

By Senator Davis

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to education; providing a short title; repealing s. 1000.05(4), F.S., relating to prohibited training or instruction in specified concepts which constitutes discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, or sex; repealing s. 1000.071, F.S., relating to personal titles and pronouns; amending s. 1001.42, F.S.; prohibiting school districts from adopting a procedure that compels or authorizes school personnel to share certain information with a parent under certain circumstances; deleting a provision authorizing school districts to adopt procedures that permit school personnel to withhold certain information from a parent under certain circumstances; deleting a prohibition against classroom instruction, in specified grades, on sexual orientation and gender identity; deleting an exception; deleting a provision requiring student support services to adhere to specified guidelines; amending s. 1001.706, F.S.; deleting a requirement for the Board of Governors to include in its review of state university missions a directive to each constituent university regarding its programs for any curriculum that violates certain provisions; repealing s. 1001.92(5), F.S., relating to an educational institution losing its eligibility for performance funding if a certain violation is substantiated; amending s. 1003.42, F.S.; requiring instruction in LGBTQ history in public schools; conforming a cross-

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reference; amending s. 1004.04, F.S.; deleting requirements for teacher preparation program courses; amending s. 1004.06, F.S.; authorizing and encouraging Florida College System institutions, state universities, and direct-support organizations to develop programs based on diversity, equity, and inclusion principles; authorizing the expenditure of state or federal funds to promote such programs; deleting a prohibition against Florida College System institutions, state universities, and direct-support organizations expending funds on programs or activities that advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion or that promote or engage in political or social activism; deleting obsolete language; amending s. 1004.85, F.S.; deleting a purpose provided for the creation of an educator preparation institute; amending s. 1006.28, F.S.; providing that certain provisions relating to district school board duties and materials made available in schools do not apply to classroom libraries; revising requirements for resolving objections to instructional materials; deleting a requirement that any instructional material that is subject to an objection be removed within 5 school days; deleting a requirement that a school board discontinue use of an instructional material if certain conditions are met; authorizing school library media centers to provide materials and information presenting all points of view; prohibiting the proscribing or removal of materials due to partisan or

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doctrinal disapproval; amending s. 1007.25, F.S.; deleting certain prohibitions for general education courses; amending s. 1012.56, F.S.; deleting requirements for professional learning certification program courses; amending s. 1012.562, F.S.; deleting prohibitions for school leader preparation programs; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Freedom to Learn Act."

Section 2. Subsection (4) of section 1000.05, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

Section 3. Section 1000.071, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

Section 4. Paragraph (c) of subsection (8) of section 1001.42, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1001.42 Powers and duties of district school board.—The district school board, acting as a board, shall exercise all powers and perform all duties listed below:

(8) STUDENT WELFARE.—

(c)1. In accordance with the rights of parents enumerated in ss. 1002.20 and 1014.04, adopt procedures for notifying a student's parent if there is a change in the student's services or monitoring related to the student's mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being and the school's ability to provide a safe and supportive learning environment for the student. The procedures must reinforce the fundamental right of parents to make decisions regarding the upbringing and control

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of their children by requiring school district personnel to encourage a student to discuss issues relating to his or her well-being with his or her parent or to facilitate discussion of the issue with the parent. The procedures may not prohibit parents from accessing any of their student's education and health records created, maintained, or used by the school district, as required by s. 1002.22(2).

2. A school district may not adopt procedures or student support forms that prohibit school district personnel from notifying a parent about his or her student's mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being, or a change in related services or monitoring, or that encourage or have the effect of encouraging a student to withhold from a parent such information. School district personnel may not discourage or prohibit parental notification of and involvement in critical decisions affecting a student's mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being. A school district may not adopt a procedure that compels or authorizes school personnel to provide such information to a parent if a reasonably prudent person would believe that disclosure would result in harm to the student, including, but not limited to, ~~This subparagraph does not prohibit a school district from adopting procedures that permit school personnel to withhold such information from a parent if a reasonably prudent person would believe that disclosure would result in~~ abuse, abandonment, or neglect, as those terms are defined in s. 39.01.

