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1  
2 An act relating to educator preparation and  
3 certification; amending s. 1004.85, F.S.; authorizing  
4 an educator preparation institute to allow certain  
5 program participants to enroll in introductory  
6 coursework; amending s. 1012.56, F.S.; revising the  
7 criteria for the award of a temporary educator  
8 certification to include certain persons with expired  
9 professional certificates; amending s. 1012.585, F.S.;  
10 requiring that subject area coverages and endorsements  
11 for a certificateholder be reinstated with the  
12 certificateholder's professional certificate; revising  
13 requirements for reinstatement of a professional  
14 certificate; providing that certain requirements for  
15 reinstatement of a professional certificate may not be  
16 satisfied using specific inservice points; amending s.  
17 1012.981, F.S.; requiring the Florida Center for  
18 Teaching Excellence to collaborate with the David C.  
19 Anchin Center for the Advancement of Teaching for  
20 specified purposes; requiring, rather than  
21 authorizing, the center to submit a specified  
22 professional learning system for approval by the  
23 department; requiring the center to allow certain  
24 certified educators to use such professional learning  
25 system for specified purposes at no cost to the

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26 educator; requiring the center to submit inservice  
 27 points for such educators to the department; requiring  
 28 the center to provide information on certain school  
 29 district professional learning systems to certain  
 30 certified educators; providing an effective date.

31

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

33

34 Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section  
 35 1004.85, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

36 1004.85 Postsecondary educator preparation institutes.—

37 (3) Educator preparation institutes approved pursuant to  
 38 this section may offer competency-based certification programs  
 39 specifically designed for noneducation major baccalaureate  
 40 degree holders to enable program participants to meet the  
 41 educator certification requirements of s. 1012.56. An educator  
 42 preparation institute choosing to offer a competency-based  
 43 certification program pursuant to the provisions of this section  
 44 must implement a program developed by the institute and approved  
 45 by the department for this purpose. Approved programs shall be  
 46 available for use by other approved educator preparation  
 47 institutes.

48 (b) Each program participant must:

49 1. Meet certification requirements pursuant to s.  
 50 1012.56(1) by obtaining an eligible ~~a~~ statement of status of

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51 | eligibility in the certification subject area of the educational  
52 | plan and meet the requirements of s. 1012.56(2)(a)-(f) before  
53 | participating in field experiences. An educator preparation  
54 | institute may allow a program participant to enroll in and  
55 | complete coursework while the participant is working to obtain  
56 | an eligible statement of status of eligibility in the  
57 | certification subject area of the educational plan.

58 |         2. Demonstrate competency and participate in field  
59 | experiences that are appropriate to his or her educational plan  
60 | prepared under paragraph (a). Beginning with candidates entering  
61 | an educator preparation institute in the 2022-2023 school year,  
62 | a candidate for certification in a coverage area identified  
63 | pursuant to s. 1012.585(3)(f) must successfully complete all  
64 | competencies for a reading endorsement, including completion of  
65 | the endorsement practicum through the candidate's field  
66 | experience, in order to graduate from the program.

67 |         3. Before completion of the program, fully demonstrate his  
68 | or her ability to teach the subject area for which he or she is  
69 | seeking certification by documenting a positive impact on  
70 | student learning growth in a prekindergarten through grade 12  
71 | setting and, except as provided in s. 1012.56(7)(a)3., achieving  
72 | a passing score on the professional education competency  
73 | examination, the basic skills examination, and the subject area  
74 | examination for the subject area certification which is required  
75 | by state board rule.

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76 Section 2. Paragraph (b) of subsection (7) of section  
 77 1012.56, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

78 1012.56 Educator certification requirements.—

79 (7) TYPES AND TERMS OF CERTIFICATION.—

80 (b) The department shall issue a temporary certificate to  
 81 any applicant who:

82 1. Completes the requirements outlined in paragraphs  
 83 (2)(a)-(f) and completes the subject area content requirements  
 84 specified in state board rule or demonstrates mastery of subject  
 85 area knowledge pursuant to subsection (5) and holds an  
 86 accredited degree or a degree approved by the Department of  
 87 Education at the level required for the subject area  
 88 specialization in state board rule;

89 2. For a subject area specialization for which the state  
 90 board otherwise requires a bachelor's degree, documents 48  
 91 months of active-duty military service with an honorable  
 92 discharge or a medical separation; completes the requirements  
 93 outlined in paragraphs (2)(a), (b), and (d)-(f); completes the  
 94 subject area content requirements specified in state board rule  
 95 or demonstrates mastery of subject area knowledge pursuant to  
 96 subsection (5); and documents completion of 60 college credits  
 97 with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0  
 98 scale, as provided by one or more accredited institutions of  
 99 higher learning or a nonaccredited institution of higher  
 100 learning identified by the Department of Education as having a

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101 quality program resulting in a bachelor's degree or higher; ~~or~~

102 3. Is enrolled in a state-approved teacher preparation  
 103 program under s. 1004.04; is actively completing the required  
 104 program field experience or internship at a public school;  
 105 completes the requirements outlined in paragraphs (2)(a), (b),  
 106 and (d)-(f); completes the subject area content requirements  
 107 specified in state board rule or demonstrates mastery of subject  
 108 area knowledge pursuant to subsection (5); and documents  
 109 completion of 60 college credits with a minimum cumulative grade  
 110 point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale, as provided by one or more  
 111 accredited institutions of higher learning or a nonaccredited  
 112 institution of higher learning identified by the Department of  
 113 Education as having a quality program resulting in a bachelor's  
 114 degree or higher; or.

