

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

BILL ANALYSIS

This bill analysis was prepared by nonpartisan committee staff and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.

8BILL #: [CS/HB 37](#)

TITLE: Educator Certifications and Training

SPONSOR(S): Daley

COMPANION BILL: [SB 204](#) (Jones)

LINKED BILLS: None

RELATED BILLS: None

Committee References

[Education Administration](#)

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[Education & Employment](#)

SUMMARY

Effect of the Bill:

The bill requires the core curricula of educator preparation programs to address strategies and practices relating to mass casualty incidents. The bill specifies that to be eligible to seek an educator certification, an individual must have received training relating to mass casualty incidents.

Fiscal or Economic Impact:

None

[JUMP TO](#)

[SUMMARY](#)

[ANALYSIS](#)

[RELEVANT INFORMATION](#)

[BILL HISTORY](#)

ANALYSIS

EFFECT OF THE BILL:

The bill requires the [core curricula](#) of [educator preparation programs](#) to address strategies and practices relating to mass casualty incidents, including identifying, preventing, preparing, addressing, and responding to such incidents. (Sections [1](#) and [2](#)).

The bill specifies that to be eligible to seek an [educator certification](#), including a professional certificate, temporary certificate, temporary apprenticeship certificate, adjunct educator certificate, or classical education teaching certificate, the individual must have received training relating to mass casualty incidents. (Sections [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), and [5](#)).

The effective date of the bill is July 1, 2025. (Section [6](#)).

RULEMAKING:

Current law requires the State Board of Education (SBE) to adopt rules which establish uniform core curricula for state-approved teacher preparation programs, allow for the approval of Educator Preparation Institutes, and allow for the issuance of an educator certification. The bill modifies provisions of law already under the SBE's rulemaking authority, thus allowing the SBE to make rules to implement the bill.

Lawmaking is a legislative power; however, the Legislature may delegate a portion of such power to executive branch agencies to create rules that have the force of law. To exercise this delegated power, an agency must have a grant of rulemaking authority and a law to implement.

RELEVANT INFORMATION

SUBJECT OVERVIEW:

[Educator Preparation Programs](#)

Educator preparation programs are accountable for producing individuals with the competencies and skills necessary to achieve the state's education goals and help all students meet high standards for academic

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achievement.¹ State-approved educator preparation programs are offered by Florida public and private postsecondary institutions, public school districts, and private providers by which candidates for educator certification can, depending on the type of program, demonstrate mastery of general knowledge, professional preparation and education competence, and subject area knowledge for purposes of attaining an educator certificate.²

There are various state-approved educator preparation programs that individuals may use to receive the training needed to attain teaching credentials, including:³

- Initial Educator Preparation programs
- Educator Preparation Institutes
- District Professional Development Certification and Education Competency Programs.

Initial educator preparation programs are offered at postsecondary institutions and typically culminate in a bachelor's or master's degree. This is a traditional pathway to eligibility for educator certification. Educator Preparation Institutes (EPI) are alternative certification programs offered by postsecondary institutions and qualified private providers for baccalaureate degree holders as an alternative route to educator certification for career changers and college graduates. District professional development certification and education competency program are cohesive, competency-based professional preparation certification programs offered by school districts, charter schools, and charter management organizations by which the instructional staff can satisfy the mastery of professional preparation and education competence requirements.

[Educator Preparation Program Uniform Core Curricula](#)

The SBE must adopt rules to establish uniform core curricula for each state-approved educator preparation program.⁴ These rules must include, at a minimum, the following:⁵

- The Florida Educator Accomplished Practices.⁶
- The state-adopted content standards.
- Scientifically researched and evidence-based reading instructional strategies that improve reading performance for all students, including explicit, systematic, and sequential approaches to teaching phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and text comprehension and multisensory intervention strategies.
- Content literacy and mathematics practices.
- Strategies appropriate for the instruction of English language learners.
- Strategies appropriate for the instruction of students with disabilities.
- Strategies to differentiate instruction based on student needs.
- Strategies and practices to support evidence-based content aligned to state standards and grading practices.
- Strategies appropriate for the early identification of a student in crisis or experiencing a mental health challenge and the referral of such student to a mental health professional for support.
- Strategies to support the use of technology in education and distance learning.
- Strategies and practices to support effective, research-based assessment and grading practices aligned to the state's academic standards.