~~3. Classroom instruction by school personnel or third parties on sexual orientation or gender identity may not occur in prekindergarten through grade 8, except when required by ss.~~

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~~1003.42(2)(c)3. and 1003.46. If such instruction is provided in grades 9 through 12, the instruction must be age appropriate or developmentally appropriate for students in accordance with state standards. This subparagraph applies to charter schools.~~

~~4. Student support services training developed or provided by a school district to school district personnel must adhere to student services guidelines, standards, and frameworks established by the Department of Education.~~

5. At the beginning of the school year, each school district shall notify parents of each health care service offered at their student's school and the option to withhold consent or decline any specific service in accordance with s. 1014.06. Parental consent to a health care service does not waive the parent's right to access his or her student's educational or health records or to be notified about a change in his or her student's services or monitoring as provided by this paragraph.

~~4.6.~~ Before administering a student well-being questionnaire or health screening form to a student in kindergarten through grade 3, the school district must provide the questionnaire or health screening form to the parent and obtain the permission of the parent.

~~5.7.~~ Each school district shall adopt procedures for a parent to notify the principal, or his or her designee, regarding concerns under this paragraph at his or her student's school and the process for resolving those concerns within 7 calendar days after notification by the parent.

a. At a minimum, the procedures must require that within 30 days after notification by the parent that the concern remains

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unresolved, the school district must either resolve the concern or provide a statement of the reasons for not resolving the concern.

b. If a concern is not resolved by the school district, a parent may:

(I) Request the Commissioner of Education to appoint a special magistrate who is a member of The Florida Bar in good standing and who has at least 5 years' experience in administrative law. The special magistrate shall determine facts relating to the dispute over the school district procedure or practice, consider information provided by the school district, and render a recommended decision for resolution to the State Board of Education within 30 days after receipt of the request by the parent. The State Board of Education must approve or reject the recommended decision at its next regularly scheduled meeting that is more than 7 calendar days and no more than 30 days after the date the recommended decision is transmitted. The costs of the special magistrate shall be borne by the school district. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules, including forms, necessary to implement this subparagraph.

(II) Bring an action against the school district to obtain a declaratory judgment that the school district procedure or practice violates this paragraph and seek injunctive relief. A court may award damages and shall award reasonable attorney fees and court costs to a parent who receives declaratory or injunctive relief.

c. Each school district shall adopt and post on its website policies to notify parents of the procedures required under this subparagraph.

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d. Nothing contained in this subparagraph shall be construed to abridge or alter rights of action or remedies in equity already existing under the common law or general law.

Section 5. Paragraph (a) of subsection (5) of section 1001.706, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1001.706 Powers and duties of the Board of Governors.—

(5) POWERS AND DUTIES RELATING TO ACCOUNTABILITY.—

(a) The Legislature intends that the Board of Governors shall align the missions of each constituent university with the academic success of its students; the existing and emerging economic development needs of the state; the national reputation of its faculty and its academic and research programs; the quantity of externally generated research, patents, and licenses; and the strategic and accountability plans required in paragraphs (b) and (c). The Board of Governors shall periodically review the mission of each constituent university and make updates or revisions as needed. Upon completion of a review of the mission, the board shall review existing academic programs for alignment with the mission. ~~The board shall include in its review a directive to each constituent university regarding its programs for any curriculum that violates s. 1000.05 or that is based on theories that systemic racism, sexism, oppression, and privilege are inherent in the institutions of the United States and were created to maintain social, political, and economic inequities.~~ The mission alignment and strategic plan must consider peer institutions at the constituent universities. The mission alignment and strategic plan must acknowledge that universities that have a national and international impact have the greatest capacity to

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promote the state's economic development through: new discoveries, patents, licenses, and technologies that generate state businesses of global importance; research achievements through external grants and contracts that are comparable to nationally recognized and ranked universities; the creation of a resource rich academic environment that attracts high-technology business and venture capital to the state; and this generation's finest minds focusing on solving the state's economic, social, environmental, and legal problems in the areas of life sciences, water, sustainability, energy, and health care. A nationally recognized and ranked university that has a global perspective and impact must be afforded the opportunity to enable and protect the university's competitiveness on the global stage in fair competition with other institutions of other states in the highest Carnegie Classification.

