

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

**BILL #:** PCS for HB 433 Educator Certification

**SPONSOR(S):** K-12 Subcommittee

**TIED BILLS:** **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:**

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
Orig. Comm.: K-12 Subcommittee		Ahearn	Ahearn

### SUMMARY ANALYSIS

Candidates seeking certification as a K-12 educator in Florida must demonstrate, among other things, mastery of general knowledge, subject area knowledge, and professional preparation and education competency.

The Proposed Committee Substitute (PCS) restates the methods by which a candidate for educator certification may demonstrate mastery of subject area knowledge, including passage of a Florida-developed subject area examination or a standardized examination specified by rule. The PCS also allows a candidate to demonstrate mastery of general knowledge by achieving passing scores, as identified by the State Board of Education (SBE) in rule, on a national or international examination that tests comparable content and relevant standards in verbal, analytical writing, and quantitative reasoning skills. In addition, the PCS specifies certain requirements regarding demonstration of mastery of professional preparation and education competence.

The PCS repeals a provision requiring a longitudinal study comparing the performance of teachers who earned certificates through certain specified "routes." The study has been completed.

The PCS allows candidates to renew a subject area specialization by passage of a Florida-developed subject area examination or a standardized examination specified by rule. The SBE must adopt rules that would expand training for renewal of professional certificates in areas which require training in the instruction of students with disabilities, allowing such candidates to "bank" excess credits for use in subsequent certificate renewals. The PCS also requires the SBE to adopt rules specifying certain requirements for reinstatement of a professional certificate.

The PCS establishes requirements for instructional personnel who supervise or direct teacher preparation students during field experience courses or internships in another state through a Florida online or distance program. Such instructional personnel must have received "clinical educator" training or its equivalent in the state in which the field experience takes place, hold a valid professional certificate issued by that state, and have at least three years of teaching experience in prekindergarten through grade 12.

The PCS does not appear to have a fiscal impact on the state or local governments.

The PCS provides an effective date of July 1, 2014.

# FULL ANALYSIS

## I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

### A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

#### Teacher Certification

##### Present Situation

In order for a person to serve as an educator in a traditional public school, charter school, virtual school, or other publicly operated school, the person must hold a certificate issued by the Florida Department of Education (DOE).<sup>1</sup> Educator certification is a system of educational, pedagogical, and character-related qualifications for judging the fitness of individuals seeking employment as educators at these schools.<sup>2</sup> Persons who seek to be employed at a public school as a school supervisor, school principal, teacher, library media specialist, school counselor, athletic coach, or in another instructional capacity must be certified.<sup>3</sup> Educator certification is intended to require school-based personnel to “possess the credentials, knowledge, and skills necessary to allow the opportunity for a high-quality education in the public schools.”<sup>4</sup>

The DOE issues professional certificates,<sup>5</sup> temporary certificates,<sup>6</sup> and athletic coaching certificates.<sup>7</sup> In addition, school districts are authorized to issue adjunct teaching certificates to part-time teachers who have expertise in the subject area to be taught. An adjunct teaching certificate is valid for five years and is renewable.<sup>8</sup>

To be eligible to seek certification, a person must meet the following basic eligibility requirements:<sup>9</sup>

- Be at least 18 years of age;
- Sign an affidavit attesting that the applicant will uphold the U.S. and State Constitutions;
- Earn a bachelor’s or higher degree from an accredited institution of higher learning<sup>10</sup> or from a nonaccredited institution identified by the DOE as having a quality program resulting in a bachelor’s or higher degree;<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Sections 1012.55(1) and 1002.33(f), F.S.

<sup>2</sup> Subpart D., Part III, ch. 1012, F.S.

<sup>3</sup> Sections 1002.33(12)(f) (charter school teachers) and 1012.55(1), F.S. District school boards and charter school governing boards are authorized to hire noncertificated individuals who possess expertise in a given field to serve in an instructional capacity. Rule 6A-1.0502(1), F.A.C.; ss. 1002.33(10)(f) and 1012.55(1)(c), F.S. State-licensed school nurses and physicians, occupational therapists, physical therapists, audiologists, and speech therapists are not required to be certified educators. Rule 6A-1.0502(10) and (11), F.A.C.; s. 1012.55(3), F.S.

<sup>4</sup> Section 1012.54, F.S.