Each educator-candidate must be instructed and assessed on the uniform core curricula in his or her program concentration area during course work and field experiences. Additionally, each candidate must demonstrate an

¹ [Section 1004.04\(1\)\(b\), F.S.](#)

² [Rule 6A-5.066, F.A.C.](#); [ss. 1004.04\(3\)\(a\)](#) and [1004.85\(1\), F.S.](#)

³ [Rule 6A-5.066, F.A.C.](#)

⁴ [Section 1004.04\(2\)\(a\), F.S.](#)

⁵ [Section 1004.04\(2\)\(b\), F.S.](#)

⁶ [Rule 6A-5.065, F.A.C.](#) The Florida Educator Accomplished Practices (FEAP) are Florida's core standards for effective educators and provide valuable guidance to Florida's public-school educators and educator preparation programs throughout the state on what educators are expected to know and be able to do.

ability to positively impact student learning growth during the field experience and pass the Florida Teacher Certification Examination.⁷

Educator Certification

While there are several certification pathways, any individual seeking certification must meet the following general eligibility requirements:⁸

- be at least 18 years of age;
- sign an affidavit attesting that the applicant will uphold the United States and State Constitutions;
- 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.

After meeting eligibility requirements, an individual may choose a certification route. The DOE issues several types of educator certificates, including:

- Professional Certificate: Florida's standard type of educator certification; valid for 5 years and renewable.⁹
- Temporary Certificates: Temporary and Military Veterans Temporary certificates cover employment in full-time positions for which educator certification is required; valid for 5 years and generally nonrenewable.¹⁰ Temporary Teacher Internship and Temporary Teacher Apprenticeship certificates are also valid for 5 years and nonrenewable.¹¹
- Classical Education Teaching Certificate: Issued upon the request of a classical school and only valid at a classical school; valid for 5 years and renewable.¹²

District school boards and charter school governing boards may issue an Adjunct Certificate to applicants meeting the general eligibility requirements for a professional certificate and demonstrating subject area expertise. It is valid for part-time or full-time positions, for up to 5 years for a full-time position, and is nonrenewable.¹³

For all certifications, candidates must submit an application and satisfy general eligibility and certificate-specific requirements.¹⁴

RECENT LEGISLATION:

YEAR	BILL #	HOUSE SPONSOR(S)	SENATE SPONSOR	OTHER INFORMATION
2022	CS/CS/CS/HB 1421	Hawkins, Hunschofsky	Gruters	The bill became law on July 1, 2023.
2021	CS/HB 1159	Busatta	Wright	The bill became law on July 1, 2021.

OTHER RESOURCES:

[Florida Department of Education - Educator Preparation](#)

[Florida Department of Education - The Florida Educator Accomplished Practices](#)

[Florida Department of Education - Educator Certification](#)

⁷ [Section 1004.04\(2\)\(c\)-\(d\), F.S.](#)

⁸ [Section 1012.56\(2\)\(a\)-\(f\), F.S.](#)

⁹ [Section 1012.56\(7\)\(a\), F.S.; r. 6A-4.004\(5\), F.A.C.](#)

¹⁰ [Section 1012.56\(7\)\(b\)1.-2. and \(f\), F.S.; r. 6A-4.004\(1\)-\(2\), F.A.C.](#)

¹¹ [Section 1012.56\(7\)\(b\)3., \(d\), and \(f\), F.S.; r. 6A-4.004\(3\)-\(4\), F.A.C.](#)

¹² [Section 1012.55\(5\), F.S.; r. 6A-4.004\(10\), F.S.](#)

¹³ [Section 1012.57, F.S.](#)

¹⁴ [Section 1012.56, F.S.; r. 6A-4.004, F.A.C.](#)

BILL HISTORY

COMMITTEE REFERENCE	ACTION	DATE	STAFF DIRECTOR/ POLICY CHIEF	ANALYSIS PREPARED BY
Education Administration Subcommittee	18 Y, 0 N, As CS	4/2/2025	Sleap	Blalock
THE CHANGES ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE:	Removed a requirement for the Department of Education to develop a list of approved trainings, which must be included in the requirements for continuing education or inservice training of instructional personnel.			
Education & Employment Committee				

THIS BILL ANALYSIS HAS BEEN UPDATED TO INCORPORATE ALL OF THE CHANGES DESCRIBED ABOVE.