Section 6. Subsection (5) of section 1001.92, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

Section 7. Paragraph (g) of subsection (2) of section 1003.42, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (w) is added to that subsection, to read:

1003.42 Required instruction.—

(2) Members of the instructional staff of the public schools, subject to the rules of the State Board of Education and the district school board, shall teach efficiently and faithfully, using the books and materials required that meet the highest standards for professionalism and historical accuracy, following the prescribed courses of study, and employing approved methods of instruction, the following:

(g)1. The history of the Holocaust (1933-1945), the

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233 systematic, planned annihilation of European Jews and other
234 groups by Nazi Germany, a watershed event in the history of
235 humanity, to be taught in a manner that leads to an
236 investigation of human behavior, an understanding of the
237 ramifications of prejudice, racism, and stereotyping, and an
238 examination of what it means to be a responsible and respectful
239 person, for the purposes of encouraging tolerance of diversity
240 in a pluralistic society and for nurturing and protecting
241 democratic values and institutions, including the policy,
242 definition, and historical and current examples of antisemitism,
243 as described in s. 1000.05(7) ~~s. 1000.05(8)~~, and the prevention
244 of antisemitism. Each school district must annually certify and
245 provide evidence to the department, in a manner prescribed by
246 the department, that the requirements of this paragraph are met.
247 The department shall prepare and offer standards and curriculum
248 for the instruction required by this paragraph and may seek
249 input from the Commissioner of Education's Task Force on
250 Holocaust Education or from any state or nationally recognized
251 Holocaust educational organizations. The department may contract
252 with any state or nationally recognized Holocaust educational
253 organizations to develop training for instructional personnel
254 and grade-appropriate classroom resources to support the
255 developed curriculum.

256 2. The second week in November shall be designated as
257 "Holocaust Education Week" in this state in recognition that
258 November is the anniversary of Kristallnacht, widely recognized
259 as a precipitating event that led to the Holocaust.

260 (w) The study of LGBTQ history in Florida and the LGBTQ
261 community's contributions to the United States, which may

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include important United States Supreme Court cases, such as
Obergefell v. Hodges and *Windsor v. United States*; the Florida
Legislative Investigation Committee; and the tragedy at Pulse
Nightclub.

The State Board of Education is encouraged to adopt standards and pursue assessment of the requirements of this subsection. Instructional programming that incorporates the values of the recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor and that is offered as part of a social studies, English Language Arts, or other schoolwide character building and veteran awareness initiative meets the requirements of paragraph (u).

Section 8. Paragraph (e) of subsection (2) of section 1004.04, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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

(2) UNIFORM CORE CURRICULA AND CANDIDATE ASSESSMENT.—

~~(e) Teacher preparation program courses:~~

~~1. May not distort significant historical events or include a curriculum or instruction that teaches identity politics, violates s. 1000.05, or is based on theories that systemic racism, sexism, oppression, and privilege are inherent in the institutions of the United States and were created to maintain social, political, and economic inequities.~~

~~2. Must afford candidates the opportunity to think critically, achieve mastery of academic program content, learn instructional strategies, and demonstrate competence.~~

Section 9. Subsections (2) and (3) of section 1004.06, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

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1004.06 Prohibited expenditures.—

(2) A Florida College System institution, state university, Florida College System institution direct-support organization, or state university direct-support organization may, and is encouraged to, develop programs and campus activities anchored in the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Programs and courses may ~~not~~ expend ~~any~~ state or federal funds to promote, support, or maintain any such programs or campus activities ~~that:~~

~~(a) Violate s. 1000.05; or~~

~~(b) Advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion, or promote or engage in political or social activism, as defined by rules of the State Board of Education and regulations of the Board of Governors.~~

Student fees to support student-led organizations are permitted ~~notwithstanding any speech or expressive activity by such organizations which would otherwise violate this subsection,~~ provided that the public funds must be allocated to student-led organizations pursuant to written policies or regulations of each Florida College System institution or state university, as applicable. Use of institution facilities by student-led organizations is permitted ~~notwithstanding any speech or expressive activity by such organizations which would otherwise violate this subsection,~~ provided that such use must be granted to student-led organizations pursuant to written policies or regulations of each Florida College System institution or state university, as applicable.

