

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to teacher certification; amending s.  
3           1012.56, F.S.; requiring the Department of Education  
4           to issue a temporary educator certificate within a  
5           specified period; requiring the department to provide  
6           electronic notice of the issuance of a temporary  
7           certificate to specified entities; requiring the  
8           department to provide the applicant an official  
9           statement of status of eligibility upon issuance of a  
10          temporary certificate; providing content requirements  
11          for the statement of status of eligibility; revising  
12          the criteria instructional personnel must meet to be  
13          issued a professional certificate; providing that an  
14          applicant for professional certification is not  
15          required to take or pass a specified examination under  
16          certain circumstances; requiring the department to  
17          provide electronic notification of the expiration of a  
18          temporary educator certificate; requiring the State  
19          Board of Education to adopt rules providing for the  
20          extension of a temporary educator certificate for a  
21          specified period under certain circumstances;  
22          authorizing charter schools and charter management  
23          organizations to develop a professional development  
24          certification and education competency program;  
25          revising program requirements; requiring the

26 department to adopt standards for the approval of such  
27 programs by a specified date; providing requirements  
28 for such standards; requiring each school district and  
29 charter school to submit its program for approval by a  
30 specified date; providing that certification  
31 requirements may not be met in a program that is not  
32 approved by the department after a specified date;  
33 amending s. 1012.585, F.S.; revising college credit  
34 and inservice hour requirements for renewal of a  
35 professional certificate to include participation in  
36 specified activities; amending s. 1012.98, F.S.;  
37 revising the activities designed to implement the  
38 school community professional development act to  
39 include specified training relating to a professional  
40 development certification and education competency  
41 program; revising requirements for school district  
42 professional development systems; requiring the  
43 department to disseminate professional development  
44 programs that meet specified criteria; providing an  
45 effective date.

46  
47 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

48  
49 Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subsection (8) of section  
50 1012.56, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as paragraph (d),

51 subsection (1), subsection (7), and paragraph (a) of subsection  
 52 (8) are amended, and a new paragraph (c) is added to subsection  
 53 (8) of that section, to read:

54 1012.56 Educator certification requirements.—

55 (1) APPLICATION.—Each person seeking certification  
 56 pursuant to this chapter shall submit a completed application  
 57 containing the applicant's social security number to the  
 58 Department of Education and remit the fee required pursuant to  
 59 s. 1012.59 and rules of the State Board of Education. Pursuant  
 60 to the federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity  
 61 Reconciliation Act of 1996, each party is required to provide  
 62 his or her social security number in accordance with this  
 63 section. Disclosure of social security numbers obtained through  
 64 this requirement is limited to the purpose of administration of  
 65 the Title IV-D program of the Social Security Act for child  
 66 support enforcement.

67 (a) Pursuant to s. 120.60, the department shall issue  
 68 within 90 calendar days after the stamped receipted date of the  
 69 completed application.†

70 ~~(a) If the applicant meets the requirements,~~ a professional  
 71 certificate to a qualifying applicant covering the  
 72 classification, level, and area for which the applicant is  
 73 deemed qualified and a document explaining the requirements for  
 74 renewal of the professional certificate.†

75 (b) The department shall issue a temporary certificate to

76 | a qualifying applicant within 14 calendar days after receipt of  
 77 | a request from ~~if the applicant meets the requirements and if~~  
 78 | ~~requested by~~ an employing school district or an employing  
 79 | private school with a professional education competence  
 80 | demonstration program pursuant to paragraphs (6) (f) and (8) (b).  
 81 | ~~The,~~ a temporary certificate must cover ~~covering~~ the  
 82 | classification, level, and area for which the applicant is  
 83 | deemed qualified. The department shall electronically notify the  
 84 | applicant's employing school district or employing private  
 85 | school that the temporary certificate has been issued and  
 86 | provide the applicant an official statement of status of  
 87 | eligibility at the time the certificate is issued. ~~and an~~  
 88 | ~~official statement of status of eligibility; or~~  
 89 | (c) Pursuant to s. 120.60, the department shall issue  
 90 | within 90 calendar days after the stamped receipted date of the  
 91 | completed application, if an applicant does not meet the  
 92 | requirements for either certificate, an official statement of  
 93 | status of eligibility.  
 94 |  
 95 | The statement of status of eligibility must be provided  
 96 | electronically and must advise the applicant of any  
 97 | qualifications that must be completed to qualify for  
 98 | certification. Each method by which an applicant can complete  
 99 | the qualifications for a professional certificate must be  
 100 | included in the statement of status of eligibility. Each

101 statement of status of eligibility is valid for 3 years after  
 102 its date of issuance, except as provided in paragraph (2)(d).