<sup>5</sup> Rule 6A-4.004(2), F.A.C. The professional certificate is Florida’s highest type of full-time educator certification. It is valid for five years and is renewable. Section 1012.56(7)(a), F.S.; see rule 6A-4.0051(3)(c), F.A.C. (validity period is expressed as 5 years from July 1 of the school fiscal year). The DOE also issues a nonrenewable 2-year temporary certificate and a nonrenewable 5-year professional certificate that allows an applicant with a bachelor’s degree in the area of speech-language impairment to complete a master’s degree in speech-language impairment. Section 1012.56(7)(c), F.S.; rule 6A-4.004(3), F.A.C.

<sup>6</sup> See rule 6A-4.004(1)(a)2., F.A.C. The temporary certificate is valid for three years and is nonrenewable.

Section 1012.56(7), F.S. (flush-left provisions at end of subsection; validity period is expressed in school fiscal years); rule 6A-4.004(1)(a), F.A.C. DOE also issues a nonrenewable temporary certificate, which is valid for 2 years, in the area of speech-language impairment. Section 1012.56(7)(c), F.S.; see *supra* note 5.

<sup>7</sup> See rule 6A-4.004(4), F.A.C. The athletic coaching certificate covers full-time and part-time employment as a public school’s athletic coach. Section 1012.55(2), F.S. The DOE issues two types of athletic coaching certificates—one is valid for five years and is renewable and the other is valid for three years and is nonrenewable. See rule 6A-4.004(4), F.A.C. (validity periods expressed in school fiscal years).

<sup>8</sup> Section 1012.57(1), F.S.

<sup>9</sup> Section 1012.56(2)(a)-(f), F.S.

<sup>10</sup> Section 1012.56(2)(c), F.S.; rule 6A-4.003(1), F.A.C. (approved accrediting agencies); see also 34 C.F.R. ss. 602.1-602.50; U.S.

Department of Education, *Nationally Recognized Accrediting Agencies*,

**STORAGE NAME:** pcs0433.KTS

**DATE:** 2/12/2014

- 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.

In addition, each applicant must submit an application and the required fee to the DOE.<sup>12</sup>

### *Eligibility Requirements for a Temporary Certificate*

To be eligible for a temporary certificate, an applicant must:

- Meet the basic eligibility requirements for certification;<sup>13</sup>
- Obtain full-time employment in a position that requires a Florida educator certificate by a school district or private school that has a DOE-approved professional education competence demonstration program;<sup>14</sup> and
- Either:
  - Demonstrate mastery of subject area knowledge (e.g., passage of the appropriate subject area test);<sup>15</sup> or
  - Complete the required degree or content courses specified in state board rule for subject area specialization<sup>16</sup> and attain at least a 2.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale in the subject area courses.<sup>17</sup>

An educator who is employed under a temporary certificate must demonstrate mastery of general knowledge within one calendar year after employment in order to remain employed in a position that requires a certificate.<sup>18</sup> If the educator is employed under contract, the calendar year deadline for demonstrating mastery of general knowledge may be extended through the end of the school year.<sup>19</sup> A temporary certificate is valid for 3 years and is nonrenewable.<sup>20</sup>

### *Eligibility Requirements for a Professional Certificate*

To be eligible for a professional certificate, an applicant must:

- Meet the basic eligibility requirements for certification;<sup>21</sup>
- Demonstrate mastery of general knowledge;<sup>22</sup>
- Demonstrate mastery of subject area knowledge;<sup>23</sup> and

[http://www2.ed.gov/admins/finaid/accred/accreditation\\_pg6.html#NationallyRecognized](http://www2.ed.gov/admins/finaid/accred/accreditation_pg6.html#NationallyRecognized) (last visited Jan. 15, 2014)(list of accrediting agencies approved by the U.S. Department of Education).

<sup>11</sup> Section 1012.56(2)(c), F.S.; rule 6A-4.003(2), F.A.C. (criteria for approval of nonaccredited institutions of higher learning). For initial certification, an applicant must attain at least a 2.5 overall grade point average on a 4.0 scale in the applicant's major field of study. Section 1012.56(2)(c), F.S.

<sup>12</sup> Section 1012.56(1), F.S.; see s. 1012.59, F.S. The fee for initial certification is \$75 per subject area. Rule 6A-4.0012(1)(a)1. and 2., F.A.C.

<sup>13</sup> Section 1012.56(2)(a)-(f) and (7)(b), F.S.; see also *supra* text accompanying note 9.