~~(3) Subsection (2) does not prohibit programs, campus~~

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~~activities, or functions required for compliance with general or federal laws or regulations; for obtaining or retaining institutional or discipline-specific accreditation with the approval of either the State Board of Education or the Board of Governors; or for access programs for military veterans, Pell Grant recipients, first generation college students, nontraditional students, "2+2" transfer students from the Florida College System, students from low-income families, or students with unique abilities.~~

Section 10. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 1004.85, Florida Statutes, is 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 preparation institutes for the purpose of providing any or all of the following:

1. Professional learning instruction to assist teachers in improving classroom instruction and in meeting certification or recertification requirements.

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

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

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

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

~~6. Instruction that does not distort significant historical events or include a curriculum or instruction that teaches identity politics, violates s. 1000.05, or is based on theories that systemic racism, sexism, oppression, and privilege are inherent in the institutions of the United States and were created to maintain social, political, and economic inequities. Courses and instruction within the educator preparation institute must afford candidates the opportunity to think critically, achieve mastery of academic program content, learn instructional strategies, and demonstrate competence.~~

Section 11. Paragraphs (a) and (d) of subsection (2) of section 1006.28, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1006.28 Duties of district school board, district school superintendent; and school principal regarding K-12 instructional materials.—

(2) DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD.—The district school board has the constitutional duty and responsibility to select and provide adequate instructional materials for all students in accordance with the requirements of this part. The district school board also has the following specific duties and responsibilities:

(a) *Courses of study; adoption.*—Adopt courses of study, including instructional materials, for use in the schools of the district.

1. Each district school board is responsible for the content of all instructional materials and any other materials used in a classroom, made available in a school ~~or classroom~~

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library, or included on a reading list, whether adopted and purchased from the state-adopted instructional materials list, adopted and purchased through a district instructional materials program under s. 1006.283, or otherwise purchased or made available.

2. Each district school board must adopt a policy regarding an objection by a parent ~~or a resident of the county~~ to the use of a specific material, which clearly describes a process to handle all objections and provides for resolution. The objection form, as prescribed by State Board of Education rule, and the district school board's process must be easy to read and understand and be easily accessible on the homepage of the school district's website. The objection form must also identify the school district point of contact and contact information for the submission of an objection. The process must provide the parent ~~or resident~~ the opportunity to proffer evidence to the district school board that:

a. An instructional material does not meet the criteria of s. 1006.31(2) or s. 1006.40(3)(c) if it was selected for use in a course or otherwise made available to students in the school district but was not subject to the public notice, review, comment, and hearing procedures under s. 1006.283(2)(b) 8., 9., and 11.

b. Any material used in a classroom, made available in a school ~~or classroom~~ library, or included on a reading list contains content which:

(I) Is pornographic or prohibited under s. 847.012;

(II) ~~Depicts or describes sexual conduct as defined in s. 847.001(19), unless such material is for a course required by s.~~

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~~1003.46 or s. 1003.42(2)(o)1.g. or 3., or identified by State Board of Education rule;~~

~~(III)~~ Is not suited to student needs and their ability to comprehend the material presented; or

(III) ~~(IV)~~ Is inappropriate for the grade level and age group for which the material is used.