103 (7) TYPES AND TERMS OF CERTIFICATION.—

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

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

108 2. ~~or,~~ For a professional certificate covering grades 6  
 109 through 12, ~~any applicant who:~~

110 a.1. Meets the requirements of paragraphs (2)(a)-(h).

111 b.2. Holds a master's or higher degree in the area of  
 112 science, technology, engineering, or mathematics.

113 c.3. Teaches a high school course in the subject of the  
 114 advanced degree.

115 d.4. Is rated highly effective as determined by the  
 116 teacher's performance evaluation under s. 1012.34, based in part  
 117 on student performance as measured by a statewide, standardized  
 118 assessment or an Advanced Placement, Advanced International  
 119 Certificate of Education, or International Baccalaureate  
 120 examination.

121 e.5. Achieves a passing score on the Florida professional  
 122 education competency examination required by state board rule.

123 3. Meets the requirements of paragraphs (2)(a)-(h) and  
 124 completes a professional preparation and education competence  
 125 program approved by the department pursuant to paragraph (8)(c).

126 An applicant who completes the program and is rated highly  
127 effective as determined by his or her performance evaluation  
128 under s. 1012.34 is not required to take or achieve a passing  
129 score on the professional education competency examination in  
130 order to be awarded a professional certificate.

131 (b) The department shall issue a temporary certificate to  
132 any applicant who completes the requirements outlined in  
133 paragraphs (2) (a)-(f) and completes the subject area content  
134 requirements specified in state board rule or demonstrates  
135 mastery of subject area knowledge pursuant to subsection (5) and  
136 holds an accredited degree or a degree approved by the  
137 Department of Education at the level required for the subject  
138 area specialization in state board rule.

139 (c) The department shall issue one nonrenewable 2-year  
140 temporary certificate and one nonrenewable 5-year professional  
141 certificate to a qualified applicant who holds a bachelor's  
142 degree in the area of speech-language impairment to allow for  
143 completion of a master's degree program in speech-language  
144 impairment.

145  
146 Each temporary certificate is valid for 3 school fiscal years  
147 and is nonrenewable. However, the requirement in paragraph  
148 (2) (g) must be met within 1 calendar year of the date of  
149 employment under the temporary certificate. Individuals who are  
150 employed under contract at the end of the 1 calendar year time

151 period may continue to be employed through the end of the school  
152 year in which they have been contracted. A school district shall  
153 not employ, or continue the employment of, an individual in a  
154 position for which a temporary certificate is required beyond  
155 this time period if the individual has not met the requirement  
156 of paragraph (2)(g). At least 1 year before an individual's  
157 temporary certificate is set to expire, the department shall  
158 electronically notify the individual of the date on which his or  
159 her certificate will expire and provide a list of each method by  
160 which the qualifications for a professional certificate can be  
161 completed. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to  
162 allow the department to extend the validity period of a  
163 temporary certificate for 2 years when the requirements for the  
164 professional certificate, not including the requirement in  
165 paragraph (2)(g), were not completed due to the serious illness  
166 or injury of the applicant or other extraordinary extenuating  
167 circumstances or for 1 year if the temporary certificate holder  
168 is rated effective or highly effective based solely on a student  
169 learning growth formula approved by the Commissioner of  
170 Education pursuant to s. 1012.34(8). The department shall  
171 reissue the temporary certificate for 2 additional years upon  
172 approval by the Commissioner of Education. A written request for  
173 reissuance of the certificate shall be submitted by the district  
174 school superintendent, the governing authority of a university  
175 lab school, the governing authority of a state-supported school,

176 | or the governing authority of a private school.

