classical trivium stages of
172 grammar, logic, and rhetoric.

173 **Section 4. Paragraphs (g), (h), and (i) of subsection (2)**
174 **of section 1012.56, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as**
175 **paragraphs (h), (i), and (j), respectively, paragraphs (a), (b),**

176 **and (d) of subsection (7) are amended, and a new paragraph (g)**
 177 **is added to subsection (2) of that section, to read:**

178 1012.56 Educator certification requirements.—

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

181 (g) Have received training that includes strategies and
 182 practices on identifying, preventing, preparing, addressing, and
 183 responding to mass casualty incidents.

184 (7) TYPES AND TERMS OF CERTIFICATION.—

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

188 1. Meets all the applicable requirements outlined in
 189 subsection (2).

190 2. For a professional certificate covering grades 6
 191 through 12:

192 a. Meets the applicable requirements of paragraphs (2) (a)–
 193 (i) ~~(2) (a)–(h)~~.

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

196 c. Teaches a high school course in the subject of the
 197 advanced degree.

198 d. Is rated highly effective as determined by the
 199 teacher's performance evaluation under s. 1012.34, based in part
 200 on student performance as measured by a statewide, standardized

201 assessment or an Advanced Placement, Advanced International
 202 Certificate of Education, or International Baccalaureate
 203 examination.

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

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

216 (b) The department shall issue a temporary certificate to
 217 any applicant who:

218 1. Completes the requirements outlined in paragraphs
 219 (2) (a)-(g) ~~(2) (a)-(f)~~ and completes the subject area content
 220 requirements specified in state board rule or demonstrates
 221 mastery of subject area knowledge pursuant to subsection (5) and
 222 holds an accredited degree or a degree approved by the
 223 Department of Education at the level required for the subject
 224 area specialization in state board rule;

225 2. For a subject area specialization for which the state

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

239 3. Is enrolled in a state-approved teacher preparation
240 program under s. 1004.04; is actively completing the required
241 program field experience or internship at a public school;
242 completes the requirements outlined in paragraphs (2)(a), (b),
243 and (d)-(g) ~~(d)-(f)~~; completes the subject area content
244 requirements specified in state board rule or demonstrates
245 mastery of subject area knowledge pursuant to subsection (5);
246 and documents completion of 60 college credits with a minimum
247 cumulative grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale, as
248 provided by one or more accredited institutions of higher
249 learning or a nonaccredited institution of higher learning
250 identified by the Department of Education as having a quality

251 program resulting in a bachelor's degree or higher.

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

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256 At least 1 year before an individual's temporary certificate is
257 set to expire, the department shall electronically notify the
258 individual of the date on which his or her certificate will
259 expire and provide a list of each method by which the
260 qualifications for a professional certificate can be completed.

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

263 1012.57 Certification of adjunct educators.—

264 (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of ss. 1012.32,
265 1012.55, and 1012.56, or any other provision of law or rule to
266 the contrary, district school boards and charter school
267 governing boards shall adopt rules to allow for the issuance of
268 an adjunct teaching certificate to any applicant who fulfills
269 the requirements of s. 1012.56(2) (a)-(g) ~~s. 1012.56(2) (a)-(f)~~
270 and (11) and who has expertise in the subject area to be taught.
271 An applicant is considered to have expertise in the subject area
272 to be taught if the applicant demonstrates sufficient subject
273 area mastery through passage of a subject area test or has
274 achieved an industry certification in the subject area to be
275 taught.

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Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.