~~A resident of the county who is not the parent or guardian of a student with access to school district materials may not object to more than one material per month. The State Board of Education may adopt rules to implement this provision. Any material that is subject to an objection on the basis of sub-sub-subparagraph b.(I) or sub-sub-subparagraph b.(II) must be removed within 5 school days after receipt of the objection and remain unavailable to students of that school until the objection is resolved. Parents shall have the right to read passages from any material that is subject to an objection. If the school board denies a parent the right to read passages due to content that meets the requirements under sub-sub-subparagraph b.(I), the school district shall discontinue the use of the material in the school district. If the district school board finds that any material meets the requirements under sub-subparagraph a. or that any other material contains prohibited content under sub-sub-subparagraph b.(I), the school district shall discontinue use of the material. If the district school board finds that any other material contains prohibited content under sub-sub-subparagraphs b.(II)-(IV), the school district shall discontinue use of the material for any grade level or age group for which such use is inappropriate or~~

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436 ~~unsuitable.~~

437 3. Each district school board must establish a process by
438 which the parent of a public school student ~~or a resident of the~~
439 ~~county~~ may contest the district school board's adoption of a
440 specific instructional material. The parent ~~or resident~~ must
441 file a petition, on a form provided by the school board, within
442 30 calendar days after the adoption of the instructional
443 material by the school board. The school board shall ~~must~~ make
444 the form available to the public and publish the form on the
445 school district's website. The form must be signed by the parent
446 ~~or resident~~, include the required contact information, and state
447 the objection to the instructional material based on the
448 criteria of s. 1006.31(2) or s. 1006.40(3)(c). Within 30 days
449 after the 30-day period has expired, the school board must, for
450 all petitions timely received, conduct at least one open public
451 hearing before an unbiased and qualified hearing officer. The
452 hearing officer may not be an employee or agent of the school
453 district. The hearing is not subject to the provisions of
454 chapter 120; however, the hearing must provide sufficient
455 procedural protections to allow each petitioner an adequate and
456 fair opportunity to be heard and present evidence to the hearing
457 officer. The school board's decision after convening a hearing
458 is final and not subject to further petition or review.

459 4. Meetings of committees convened for the purpose of
460 ranking, eliminating, or selecting instructional materials for
461 recommendation to the district school board must be noticed and
462 open to the public in accordance with s. 286.011. Any committees
463 convened for such purposes must include parents of students who
464 will have access to such materials.

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465 5. Meetings of committees convened for the purpose of
466 resolving an objection by a parent ~~or resident~~ to specific
467 materials must be noticed and open to the public in accordance
468 with s. 286.011. Any committees convened for such purposes must
469 include parents of students who will have access to such
470 materials.

471 6. If a parent disagrees with the determination made by the
472 district school board on the objection to the use of a specific
473 material, a parent may request the Commissioner of Education to
474 appoint a special magistrate who is a member of The Florida Bar
475 in good standing and who has at least 5 years' experience in
476 administrative law. The special magistrate shall determine facts
477 relating to the school district's determination, consider
478 information provided by the parent and the school district, and
479 render a recommended decision for resolution to the State Board
480 of Education within 30 days after receipt of the request by the
481 parent. The State Board of Education must approve or reject the
482 recommended decision at its next regularly scheduled meeting
483 that is more than 7 calendar days and no more than 30 days after
484 the date the recommended decision is transmitted. The costs of
485 the special magistrate shall be borne by the school district.
486 The State Board of Education shall adopt rules, including forms,
487 necessary to implement this subparagraph.

488 (d) *School library media services; establishment and*
489 *maintenance.*—Establish and maintain a program of school library
490 media services for all public schools in the district, including
491 school library media centers, or school library media centers
492 open to the public, and, in addition to such traveling or
493 circulating libraries as may be needed for the proper operation

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of the district school system. School librarians, media specialists, and other personnel involved in the selection of school district library materials must complete the training program developed pursuant to s. 1006.29(6) before reviewing and selecting age-appropriate materials and library resources. Upon written request, a school district shall provide access to any material or book specified in the request that is maintained in a district school system library and is available for review.

1. Each book made available to students through a school district library media center or included in a recommended or assigned school or grade-level reading list must be selected by a school district employee who holds a valid educational media specialist certificate, regardless of whether the book is purchased, donated, or otherwise made available to students.