<sup>14</sup> Section 1012.56(1)(b), F.S.; rule 6A-4.004(1)(a)2., F.A.C.

<sup>15</sup> Section 1012.56(7)(b), F.S.; Florida Department of Education, *Subject Area Knowledge*, [http://www.fldoe.org/edcert/mast\\_sub.asp](http://www.fldoe.org/edcert/mast_sub.asp) (last visited Jan. 15, 2014)

<sup>16</sup> Section 1012.56(7)(b), F.S. The degree and content requirements are established in ch. 6A-4, F.A.C.

<sup>17</sup> Section 1012.56(2)(c), F.S.; see Florida Department of Education, *Certificate Types and Requirements*, [http://www.fldoe.org/edcert/cert\\_types.asp](http://www.fldoe.org/edcert/cert_types.asp) (last visited Jan. 15, 2014); see also *supra* text accompanying note 11.

<sup>18</sup> Section 1012.56(7), F.S. (flush-left provisions at end of subsection); see also *infra* text accompanying notes 26-31(acceptable means of demonstrating mastery of general knowledge).

<sup>19</sup> *Id.*

<sup>20</sup> *Id.*

<sup>21</sup> Section 1012.56(2)(a)-(f) and (7)(b), F.S.; see also *supra* text accompanying note 9.

<sup>22</sup> Section 1012.56(2)(g) and (3), F.S.; Florida Department of Education, *General Knowledge*, [http://www.fldoe.org/edcert/mast\\_gen.asp](http://www.fldoe.org/edcert/mast_gen.asp) (last visited Jan. 15, 2014) ; see also *infra* text accompanying notes 26-31 (acceptable means of demonstrating mastery of general knowledge).

**STORAGE NAME:** pcs0433.KTS

**DATE:** 2/12/2014

- Demonstrate mastery of professional preparation and education competence.<sup>24</sup>

A professional certificate is valid for five years and is renewable.<sup>25</sup>

### *Demonstration of Mastery of General Knowledge*

Mastery of general knowledge may be demonstrated through any of the following methods:

- Achieving a passing score on the General Knowledge Test;<sup>26</sup>
- Achieving a passing score on the College-Level Academic Skills Test (CLAST) taken before July 1, 2002;<sup>27</sup>
- Having a valid professional standard teaching certificate issued by another U.S. state or territory,<sup>28</sup> by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS),<sup>29</sup> or by the American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence (ABCTE);<sup>30</sup>
- Completing two semesters of full-time college teaching experience at an accredited community college, state university, or private college or university that awards associate's or higher degrees or at a nonaccredited institution of higher education identified by the DOE as having a quality program.<sup>31</sup>

### *Demonstration of Mastery of Subject Area Knowledge*

Mastery of subject area knowledge may be demonstrated through any of the following methods:

- Bachelor's Degree Level (for certification in a subject area for which state board rule requires a bachelor's or higher degree):
  - Achieving a passing score on the appropriate subject area test required by state board rule,<sup>32</sup>

<sup>23</sup> Section 1012.56(2)(h) and (5), F.S.; see *Subject Area Knowledge*, *supra* note 15; see also *infra* text accompanying notes 32-38 (acceptable means of demonstrating subject area knowledge).

<sup>24</sup> Section 1012.56(2)(i) and (6), F.S.; Florida Department of Education, *Professional Preparation and Education Competence*, [http://www.fldoe.org/edcert/mast\\_prof.asp](http://www.fldoe.org/edcert/mast_prof.asp) (last visited Jan. 15, 2014); see also *infra* text accompanying notes 39-48 (acceptable means of demonstrating professional preparation and education competence).

<sup>25</sup> Sections 1012.56(7)(a) and 1012.585, F.S.; rule 6A-4.0051(1), F.A.C.; see also *supra* note 5.

<sup>26</sup> Section 1012.56(3)(a), F.S. The General Knowledge Test is part of the Florida Teacher Certification Examinations and is administered as four subtests: Reading, English Skills, English Essay, and Mathematics. Rule 6A-4.0021(7), F.A.C.; see also Florida Department of Education, *Competencies and Skills Required for Teacher Certification in Florida*, s. 82 (19th ed., April 2013), available at <http://www.fldoe.org/asp/ftce/pdf/ftce19edition.pdf> (competencies and skills measured by General Knowledge Test).