115 4. Completes the requirements in paragraphs (2)(a)-(f) and  
 116 whose previously issued professional certificate has expired.

117  
 118 At least 1 year before an individual's temporary certificate is  
 119 set to expire, the department shall electronically notify the  
 120 individual of the date on which his or her certificate will  
 121 expire and provide a list of each method by which the  
 122 qualifications for a professional certificate can be completed.

123 Section 3. Subsection (5) of section 1012.585, Florida  
 124 Statutes, is amended to read:

125 1012.585 Process for renewal or reinstatement of

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126 professional certificates.—

127 (5) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to  
 128 allow the reinstatement of expired professional certificates,  
 129 including each subject area coverage and endorsement held by the  
 130 certificateholder at the time of the certificate's expiration.

131 The department may reinstate an expired professional certificate  
 132 if the certificateholder:

133 (a) Submits an application for reinstatement of the  
 134 expired certificate.

135 (b) Completes the requirements in s. 1012.56(2)(a)-(f).

136 (c) ~~(b)~~ Documents completion of 6 college credits during  
 137 the 5 years immediately preceding reinstatement of the expired  
 138 certificate, completion of 120 inservice points, or a  
 139 combination thereof, in an area specified in paragraph (3)(a) to  
 140 include the credit required under paragraph (3)(e).

141 ~~(c) During the 5 years immediately preceding reinstatement~~  
 142 ~~of the certificate, achieves a passing score on the Florida~~  
 143 ~~developed subject area examination or, if a Florida subject area~~  
 144 ~~examination has not been developed, a standardized examination~~  
 145 ~~specified in state board rule for each subject to be shown on~~  
 146 ~~the reinstated certificate.~~

147  
 148 The requirements of this subsection may not be satisfied by  
 149 ~~subject area examinations or~~ college credits or inservice points  
 150 completed for issuance of the certificate that has expired.

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151 Section 4. Subsections (2) and (3) of section 1012.981,  
 152 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

153 1012.981 The Florida Center for Teaching Excellence.—

154 (2) The center shall, in collaboration with the David C.  
 155 Anchin Center for the Advancement of Innovative Teaching within  
 156 ~~and Learning~~ at the University of South Florida, do all of the  
 157 following:

158 (a) Develop and deliver evidence-based professional  
 159 learning opportunities aligned to the Florida Educator  
 160 Accomplished Practices.

161 (b) Develop and deliver educator training programs  
 162 pursuant to s. 1012.98 that integrate high-quality instructional  
 163 materials included on the state-adopted instructional materials  
 164 list under s. 1006.28, materials evaluated and identified  
 165 pursuant to s. 1001.215(4), and materials developed by or under  
 166 the direction of the department as provided in s. 1006.39. These  
 167 programs must focus on the effective use of knowledge-based  
 168 curricula, highlighting when and how to incorporate intervention  
 169 materials, and emphasize the importance of background knowledge  
 170 in building advanced reading comprehension grounded in the  
 171 science of reading and critical thinking skills.

172 (c) Develop and design models of high-quality clinical  
 173 experiences for aspiring teachers. These model experiences shall  
 174 serve as a standard that institutions approved pursuant to ss.  
 175 1004.04 and 1004.85 can adopt or adapt, enabling participants to

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176 demonstrate mastery of instructional techniques, classroom  
177 management strategies, and the application of high-impact  
178 teaching strategies in authentic educational settings.

179 (d) Collaborate with school districts and other  
180 educational stakeholders to identify emerging needs in teacher  
181 preparation and align center programs accordingly, conducting  
182 gap analyses to provide comprehensive coverage of the science of  
183 learning, high-impact teaching strategies, and knowledge-rich  
184 curriculum implementation.

185 (e) Establish a statewide network of teachers and  
186 instructional leaders equipped with the knowledge and skills to  
187 mentor and support aspiring and current educators participating  
188 in the center's programs. This network shall model effective  
189 pedagogical practices and facilitate professional growth.

190 (f) Conduct research and disseminate findings on high-  
191 impact teaching practices and the implementation of knowledge-  
192 based curricula to inform policy, improve classroom instruction,  
193 and address the importance of background knowledge in student  
194 achievement.

195 (g) Report to the department the completion of  
196 professional learning by individuals who are not employed by  
197 entities with an approved professional learning system.

198 (3) The center:

199 (a) Must ~~may~~ submit a professional learning system for  
200 approval pursuant to s. 1012.98.

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201           (b) Shall allow a certified educator seeking to renew or  
 202 reinstate his or her certificate to use the system at no cost  
 203 and submit any inservice points earned by the educator through  
 204 the system to the department on the educator's behalf.

205           (c) Shall provide a certified educator seeking to renew or  
 206 reinstate a certificate with information on school district  
 207 professional learning systems that provide access to inservice  
 208 training to persons not employed by the school district.

209           Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.