177 |         (8) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATION AND EDUCATION  
178 | COMPETENCY PROGRAM.—

179 |         (a) The Department of Education shall develop and each  
180 | school district, charter school, and charter management  
181 | organization may provide a cohesive competency-based  
182 | professional development certification and education competency  
183 | program by which ~~members of a school district's~~ instructional  
184 | staff may satisfy the mastery of professional preparation and  
185 | education competence requirements specified in subsection (6)  
186 | and rules of the State Board of Education. Participants must  
187 | hold a state-issued temporary certificate. A school district,  
188 | charter school, or charter management organization that  
189 | implements the program shall provide a competency-based  
190 | certification program developed by the Department of Education  
191 | or developed by the district, charter school, or charter  
192 | management organization and approved by the Department of  
193 | Education. The program shall include the following:

194 |             1. A minimum period of initial preparation before assuming  
195 | duties as the teacher of record.

196 |             2. An option for collaboration with ~~between school~~  
197 | ~~districts and~~ other supporting agencies or educational entities  
198 | for implementation.

199 |             3. A teacher mentorship and induction ~~An experienced peer-~~  
200 | ~~mentor~~ component.



201        a. Each individual selected by the district as a ~~peer~~  
202        mentor:

203            I. Must hold a valid professional certificate issued  
204        pursuant to this section;~~;~~

205            II. Must have earned at least 3 years of teaching  
206        experience in prekindergarten through grade 12;~~;~~~~and~~

207            III. Must have completed specialized training in clinical  
208        supervision and participate in ongoing mentor training provided  
209        through the coordinated system of professional development under  
210        s. 1012.98(3)(e);

211            IV. Must have earned an effective or highly effective  
212        rating on the prior year's performance evaluation under s.  
213        1012.34; and

214            V. May ~~or~~ be a peer evaluator under the district's  
215        evaluation system approved under s. 1012.34.

216            b. The teacher mentorship and induction component must, at  
217        a minimum, provide weekly opportunities for mentoring and  
218        induction activities, including common planning time, ongoing  
219        professional development targeted to a teacher's needs,  
220        opportunities for a teacher to observe other teachers, co-  
221        teaching experiences, and reflection and followup discussions.  
222        Mentorship and induction activities must be provided for an  
223        applicant's first year in the program and may be provided until  
224        the applicant attains his or her professional certificate in  
225        accordance with this section. A principal who is rated highly

226 effective as determined by his or her performance evaluation  
227 under s. 1012.34 must be provided flexibility in selecting  
228 professional development activities under this paragraph;  
229 however, the activities must be approved by the department as  
230 part of the district's, charter school's, or charter management  
231 organization's program.

232 4. An assessment of teaching performance aligned to the  
233 district's system for personnel evaluation under s. 1012.34  
234 which provides for:

235 a. An initial evaluation of each educator's competencies  
236 to determine an appropriate individualized professional  
237 development plan.

238 b. A summative evaluation to assure successful completion  
239 of the program.

240 5. Professional education preparation content knowledge,  
241 which must be included in the mentoring and induction activities  
242 under subparagraph 3., that includes, but is not limited to, the  
243 following:

244 a. The state standards provided under s. 1003.41,  
245 including scientifically based reading instruction, content  
246 literacy, and mathematical practices, for each subject  
247 identified on the temporary certificate.

248 b. The educator-accomplished practices approved by the  
249 state board.

250 c. A variety of data indicators for monitoring student

251 progress.

252 d. Methodologies for teaching students with disabilities.

253 e. Methodologies for teaching students of limited English  
254 proficiency appropriate for each subject area identified on the  
255 temporary certificate.

256 f. Techniques and strategies for operationalizing the role  
257 of the teacher in assuring a safe learning environment for  
258 students.

259 6. Required achievement of passing scores on the subject  
260 area and professional education competency examination required  
261 by State Board of Education rule. Mastery of general knowledge  
262 must be demonstrated as described in subsection (3).

263 (c) No later than December 31, 2017, the department shall  
264 adopt standards for the approval of professional development  
265 certification and education competency programs, including  
266 standards for the teacher mentorship and induction component,  
267 under paragraph (a). Standards for the teacher mentorship and  
268 induction component must include program administration and  
269 evaluation; mentor roles, selection, and training; beginning  
270 teacher assessment and professional development; and teacher  
271 content knowledge and practices aligned to the Florida Educator  
272 Accomplished Practices. Each school district or charter school  
273 with a program under this subsection must submit its program,  
274 including the teacher mentorship and induction component, to the  
275 department for approval no later than June 30, 2018. After

276 | December 31, 2018, a teacher may not satisfy requirements for a  
277 | professional certificate through a professional development  
278 | certification and education competency program under paragraph  
279 | (a) unless the program has been approved by the department  
280 | pursuant to this paragraph.

