

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to educator preparation; amending s.  
3           1004.04, F.S.; revising the rules in establishing  
4           uniform core curricula for a teacher preparation  
5           program to include instruction in the state standards  
6           adopted by the State Board of Education; requiring  
7           departments and colleges of education to emphasize the  
8           state system of school improvement and education  
9           accountability concepts and standards, including state  
10          standards adopted by the State Board of Education,  
11          rather than the Sunshine State Standards; requiring  
12          state-approved teacher preparation programs to  
13          incorporate instruction in the state standards adopted  
14          by the State Board of Education; amending s. 1012.56,  
15          F.S.; revising the acceptable means of demonstrating  
16          mastery of professional preparation and education  
17          competence to include successful completion of a  
18          specified professional education training program and  
19          the achievement of a passing score on the professional  
20          education competency examination; revising criteria  
21          for a temporary certificate; providing that certain  
22          graduates of specified institutions take first  
23          priority for vacancies in the professional preparation  
24          alternative certification program; requiring the  
25          Department of Education to inform institutions of  
26          higher learning of the program; providing an effective  
27          date.  
28

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

30 |  
 31 |       Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2), paragraphs (b)  
 32 | and (c) of subsection (3), paragraph (e) of subsection (5), and  
 33 | paragraph (c) of subsection (6) of section 1004.04, Florida  
 34 | Statutes, are amended to read:

35 |       1004.04 Public accountability and state approval for  
 36 | teacher preparation programs.—

37 |       (2) UNIFORM CORE CURRICULA.—

38 |       (b) The rules to establish uniform core curricula for each  
 39 | state-approved teacher preparation program must include, but are  
 40 | not limited to, a State Board of Education identified foundation  
 41 | in scientifically researched, knowledge-based reading literacy  
 42 | and computational skills acquisition; classroom management;  
 43 | school safety; professional ethics; educational law; human  
 44 | development and learning; instruction in the state standards  
 45 | adopted by the State Board of Education; and understanding of  
 46 | the ~~Sunshine~~ state standards content measured by state  
 47 | achievement tests, reading and interpretation of data, and use  
 48 | of data to improve student achievement.

49 |       (3) DEVELOPMENT OF TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS.—A system  
 50 | developed by the Department of Education in collaboration with  
 51 | postsecondary educational institutions shall assist departments  
 52 | and colleges of education in the restructuring of their programs  
 53 | in accordance with this section to meet the need for producing  
 54 | quality teachers now and in the future.

55 |       (b) Departments and colleges of education shall emphasize  
 56 | the state system of school improvement and education

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57 | accountability concepts and standards, including ~~Sunshine~~ state  
58 | standards adopted by the State Board of Education.

59 | (c) State-approved teacher preparation programs must  
60 | incorporate:

61 | 1. Appropriate English for Speakers of Other Languages  
62 | instruction so that program graduates will have completed the  
63 | requirements for teaching limited English proficient students in  
64 | Florida public schools.

65 | 2. Scientifically researched, knowledge-based reading  
66 | literacy and computational skills instruction so that program  
67 | graduates will be able to provide the necessary academic  
68 | foundations for their students at whatever grade levels they  
69 | choose to teach.

70 | 3. Instruction in the state standards adopted by the State  
71 | Board of Education.

72 | (5) CONTINUED PROGRAM APPROVAL.—Notwithstanding subsection  
73 | (4), failure by a public or nonpublic teacher preparation  
74 | program to meet the criteria for continued program approval  
75 | shall result in loss of program approval. The Department of  
76 | Education, in collaboration with the departments and colleges of  
77 | education, shall develop procedures for continued program  
78 | approval that document the continuous improvement of program  
79 | processes and graduates' performance.

80 | (e) Continued approval of teacher preparation programs is  
81 | contingent upon compliance with the student admission  
82 | requirements of subsection (4) and upon the receipt of at least  
83 | a satisfactory rating from public schools and private schools  
84 | that employ graduates of the program. Each teacher preparation

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85 | program must ~~shall~~ guarantee the high quality of its graduates  
86 | during the first 2 years immediately following graduation from  
87 | the program or following initial certification, whichever occurs  
88 | first. Any educator in a Florida school who fails to demonstrate  
89 | the essential skills specified in subparagraphs 1.-5. shall be  
90 | provided additional training by the teacher preparation program  
91 | at no expense to the educator or the employer. Such training  
92 | must consist of an individualized plan agreed upon by the school  
93 | district and the postsecondary educational institution that  
94 | includes specific learning outcomes. The postsecondary  
95 | educational institution assumes no responsibility for the  
96 | educator's employment contract with the employer. Employer  
97 | satisfaction shall be determined by an annually administered  
98 | survey instrument approved by the Department of Education that,  
99 | at a minimum, must include employer satisfaction of the  
100 | graduates' ability to do the following:

101 |       1. Write and speak in a logical and understandable style  
102 | with appropriate grammar.