<sup>27</sup> Section 1012.56(3)(b), F.S.; see rules 6A-4.0021(10), 6A-10.0311, and 6A-10.0312, F.A.C.; Florida Department of Education, *College-Level Academic Skills Test (CLAST)*, <http://www.fldoe.org/asp/clast> (last visited Jan. 15, 2014).

<sup>28</sup> Section 1012.56(3)(c), F.S.; see rules 6A-4.002(1)(i)1.-2. and 6A-4.003, F.A.C. (flush-left provisions following rule 6A-4.003(2)(e), F.A.C.). Section 1012.56(3)(c), F.S., specifies that a valid professional standard teaching certificate issued by *another state* is an acceptable means of demonstrating mastery of general knowledge. A certificate issued by a U.S. territory is also acceptable.

<sup>29</sup> Section 1012.56(3)(d), F.S.; see rule 6A-4.002(1)(j), F.A.C.; see also National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, <http://www.nbpts.org> (last visited Jan. 15, 2014).

<sup>30</sup> Section 1012.56(3)(d), F.S.; see rule 6A-4.002(1)(j), F.A.C. On June 15, 2004, the State Board of Education authorized certificates issued by ABCTE to satisfy all requirements for a professional certificate, except the professional education competence demonstration requirement. Memorandum from Chief of the Bureau of Educator Certification, Florida Department of Education, to School District Superintendents, *et al.*, at 7 (June 25, 2004), available at <http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-2182/01.pdf>; see Florida Department of Education, *Minutes of State Board of Education*, at 5 (June 15, 2004), available at [http://www.fldoe.org/board/meetings/2004\\_08\\_16/Minutes\\_2004\\_06\\_15.pdf](http://www.fldoe.org/board/meetings/2004_08_16/Minutes_2004_06_15.pdf); see also American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence, <http://www.abcte.org> (last visited Jan. 15, 2014).

<sup>31</sup> Section 1012.56(3)(e), F.S.; see also *supra* notes 10 and 11 (approval of accredited and nonaccredited institutions of higher learning). College teaching experience must be full-time. See *supra* text accompanying note 22.

<sup>32</sup> Section 1012.56(5)(a), F.S. The Florida Teacher Certification Examinations include 44 subject area tests. Florida Department of Education, *Florida Teacher Certification Examinations*, <https://app1.fldoe.org/ftce/Portal/FtceTests.aspx> (last visited Jan. 15, 2014); see also Florida Department of Education, *Competencies and Skills Required for Teacher Certification in Florida*, *supra* note 26, ss. 1-63; see also rule 6A-4.0021(9), F.A.C. (scoring of subject area tests).

- For certification in a foreign language for which there is no Florida subject area test (i.e., Arabic, Chinese, Farsi, Greek, Haitian Creole, Hebrew, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, Turkish, and Russian),<sup>33</sup> completing a bachelor's or higher degree and attaining oral and written proficiency scores above the intermediate level on tests administered by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL),<sup>34</sup> or
  - For certification in any other subject area for which there is no Florida subject area test (e.g., Dance), completing the required bachelor's or higher degree and content courses specified in state board rule<sup>35</sup> and verification of subject area competence by the district school superintendent or, for a state-supported or private school, the school's chief administrative officer.<sup>36</sup>
- Master's Degree Level (for certification in a subject area for which state board rule requires a master's or higher degree): Completing the required master's or higher degree and content courses specified in state board rule and achieving a passing score on the corresponding subject area test.<sup>37</sup>
  - Out-of-State Certification: Having a valid professional standard teaching certificate issued for a subject area by another U.S. state or territory, by NBPTS, or by ABCTE, if the certificate is comparable to the Florida certificate issued for the same subject area.<sup>38</sup>

### *Demonstration of Mastery of Professional Preparation and Education Competence*

Mastery of professional preparation and education competence may be demonstrated through any of the following methods:

- Completing an approved teacher preparation program at a postsecondary educational institution in Florida, or a teacher preparation program from an out-of-state accredited or DOE-approved institution, and achieving a passing score on the Professional Education Test required by state board rule;<sup>39</sup>
- Completing a competency-based professional development certification program offered by a school district or Educator Preparation Institute and achieving a passing score on the Professional Education Test;<sup>40</sup>
- Completing 15 semester hours in professional preparation courses specified in state board rule<sup>41</sup> or completing the Professional Training Option for Content Majors;<sup>42</sup> completing

<sup>33</sup>The State Board of Education has approved certification subject areas in Latin and 14 world languages. Rule 6A-4.0243, F.A.C. The state board has specific authority to develop subject area tests for each of the 14 world languages. Section 1012.56(5)(a), F.S. The DOE has developed subject area tests for French, German, Latin, and Spanish. *See supra* text accompanying note 32.