281 | Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section  
282 | 1012.585, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

283 | 1012.585 Process for renewal of professional  
284 | certificates.—

285 | (3) For the renewal of a professional certificate, the  
286 | following requirements must be met:

287 | (a) The applicant must earn a minimum of 6 college credits  
288 | or 120 inservice points or a combination thereof. For each area  
289 | of specialization to be retained on a certificate, the applicant  
290 | must earn at least 3 of the required credit hours or equivalent  
291 | inservice points in the specialization area. Education in  
292 | "clinical educator" training pursuant to s. 1004.04(5)(b);  
293 | participation in mentorship and induction activities, including  
294 | as a mentor, pursuant to s. 1012.56(8)(a); and credits or points  
295 | that provide training in the area of scientifically researched,  
296 | knowledge-based reading literacy and computational skills  
297 | acquisition, exceptional student education, normal child  
298 | development, and the disorders of development may be applied  
299 | toward any specialization area. Credits or points that provide  
300 | training in the areas of drug abuse, child abuse and neglect,

301 strategies in teaching students having limited proficiency in  
302 English, or dropout prevention, or training in areas identified  
303 in the educational goals and performance standards adopted  
304 pursuant to ss. 1000.03(5) and 1008.345 may be applied toward  
305 any specialization area. Credits or points earned through  
306 approved summer institutes may be applied toward the fulfillment  
307 of these requirements. Inservice points may also be earned by  
308 participation in professional growth components approved by the  
309 State Board of Education and specified pursuant to s. 1012.98 in  
310 the district's approved master plan for inservice educational  
311 training, including, but not limited to, serving as a trainer in  
312 an approved teacher training activity, serving on an  
313 instructional materials committee or a state board or commission  
314 that deals with educational issues, or serving on an advisory  
315 council created pursuant to s. 1001.452.

316 Section 3. Paragraph (e) is added to subsection (3) of  
317 section 1012.98, Florida Statutes, and paragraph (b) of  
318 subsection (4) and subsections (10) and (11) are amended, to  
319 read:

320 1012.98 School Community Professional Development Act.—

321 (3) The activities designed to implement this section  
322 must:

323 (e) Provide training to teacher mentors as part of the  
324 professional development certification and education competency  
325 program under s. 1012.56(8)(a). The training must include

326 components on teacher development, peer coaching, time  
327 management, and other related topics as determined by the  
328 Department of Education.

329 (4) The Department of Education, school districts,  
330 schools, Florida College System institutions, and state  
331 universities share the responsibilities described in this  
332 section. These responsibilities include the following:

333 (b) Each school district shall develop a professional  
334 development system as specified in subsection (3). The system  
335 shall be developed in consultation with teachers, teacher-  
336 educators of Florida College System institutions and state  
337 universities, business and community representatives, and local  
338 education foundations, consortia, and professional  
339 organizations. The professional development system must:

340 1. Be approved by the department. All substantial  
341 revisions to the system shall be submitted to the department for  
342 review for continued approval.

343 2. Be based on analyses of student achievement data and  
344 instructional strategies and methods that support rigorous,  
345 relevant, and challenging curricula for all students. Schools  
346 and districts, in developing and refining the professional  
347 development system, shall also review and monitor school  
348 discipline data; school environment surveys; assessments of  
349 parental satisfaction; performance appraisal data of teachers,  
350 managers, and administrative personnel; and other performance

351 indicators to identify school and student needs that can be met  
352 by improved professional performance.

353 3. Provide inservice activities coupled with followup  
354 support appropriate to accomplish district-level and school-  
355 level improvement goals and standards. The inservice activities  
356 for instructional personnel shall focus on analysis of student  
357 achievement data, ongoing formal and informal assessments of  
358 student achievement, identification and use of enhanced and  
359 differentiated instructional strategies that emphasize rigor,  
360 relevance, and reading in the content areas, enhancement of  
361 subject content expertise, integrated use of classroom  
362 technology that enhances teaching and learning, classroom  
363 management, parent involvement, and school safety.