103 |       2. Recognize signs of students' difficulty with the  
104 | reading and computational process and apply appropriate measures  
105 | to improve students' reading and computational performance.

106 |       3. Use and integrate appropriate technology in teaching  
107 | and learning processes.

108 |       4. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of ~~Sunshine~~  
109 | state standards.

110 |       5. Maintain an orderly and disciplined classroom conducive  
111 | to student learning.

112 |       (6) PRESERVICE FIELD EXPERIENCE.—All postsecondary

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113 | instructors, school district personnel and instructional  
114 | personnel, and school sites preparing instructional personnel  
115 | through preservice field experience courses and internships  
116 | shall meet special requirements. District school boards are  
117 | authorized to pay student teachers during their internships.

118 |       (c) Preservice field experience programs must provide  
119 | specific guidance and demonstration of effective classroom  
120 | management strategies, strategies for incorporating technology  
121 | into classroom instruction, strategies for incorporating  
122 | scientifically researched, knowledge-based reading literacy and  
123 | computational skills acquisition into classroom instruction, and  
124 | ways to link instructional plans to the ~~Sunshine~~ state  
125 | standards, as appropriate. The length of structured field  
126 | experiences may be extended to ensure that candidates achieve  
127 | the competencies needed to meet certification requirements.

128 |       Section 2. Subsections (6) through (8) of section 1012.56,  
129 | Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

130 |       1012.56 Educator certification requirements.—

131 |       (6) MASTERY OF PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION AND EDUCATION  
132 | COMPETENCE.—Acceptable means of demonstrating mastery of  
133 | professional preparation and education competence are:

134 |       (a) Completion of an approved teacher preparation program  
135 | at a postsecondary educational institution within this state and  
136 | achievement of a passing score on the professional education  
137 | competency examination required by state board rule;

138 |       (b) Completion of a teacher preparation program at a  
139 | postsecondary educational institution outside Florida and  
140 | achievement of a passing score on the professional education

141 competency examination required by state board rule;

142 (c) A valid professional standard teaching certificate  
143 issued by another state;

144 (d) A valid certificate issued by the National Board for  
145 Professional Teaching Standards or a national educator  
146 credentialing board approved by the State Board of Education;

147 (e) Documentation of two semesters of successful teaching  
148 in a Florida College System institution, state university, or  
149 private college or university that awards an associate or higher  
150 degree and is an accredited institution or an institution of  
151 higher education identified by the Department of Education as  
152 having a quality program;

153 (f) Completion of professional preparation courses as  
154 specified in state board rule, successful completion of a  
155 professional education competence demonstration program pursuant  
156 to paragraph (8) (b), and achievement of a passing score on the  
157 professional education competency examination required by state  
158 board rule;

159 (g) Successful completion of a professional preparation  
160 alternative certification and education competency program,  
161 outlined in paragraph (8) (a); ~~or~~

162 (h) Successful completion of an alternative certification  
163 program pursuant to s. 1004.85 and achievement of a passing  
164 score on the professional education competency examination  
165 required by state board rule; ~~or of the State Board of Education~~

166 (i) Successful completion of a professional education  
167 training program provided by Teach For America and achievement  
168 of a passing score on the professional education competency

169 examination required by state board rule.

170 (7) TYPES AND TERMS OF CERTIFICATION.—

171 (a) The Department of Education shall issue a professional  
 172 certificate for a period not to exceed 5 years to any applicant  
 173 who meets all the requirements outlined in subsection (2).

174 (b) The department shall issue a temporary certificate to  
 175 any applicant who completes the requirements outlined in  
 176 paragraphs (2)(a)-(f) and completes the subject area content  
 177 requirements specified in state board rule or demonstrates  
 178 mastery of subject area knowledge pursuant to subsection (5) and  
 179 holds an accredited degree or a degree approved by the  
 180 Department of Education at the level required for the subject  
 181 area specialization in state board rule.

182 (c) The department shall issue one nonrenewable 2-year  
 183 temporary certificate and one nonrenewable 5-year professional  
 184 certificate to a qualified applicant who holds a bachelor's  
 185 degree in the area of speech-language impairment to allow for  
 186 completion of a master's degree program in speech-language  
 187 impairment.

188 (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs (a)-(c),  
 189 a person who has graduated within the previous 2 calendar years  
 190 with a baccalaureate or higher degree from an accredited  
 191 institution of higher learning or an unaccredited institution  
 192 that the Department of Education has identified as having a  
 193 quality program resulting in a baccalaureate or higher degree;  
 194 who has graduated with a minimum overall grade point average of  
 195 3.5 on a 4.0 scale; and who is a candidate in the alternative  
 196 certification and education competency program as described in

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197 subsection (8) for a 5-year period, is not required to satisfy  
198 the testing and examination requirements of subsections (3) and  
199 (5). However, a candidate must meet initial certification  
200 requirements in paragraphs (2) (a)-(f).