<sup>34</sup> Section 1012.56(5)(b), F.S.; rule 6A-4.0243(1)(e), F.A.C.; *see* American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), *Certified Proficiency Testing Program*, <http://www.actfl.org/professional-development/certified-proficiency-testing-program> (last visited Jan. 15, 2014); Language Testing International (ACTFL Language Testing Office), *ACTFL Certified Proficiency Testing Program: Oral And Writing Proficiency Testing for State of Florida Prospective Teachers*, [http://dev5.lti-inc.net/acad\\_fl2n.cfm](http://dev5.lti-inc.net/acad_fl2n.cfm) (last visited Jan. 15, 2014).

<sup>35</sup> *See, e.g.*, rule 6A-4.0123, F.A.C. (specialization requirements for certification in dance); *see also* Florida Department of Education, *Florida Certification Coverages*, <http://www.fldoe.org/edcert/subjlist.asp> (last visited Jan. 15, 2014).

<sup>36</sup> Section 1012.56(5)(c), F.S.; rule 6A-4.004(2), F.A.C.

<sup>37</sup> Section 1012.56(5)(d), F.S.; *see* Florida Department of Education, *Florida Certification Coverages*, <http://www.fldoe.org/edcert/subjlist.asp>.

<sup>38</sup> Section 1012.56(5)(e) and (f), F.S.; rule 6A-4.002(1)(i)-(j), F.A.C.; Florida Department of Education, *NBPTS Certificate Subjects and Corresponding Subjects in Florida*, <http://www.fldoe.org/edcert/nbpts-chart.asp> (last visited Jan. 15, 2014).

<sup>39</sup> Section 1012.56(6)(a) and (b), F.S.; *see* s. 1004.04, F.S.; rule 6A-4.003(1) and (4), F.A.C. (accreditation of teacher education programs). The Professional Education Test is part of the Florida Teacher Certification Examinations. Rule 6A-4.0021(8), F.S.; *Competencies and Skills*, *supra* note 33, at s. 00.

<sup>40</sup> Section 1012.56(6)(g)-(h), F.S.; *see* ss. 1004.85 and 1012.56(8), F.S.; rule 6A-5.066(2)(b)1.d. and (c)1.d., F.A.C.

<sup>41</sup> Section 1012.56(6)(f), F.S.; rule 6A-4.006(2)(a), F.A.C. Separate professional preparation course requirements are established for certification in Agriculture (grades 6-12). Rule 6A-4.006(3)(a), F.A.C.

<sup>42</sup> The Professional Training Option for Content Majors authorizes an approved teacher preparation program at a postsecondary institution in Florida to allow students who do not major in education but do major or minor in a content area (e.g., English major) to satisfy professional preparation course requirements. Rule 6A-5.066(3), F.A.C.

requirements for practical experience in teaching;<sup>43</sup> completing an approved professional education competence demonstration program;<sup>44</sup> and achieving a passing score on the Professional Education Test;<sup>45</sup>

- Having a valid professional standard teaching certificate issued by another U.S. state or territory or by NBPTS;<sup>46</sup>
- Having a valid professional standard teaching certificate issued by ABCTE and completing an approved professional education competence demonstration program;<sup>47</sup> or
- Completing two semesters of full-time college teaching experience at an accredited community college, state university, or private college or university that awards associate's or higher degrees or at a nonaccredited institution of higher education identified by the DOE as having a quality program.<sup>48</sup>

### *Professional Certificate Renewal and Reinstatement*

A professional certificate must be renewed every five years.<sup>49</sup> An educator must submit an application,<sup>50</sup> pay a fee,<sup>51</sup> and earn at least six college credits or 120 inservice points to renew professional certification.<sup>52</sup> At least three college credits or 60 inservice points must be earned in each subject area for which renewal is sought.<sup>53</sup> 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.<sup>54</sup> 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, literacy and computational skills acquisition, exceptional student education, child development, drug abuse, child abuse, limited English proficiency, dropout prevention, and other topics.<sup>55</sup>

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<sup>43</sup> Florida Department of Education, *Professional Preparation and Education Competence*, [http://www.fldoe.org/edcert/mast\\_prof.asp](http://www.fldoe.org/edcert/mast_prof.asp), note 24, *supra*; see rules 6A-4.002(5) and 6A-4.006(2)(b), F.A.C.

