

**By** Senator Calatayud

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30 certified educators; providing an effective date.

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

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34 Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section

35 1004.85, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

36 1004.85 Postsecondary educator preparation institutes.—

37 (3) Educator preparation institutes approved pursuant to

38 this section may offer competency-based certification programs

39 specifically designed for noneducation major baccalaureate

40 degree holders to enable program participants to meet the

41 educator certification requirements of s. 1012.56. An educator

42 preparation institute choosing to offer a competency-based

43 certification program pursuant to the provisions of this section

44 must implement a program developed by the institute and approved

45 by the department for this purpose. Approved programs shall be

46 available for use by other approved educator preparation

47 institutes.

48 (b) Each program participant must:

49 1. Meet certification requirements pursuant to s.

50 1012.56(1) by obtaining an eligible a statement of status of

51 eligibility in the certification subject area of the educational

52 plan and meet the requirements of s. 1012.56(2) (a)-(f) before

53 participating in field experiences. An educator preparation

54 institute may allow a program participant to enroll in and

55 complete coursework while the participant is working to obtain

56 an eligible statement of status of eligibility in the

57 certification subject area of the educational plan.

58 2. Demonstrate competency and participate in field

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

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

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

1012.56 Educator certification requirements.—

(7) TYPES AND TERMS OF CERTIFICATION.—

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

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

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88 specialization in state board rule;

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

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

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

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

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

125 1012.585 Process for renewal or reinstatement of  
126 professional certificates.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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146 ~~the reinstated certificate.~~

147

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

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

153 1012.981 The Florida Center for Teaching Excellence.—

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

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

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

172 (c) Develop and design models of high-quality clinical  
173 experiences for aspiring teachers. These model experiences shall  
174 serve as a standard that institutions approved pursuant to ss.

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175 1004.04 and 1004.85 can adopt or adapt, enabling participants to  
176 demonstrate mastery of instructional techniques, classroom  
177 management strategies, and the application of high-impact  
178 teaching strategies in authentic educational settings.

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

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

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

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

198 (3) The center:

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

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

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204 the system to the department on the educator's behalf.

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

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