2. Each district school board shall adopt procedures for developing library media center collections and post the procedures on the website for each school within the district. School library media centers may provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials may not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval. The procedures must:

a. Require that book selections meet the criteria in s. 1006.40(3)(c).

b. Require consultation of reputable, professionally recognized reviewing periodicals and school community stakeholders.

c. Provide for library media center collections, including classroom libraries, based on reader interest, support of state

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academic standards and aligned curriculum, and the academic needs of students and faculty.

d. Provide for the regular removal or discontinuance of books based on, at a minimum, physical condition, rate of recent circulation, alignment to state academic standards and relevancy to curriculum, out-of-date content, and required removal pursuant to subparagraph (a)2.

3. Each elementary school must publish on its website, in a searchable format prescribed by the department, a list of all materials maintained and accessible in the school library media center ~~or a classroom library~~ or required as part of a school or grade-level reading list.

4. Each district school board shall adopt and publish on its website the process for a parent to limit his or her student's access to materials in the school ~~or classroom~~ library.

Section 12. Paragraph (c) of subsection (3) of section 1007.25, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1007.25 General education courses; common prerequisites; other degree requirements.—

(3) The chair of the State Board of Education and the chair of the Board of Governors, or their designees, shall jointly appoint faculty committees to review and recommend to the Articulation Coordinating Committee for approval by the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors statewide general education core course options for inclusion in the statewide course numbering system established under s. 1007.24. Faculty committees shall, by July 1, 2024, and by July 1 every 4 years thereafter, review and submit recommendations to the

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Articulation Coordinating Committee and the commissioner for the removal, alignment, realignment, or addition of general education core courses that satisfy the requirements of this subsection.

~~(c) General education core courses may not distort significant historical events or include a curriculum that teaches identity politics, violates s. 1000.05, or is based on theories that systemic racism, sexism, oppression, and privilege are inherent in the institutions of the United States and were created to maintain social, political, and economic inequities.~~

Section 13. Paragraph (a) of subsection (7) and paragraph (b) of subsection (8) of section 1012.56, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1012.56 Educator certification requirements.—

(7) TYPES AND TERMS OF CERTIFICATION.—

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

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

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

a. Meets the applicable requirements of paragraphs (2)(a)-(h).

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

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

d. Is rated highly effective as determined by the teacher's

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performance evaluation under s. 1012.34, based in part on student performance as measured by a statewide, standardized assessment or an Advanced Placement, Advanced International Certificate of Education, or International Baccalaureate examination.

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

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

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

(8) PROFESSIONAL LEARNING CERTIFICATION PROGRAM.—

~~(b) Professional learning certification program courses:~~

~~1. May not distort significant historical events or include curriculum or instruction that teaches identity politics, violates s. 1000.05, or is based on theories that systemic racism, sexism, oppression, and privilege are inherent in the~~

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~~institutions of the United States and were created to maintain social, political, and economic inequities.~~

~~2. Must afford candidates the opportunity to think critically, achieve mastery of academic program content, learn instructional strategies, and demonstrate competence.~~

Section 14. Subsection (4) of section 1012.562, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1012.562 Public accountability and state approval of school leader preparation programs.—The Department of Education shall establish a process for the approval of Level I and Level II school leader preparation programs that will enable aspiring school leaders to obtain their certificates in educational leadership under s. 1012.56. School leader preparation programs must be competency-based, aligned to the principal leadership standards adopted by the state board, and open to individuals employed by public schools, including charter schools and virtual schools. Level I programs lead to initial certification in educational leadership for the purpose of preparing individuals to serve as school administrators. Level II programs build upon Level I training and lead to renewal certification as a school principal.

~~(4) PROGRAM PROHIBITIONS; REQUIREMENTS.—~~

~~(a) School leader preparation programs may not distort significant historical events or include curriculum or instruction that teaches identity politics, violates s. 1000.05, or is based on theories that systemic racism, sexism, oppression, and privilege are inherent in the institutions of the United States and were created to maintain social, political, and economic inequities.~~

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~~(b) School leader preparation programs must afford candidates the opportunity to demonstrate mastery of program content, including instructional leadership strategies, coaching development, school safety, and continuous improvement efforts.~~

Section 15. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.