<sup>44</sup> Section 1012.56(6)(f), F.S. Each school district must, and a state-supported public or private school may, establish a professional education competence demonstration program that allows the district's or school's instructional staff to demonstrate mastery of professional education competence through a performance evaluation plan, which documents the staff's classroom application and instructional performance. Section 1012.56(8)(b), F.S.

<sup>45</sup> Section 1012.56(6)(f), F.S.

<sup>46</sup> Section 1012.56(6)(c)-(d), F.S.; see rule 6A-4.002(1)(i)-(j), F.A.C.; see *supra* note 28 (certificate from U.S. territory is also acceptable); *Professional Preparation and Education Competence*, *supra* note 24.

<sup>47</sup> Section 1012.56(6)(d), F.S.; rule 6A-4.002(1)(j), F.A.C.; *Professional Preparation and Education Competence*, *supra* note 24; see *supra* notes 30 (American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence certificate satisfies all requirements for a professional certificate, except the professional education competence demonstration requirement) and 44 (description of professional education competence demonstration program).

<sup>48</sup> Section 1012.56(6)(e), F.S.; see also *supra* notes 10 and 11 (approval of accredited and nonaccredited institutions of higher learning). College teaching experience must be full time. *Professional Preparation and Education Competence*, *supra* note 24. A non-accredited institution of higher learning is approved as having a quality program if the institution meets one of the following criteria: is accepted for certification purposes by the state department of education where the institution is located; holds a certificate of exemption pursuant to s. 1005.06, F.S.; is a newly created Florida public college or university that offers a bachelor's or higher degree program; is located outside the U.S. and awards a degree that is the equivalent to a bachelor's or higher degree awarded by an accredited or approved institution in the U.S.; or the degree from the institution was accepted by an accredited or approved institution either in transfer or as a basis for admission into the graduate program which resulted in the conferral of a higher degree. Rule 6A-4.003(2), F.A.C.

<sup>49</sup> Section 1012.585(2)(a), F.S.

<sup>50</sup> Rule 6A-4.0051(3)(b), F.A.C. The DOE processes certification renewals for individuals who are not employed by district school boards. Section 1012.585(1)(b), F.S. District school boards are responsible for processing certificate renewals for school district employees. Section 1012.585(1)(a), F.S.

<sup>51</sup> The fee for a certification renewal is \$75. Rules 6A-4.0012(1)(a)1. and 6A-4.0051(3)(b), F.A.C.

<sup>52</sup> 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. College credits must be earned at an accredited or state board-approved institution. Inservice points must be earned through participation in state board-approved school district inservice activities. Rule 6A-4.0051(1)(a), F.A.C.; see rule 6A-4.003(1) and (2), F.A.C. (list of approved accrediting agencies and guidelines for nonaccredited approved institutions).

<sup>53</sup> Section 1012.585(3)(a), F.S.

<sup>54</sup> Section 1012.585(c), F.S.; rule 6A-4.0051, F.A.C.

<sup>55</sup> Section 1012.585(3)(a), F.S.

Certification in subject areas may also be renewed by earning a passing score on the corresponding subject area test.<sup>56</sup> Certification by NBPTS is deemed to meet certification renewal requirements for the life of the certificate, in the corresponding certification subject area.<sup>57</sup>

An expired professional certificate may be reinstated if the applicant:

- Submits an application for reinstatement;
- Submits to fingerprinting and background screening; and
- In the five years immediately preceding the application for reinstatement, completes the college credit and inservice point requirements for renewal and passes the subject area test for each certification area to be reinstated.<sup>58</sup>

If the applicant cannot meet the requirements for reinstatement of an expired professional certificate, he or she may be issued, if qualified, a three-year nonrenewable temporary certificate.<sup>59</sup> The requirements for reinstating an expired professional certificate are not satisfied by subject area tests or college credits completed for issuance of the expired certificate.<sup>60</sup>

### Effect of Proposed Changes

The Proposed Committee Substitute (PCS) allows a candidate for a certificate to demonstrate mastery of general knowledge by achieving passing scores, as identified in state board rule, on a national or international examination that tests comparable content and relevant standards in verbal, analytical writing, and quantitative reasoning skills. Such examinations include, but are not limited to, the verbal, analytical writing, and quantitative reasoning portions of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). The passing scores identified in state board rule must be at approximately the same level of rigor as is required to pass the general knowledge examination. The PCS also deletes reference to the obsolete College Level Academic Skills Test (CLAST).