364 4. Provide inservice activities and support targeted to  
365 the individual needs of new teachers participating in the  
366 professional development certification and education competency  
367 program under s. 1012.56(8) (a).

368 5.4. Include a master plan for inservice activities,  
369 pursuant to rules of the State Board of Education, for all  
370 district employees from all fund sources. The master plan shall  
371 be updated annually by September 1, must be based on input from  
372 teachers and district and school instructional leaders, and must  
373 use the latest available student achievement data and research  
374 to enhance rigor and relevance in the classroom. Each district  
375 inservice plan must be aligned to and support the school-based

376 inservice plans and school improvement plans pursuant to s.  
377 1001.42(18). Each district inservice plan must provide a  
378 description of the training that middle grades instructional  
379 personnel and school administrators receive on the district's  
380 code of student conduct adopted pursuant to s. 1006.07;  
381 integrated digital instruction and competency-based instruction  
382 and CAPE Digital Tool certificates and CAPE industry  
383 certifications; classroom management; student behavior and  
384 interaction; extended learning opportunities for students; and  
385 instructional leadership. District plans must be approved by the  
386 district school board annually in order to ensure compliance  
387 with subsection (1) and to allow for dissemination of research-  
388 based best practices to other districts. District school boards  
389 must submit verification of their approval to the Commissioner  
390 of Education no later than October 1, annually. Each school  
391 principal may establish and maintain an individual professional  
392 development plan for each instructional employee assigned to the  
393 school as a seamless component to the school improvement plans  
394 developed pursuant to s. 1001.42(18). An individual professional  
395 development plan must be related to specific performance data  
396 for the students to whom the teacher is assigned, define the  
397 inservice objectives and specific measurable improvements  
398 expected in student performance as a result of the inservice  
399 activity, and include an evaluation component that determines  
400 the effectiveness of the professional development plan.



401        ~~6.5.~~ Include inservice activities for school  
402 administrative personnel that address updated skills necessary  
403 for instructional leadership and effective school management  
404 pursuant to s. 1012.986.

405        ~~7.6.~~ Provide for systematic consultation with regional and  
406 state personnel designated to provide technical assistance and  
407 evaluation of local professional development programs.

408        ~~8.7.~~ Provide for delivery of professional development by  
409 distance learning and other technology-based delivery systems to  
410 reach more educators at lower costs.

411        ~~9.8.~~ Provide for the continuous evaluation of the quality  
412 and effectiveness of professional development programs in order  
413 to eliminate ineffective programs and strategies and to expand  
414 effective ones. Evaluations must consider the impact of such  
415 activities on the performance of participating educators and  
416 their students' achievement and behavior.

417        ~~10.9.~~ For middle grades, emphasize:

418            a. Interdisciplinary planning, collaboration, and  
419 instruction.

420            b. Alignment of curriculum and instructional materials to  
421 the state academic standards adopted pursuant to s. 1003.41.

422            c. Use of small learning communities; problem-solving,  
423 inquiry-driven research and analytical approaches for students;  
424 strategies and tools based on student needs; competency-based  
425 instruction; integrated digital instruction; and project-based

426 instruction.

427

428 Each school that includes any of grades 6, 7, or 8 must include  
429 in its school improvement plan, required under s. 1001.42(18), a  
430 description of the specific strategies used by the school to  
431 implement each item listed in this subparagraph.

432 (10) For instructional personnel and administrative  
433 personnel who have been evaluated as less than effective, a  
434 district school board shall require participation in specific  
435 professional development programs as provided in subparagraph  
436 (4) (b) 5. ~~(4) (b) 4.~~ as part of the improvement prescription.

437 (11) The department shall disseminate to the school  
438 community proven model professional development programs that  
439 have demonstrated success in increasing rigorous and relevant  
440 content, increasing student achievement and engagement, ~~and~~  
441 meeting identified student needs, and providing effective  
442 mentorship activities to new teachers and training to teacher  
443 mentors. The methods of dissemination must include a web-based  
444 statewide performance-support system including a database of  
445 exemplary professional development activities, a listing of  
446 available professional development resources, training programs,  
447 and available technical assistance.

448 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.