201  
202 Each temporary certificate is valid for 3 school fiscal years  
203 and is nonrenewable. A person who qualifies under paragraph (d)  
204 shall receive a temporary certificate that is valid for 5 school  
205 fiscal years. However, the requirement in paragraph (2) (g) must  
206 be met within 1 calendar year of the date of employment under  
207 the temporary certificate. Individuals who are employed under  
208 contract at the end of the 1 calendar year time period may  
209 continue to be employed through the end of the school year in  
210 which they have been contracted. A school district shall not  
211 employ, or continue the employment of, an individual in a  
212 position for which a temporary certificate is required beyond  
213 this time period if the individual has not met the requirement  
214 of paragraph (2) (g). The State Board of Education shall adopt  
215 rules to allow the department to extend the validity period of a  
216 temporary certificate for 2 years when the requirements for the  
217 professional certificate, not including the requirement in  
218 paragraph (2) (g), were not completed due to the serious illness  
219 or injury of the applicant or other extraordinary extenuating  
220 circumstances. The department shall reissue the temporary  
221 certificate for 2 additional years upon approval by the  
222 Commissioner of Education. A written request for reissuance of  
223 the certificate shall be submitted by the district school  
224 superintendent, the governing authority of a university lab



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225 | school, the governing authority of a state-supported school, or  
226 | the governing authority of a private school.

227 |       (8) PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION ALTERNATIVE CERTIFICATION AND  
228 | EDUCATION COMPETENCY PROGRAM.—In order to recruit recent  
229 | graduates of an accredited institution of higher learning or an  
230 | unaccredited institution that the Department of Education has  
231 | identified as having a quality program resulting in a  
232 | baccalaureate or higher degree, qualified graduates of such  
233 | institutions take first priority for vacancies in the  
234 | professional preparation alternative certification program  
235 | described in paragraphs (a)-(c).

236 |       (a) The Department of Education shall develop and each  
237 | school district must provide a cohesive competency-based  
238 | professional preparation alternative certification program by  
239 | which members of a school district's instructional staff or  
240 | individuals who have graduated within the prior 2 calendar years  
241 | with a baccalaureate or higher degree from an accredited  
242 | institution of higher learning or an unaccredited institution  
243 | that the Department of Education has identified as having a  
244 | quality program resulting in a baccalaureate or higher degree,  
245 | with a minimum overall grade point average of 3.5 on a 4.0  
246 | scale, may satisfy the mastery of professional preparation and  
247 | education competence requirements specified in this subsection  
248 | and rules of the State Board of Education. Participants must  
249 | hold a state-issued temporary certificate. A school district  
250 | shall provide a competency-based alternative certification  
251 | preparation program developed by the Department of Education or  
252 | developed by the district and approved by the Department of

253 Education. The program must ~~shall~~ include the following  
 254 components:

- 255 1. A minimum period of initial preparation before ~~prior to~~  
 256 assuming duties as the teacher of record.
- 257 2. An option for collaboration between school districts  
 258 and other supporting agencies for implementation.
- 259 3. Experienced peer mentors.
- 260 4. An assessment that provides for:
  - 261 a. An initial evaluation of each educator's competencies  
 262 to determine an appropriate individualized professional  
 263 development plan.
  - 264 b. A postevaluation to assure successful completion of the  
 265 program.
  - 266 5. Professional education preparation content knowledge  
 267 that includes, but is not limited to, the following:
    - 268 a. Requirements specified in state board rule for  
 269 professional preparation.
    - 270 b. The educator-accomplished practices approved by the  
 271 state board.
    - 272 c. A variety of data indicators for student progress.
    - 273 d. Methodologies, including technology-based  
 274 methodologies, for teaching subject content that supports the  
 275 Sunshine State Standards for students.
    - 276 e. Techniques for effective classroom management.
    - 277 f. Techniques and strategies for operationalizing the role  
 278 of the teacher in assuring a safe learning environment for  
 279 students.
    - 280 g. Methodologies for assuring the ability of all students

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281 to read, write, and compute.

282 6. Required achievement of passing scores on the  
283 professional education competency examination required by state  
284 board rule.

285 (b) Each school district must and a state-supported ~~state~~  
286 ~~supported~~ public school or a private school may develop and  
287 maintain a system by which members of the instructional staff  
288 may demonstrate mastery of professional education competence as  
289 required by law. Each program must be based on classroom  
290 application and instructional performance and must include a  
291 performance evaluation plan for documenting the demonstration of  
292 required professional education competence.

293 (c) The Department of Education shall inform each public  
294 and private institution of higher learning of the professional  
295 preparation alternative certification program and of any changes  
296 to the state board rules which impact this program.

297 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013.