The PCS more clearly restates methods by which a candidate for certification may demonstrate mastery of subject area knowledge to include:

- For a subject requiring only a bachelor's degree and for which there is a Florida-developed subject area examination, achievement of a passing score on the Florida-developed subject area examination as specified in state board rule;
- For a subject for which a Florida subject area examination has not been developed, achievement of a passing score on a standardized examination as specified in state board rule, including, but not limited to, oral proficiency and written proficiency examinations administered by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages;
- For a subject for which a Florida subject area has not been developed or a standardized has not been specified in state board rule, completion of the subject area specialization requirements and verification of the attainment of essential subject matter competencies by the district superintendent or chief administrative officer of the employing private school;
- For a subject requiring a master's or higher degree, completion of the subject area specialization requirements and achievement of a passing score on the Florida-developed subject area examination or a standardized examination specified in state board rule;
- Documentation of a valid professional standard teaching certificate issued by another state; or
- Documentation of a valid certificate issued by the NBPTS or a national educator credentialing board approved by the SBE.

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<sup>56</sup> Section 1012.585(3)(b), F.S. For the purposes of renewing a professional certificate, passage of a subject area examination is equivalent to three semester hours of college credit. Rule 6A-4.0051(1)(b), F.A.C.

<sup>57</sup> Section 1012.585(2)(b), F.S.; rule 6A-4.0051(1)(c), F.A.C.

<sup>58</sup> Section 1012.585(5), F.S.; rule 6A-4.0051(3) and (6), F.A.C.

<sup>59</sup> Rule 6A-4.004(7), F.A.C.

<sup>60</sup> Section 1012.585(5), F.S.

The PCS specifies that, to demonstrate mastery of professional preparation and education competence by documentation of two semesters of successful teaching in a Florida College System institution, the candidate must have taught on a full-time basis and must achieve a passing score on the professional education competency examination required by state board rule.

The PCS repeals a provision requiring a longitudinal study comparing the performance of teachers who earned a certificate after graduating from a state-approved teacher preparation program, earned a certificate after completing a state-approved professional preparation and education competency program, or held a valid standard teaching certificate issued by another state. The study has been completed.

With respect to renewal of a professional certificate, the PCS clarifies that an applicant may renew a subject area specialization by passing a Florida-developed subject area examination or a standardized examination specified in state board rule if a Florida subject area examination has not been developed.

In addition, the PCS requires the SBE to adopt rules that would expand training for renewal of professional certificates for educators who must complete training in teaching students with disabilities.<sup>61</sup> This will allow a teacher who holds a professional certificate to use, or “bank,” college credits or inservice points earned through training in teaching students with disabilities, in excess of six semester hours during one certificate-validity period, toward renewal of the professional certificate during subsequent validity periods. For a teacher with a temporary certificate, the rules must allow college credits or inservice points earned through training in teaching of such students to be used toward renewal of the teacher’s first professional certificate if the professional certificate is issued without a lapse in time after expiration of the temporary certificate.

The PCS conforms terminology in various sections of law to refer to students with limited English proficiency.

The PCS requires the SBE to adopt rules that would require a candidate for reinstatement of an expired professional certificate to earn a minimum of one college credit, or the equivalent inservice points, in the area of instruction for teaching students with disabilities. The credit may be included as one of the six college credits the candidate must earn during the five years immediately preceding reinstatement of the expired certificate. In addition, the rules must require the candidate to achieve a passing score on the Florida-developed subject area examination or, if a Florida subject area examination has not been developed, a standardized examination as specified in state board rule for each subject area to be shown on the reinstated certificate.

## **Postsecondary Teacher Preparation Programs**

### Present Situation

The State Board of Education (SBE) must maintain a system for development and approval of teacher preparation programs which allows postsecondary educator preparation institutions to employ varied and innovative educator preparation techniques while being held accountable for producing graduates with the competencies and skills necessary to achieve the state’s education goals; help the state’s diverse student population meet high standards for academic achievement; maintain safe, secure classroom learning environments; and sustain the state system of school improvement and education accountability.<sup>62</sup>

There is a number of teacher preparation programs that individuals may use to receive the training needed to attain teaching credentials, including.<sup>63</sup>

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<sup>61</sup> Current law provides for expanded training for renewal of professional certificates for educators who must complete training in teaching students of limited English proficiency or reading. Section 1012.585(3)(d), F.S.

