

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Consent Item
January 16, 2019

SUBJECT: Amendment to Rule 6A-4.002, General Provisions

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For Approval

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Sections 1001.02 and 1012.56(11)(a), Florida Statutes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

New federal regulations now permit sponsors of teachers in the Exchange Visitor Program to request extensions from the U.S. Department of State for up to two (2) additional school years for a total of five (5) years. See 22 C.F.R. § 62.24, 22 C.F.R. § 62.43. School districts have requested this extension option because they believe it is the best option for their students. If allowed in rule, the Department will be providing an option that a local school believes is best for its students. Extensions will be approved with support from both the program sponsor and the employing school or district. This change permits sponsors to request an extension to the length of time for exchange teachers to hold a temporary exchange teacher certificate for up to an additional two (2) years for a period not to exceed a total of five (5) years. Revisions also permit, but do not require, the Department to issue exchange teacher certificates to include Florida subject(s) for which the exchange teacher may be appropriately assigned as a qualified instructor.

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Supporting Documentation Included: Proposed Rule 6A-4.002, F.A.C.

Facilitator/Presenter: Jacob Oliva, Executive Vice Chancellor, K-12 Public Schools

6A-4.002 General Provisions.

(1) through (5) No Change.

(6) Noncitizens. A noncitizen may be issued an Official Statement of Status of Eligibility or a certificate as specified below:

(a) through (b) No Change.

(c) Exchange teachers.

1. No Change.

2. A temporary certificate valid for three (3) years may be issued to an exchange teacher. The certificate shall reflect the designation of exchange teacher and may reflect the Florida certificate subject(s) for which the exchange teacher is qualified based on the specialization requirements specified in Rules 6A-4.008 through 6A-4.035 and 6A-4.054 through 6A-4.062, F.A.C. shall not reflect a subject. Only one (1) certificate may be issued under this provision when an applicant meets the following requirements:

a. No Change.

b. Submits verification from an authorized program sponsor documenting approval by the U.S. Department of State for ~~of~~ participation in an exchange program. Verification shall be provided by the employing school district, state supported or nonpublic school; and,

c. No Change.

3. The validity of an exchange teacher temporary certificate may be extended for up to two (2) additional years for a period not to exceed a total of five (5) years. The extended exchange teacher certificate will be issued under this provision when an applicant meets the following requirements:

a. Submits an application form and fee as specified in Rule 6A-4.0012, F.A.C.;

b. Submits written verification from the authorized program sponsor documenting approval by the U.S. Department of State to extend participation in the exchange program that stipulates the length of the approved extension; and,

c. Submits a letter of reference on official letterhead from the employing school district, state-supported or nonpublic school that describes the exchange teacher's performance during the previous years of the exchange and how the host has benefited from the exchange teacher's presence.

Rulemaking Authority 1001.02, 1012.55, 1012.56 FS. Law Implemented 1001.10(5)(b), 1012.55, 1012.56 FS. History–

New 4-10-64, Amended 4-8-68, 4-11-70, 10-18-71, 3-19-72, 12-18-72, 6-17-73, 4-19-74, Repromulgated 12-5-74, Amended 6-22-76, 6-27-77, 12-26-77, 4-27-78, 7-1-79, 7-2-79, 6-26-80, 7-28-81, 1-3-82, 5-11-82, 6-22-83, 3-28-84, 1-31-85, 3-13-85, Joint Administrative Objection Filed – See FAR Vol. 12, No. 11, March 14, 1986, Formerly 6A-4.02, Amended 12-25-86, 10-18-88, 10-10-89, 4-15-91, 11-10-92, 5-30-94, 11-13-96, 10-15-01, 12-27-04, 7-27-06, Joint Administrative Procedures Committee objection resolved by Chapter 86-156, Laws of Florida, Florida Administrative Register Vol. 35, No. 27, July 10, 2009, Amended 1-1-14, 12-31-14, 10-26-15, 6-23-16, 12-20-16.