

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Consent Item
March 30, 2022

SUBJECT: Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-4.0021, Florida Teacher Certification Examinations

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For Approval

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Section 1012.56(9), Florida Statutes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Section (s.) 1012.56(9), Florida Statutes (F.S.), requires the State Board of Education (SBE) to specify, by rule, the examination scores required for the issuance of a professional certificate and temporary certificate. Such rules must define examination competencies and skills and establish uniform evaluation guidelines and passing scores for the Florida Teacher Certification Examinations (FTCE). Rule 6A-4.0021, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), fulfills these requirements by providing a description, by reference, of the competencies and skills to be assessed. These competencies and skills are included in the document "Competencies and Skills Required for Teacher Certification in Florida." As changes to the following examinations are made, a new edition of this document must be developed and incorporated, by reference, into the rule:

- General Knowledge (GK) subtests in Reading, Writing, English Language Skills, and Mathematics;
- Professional Education (PEd) with a focus on pedagogy and professional practices; and
- Subject Area Examinations (SAE) with 39 subject areas.

Accepted professional practice for assessment programs such as FTCE requires the periodic review of all program aspects impacted by SBE rule, including the review and revision of the competencies and skills assessed and, as a result, the revision of the examinations and passing scores. The Florida Department of Education normally reviews these tests in 5-year cycles. The rule makes reference to the publication "Competencies and Skills Required for Teacher Certification in Florida," by edition, with new effective dates because it is revised and distributed regularly to reflect the current competencies and skills assessed by each examination.

The rule will adopt and incorporate the "Competencies and Skills Required for Teacher Certification in Florida, Twenty-Sixth Edition," effective June 1, 2022. This document outlines the competencies and skills, or content, of each current teacher certification examination. The adoption of the 26th edition will update the content of the following eight (8) examinations to better reflect the Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Student Performance Standards in English Language Arts, adopted and incorporated in Rule 6A-1.09401, F.A.C.: the General Knowledge Test, Elementary Education K-6, English 6-12, English for Speakers of Other Languages K-12, Exceptional Student Education K-12, Middle Grades English 5-9, Prekindergarten/Primary PK-3, and Reading K-12.

A prospective teacher who seeks employment in Florida's K-12 public schools must learn these new competencies and skills and successfully pass the FTCE examinations. Every examinee taking the examinations based on the revised competencies and skills will be affected. The revised competencies and skills will serve as the basis for test development and scoring of FTCE examinations once approved.

The rule also updates the names of the following two (2) subject area examinations: Guidance and Counseling PK-12, which will be renamed School Counseling PK-12 to reflect the name change for the certification area in Rule 6A-4.0181, F.A.C., effective December 22, 2019; and Hearing Impaired K-12, which will be renamed Deaf or Hard of Hearing K-12 to reflect the name change for the certification area in Rule 6A-4.0172, F.A.C., effective June 16, 2020.

Supporting Documentation Included: Proposed Rule 6A-4.0021, F.A.C. and Competencies and Skills Required for Teacher Certification in Florida, Twenty-Sixth Edition (under separate cover)

Facilitator: Juan Copa, Deputy Commissioner; Division of Accountability, Research, and Measurement