<sup>62</sup> Section 1004.04(1), F.S.

<sup>63</sup> Florida Department of Education, Educator Preparation, <http://www.fldoe.org/profdev/approval.asp> (last visited February 11, 2014); rule 6A-5.066, F.A.C.



- Initial Teacher Preparation (ITP) programs: “Traditional” teacher preparation programs that require candidates to demonstrate mastery of subject area knowledge in one or more specific subject areas(s), mastery of general knowledge, and mastery of professional preparation and education competence.
- Educator Preparation Institutes (EPI): Alternative certification programs offered by postsecondary institutions for baccalaureate degree holders. The EPI programs provide professional preparation for career-changers and recent college graduates who do not already possess a Professional Educator Certificate.
- District Professional Development Certification and Education Competency Programs: Cohesive competency-based professional preparation certification programs offered by Florida public school districts by which a school district’s instructional staff may satisfy the mastery of professional preparation and education competence requirements.

Candidates applying for admission into a program must:

- Have a grade point average of 2.5 or higher in the general education component of undergraduate studies or have completed a bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university with a minimum 2.5 GPA.<sup>64</sup>
- Pass the General Knowledge Test of the Florida Teacher Certification Examination or, for a graduate level program, obtain a baccalaureate degree from an institution that is accredited or approved pursuant to the rules of the SBE.<sup>65</sup>

Each candidate enrolled in a teacher preparation program must receive instruction and be assessed on the uniform core curricula in his or her area of program concentration during course work and field experiences.<sup>66</sup> Before program completion, each candidate must demonstrate his or her ability to positively impact student learning growth in the candidate’s area or areas of program concentration during a prekindergarten through grade 12 field experience and must pass each portion of the Florida Teacher Certification Examination required for a professional certificate in the area or areas of program concentration.<sup>67</sup>

All school district personnel and instructional personnel who supervise or direct teacher preparation students during field experience courses or internships must:

- Have evidence of “clinical educator” training;
- Hold a valid professional certificate issued pursuant to law;
- Have at least three years of teaching experience in prekindergarten through grade 12; and
- Have earned an effective or highly effective evaluation or be a peer evaluator under the district’s evaluation approved system.<sup>68</sup>

There are no requirements established for the credentials instructional personnel must hold in order to supervise or direct teacher preparation students in another state through a Florida online or distance program.

### Effect of Proposed Changes

The PCS modifies existing requirements for instructional personnel who supervise or direct teacher preparation students during field experience courses or internships to take into consideration courses or internships offered in another state through a Florida online or distance program. Such instructional personnel must have received “clinical educator” training or its equivalent in the state in which the field experience is taking place, hold a valid professional certificate issued by that state, and have at least

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<sup>64</sup> Section 1004.04(3)(b)1., F.S.

<sup>65</sup> Section 1004.04(3)(b)2., F.S.

<sup>66</sup> Section 1004.04(2)(c), F.S.

<sup>67</sup> Section 1004.04(2)(d), F.S.

<sup>68</sup> Section 1004.04(5)(b), F.S.

three years of teaching experience in prekindergarten through grade 12.

**B. SECTION DIRECTORY:**

Section 1. Amends s. 1004.04, F.S.; providing requirements for certain instructional personnel who supervise or direct preservice field experience.

Section 2. Amends s. 1012.56, F.S.; deleting obsolete provision and establishing a new provision relating to acceptable means of demonstrating mastery of general knowledge; revising acceptable means of demonstrating mastery of subject area knowledge and professional preparation and education competence; revising components of a competency-based professional development certification program; repealing s. 1012.56(17), F.S.; relating to a certification comparison study.

Section 3. Amends s. 1012.585, F.S.; revising certain requirements for the renewal or reinstatement of a professional certificate.

Section 4. Provides an effective date of July 1, 2014.

**II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT**

**A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:**

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

**B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:**

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

**C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:**

None.

**D. FISCAL COMMENTS:**

None.

**III. COMMENTS**

**A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:**

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

Not applicable. This PCS does not appear to affect county or municipal governments.

2. Other:

None.

**B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:**

None.

**C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:**

None.

**IV. AMENDMENTS/ COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES**

Not applicable.