

Florida Department of **EDUCATION**

HB 433 Education

(Chapter 2014-32, Laws of Florida)

Bill Sponsor: Representative Spano

Effective Date: July 1, 2014

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Executive Summary:

The bill provides requirements for certain instructional personnel who supervise or direct pre-service field experiences; authorizes a school district to assign to a school that has earned failing grades certain newly hired instructional personnel; revises certification requirements pertaining to acceptable means of demonstrating mastery of general knowledge, subject knowledge, and professional preparation and education competence; repeals s. 1012.56(17), F.S., relating to a study to compare the performance of certain certificate holders; revises certain requirements for the renewal or reinstatement of a professional certificate; and authorizes a consortium of certain charter schools to develop a professional development system.

Section 1.

Amends s. 1004.04, F.S., Public accountability and state approval for teacher preparation programs, to:

- Require all instructional personnel who supervise or direct teacher preparation students during field experience courses or internships in another state, in which a candidate demonstrates his or her impact on student learning growth, through a Florida online or distance program to have the following qualifications: clinical educator training or its equivalent, valid professional certificate issued by the state in which the field experience takes place, and at least three years of teaching experience in prekindergarten through grades 12.
- Require all instructional personnel who supervise or direct teacher preparation students during field experience courses or internships, in which a candidate demonstrates his or her impact on student learning growth, on a United States military base in another country through a Florida online or distance program to have the following qualifications: clinical educator training or its equivalent, valid professional certificate issued by the United States Department of Defense or a state or United States territory and at least three years of teaching experience in prekindergarten through grades 12.

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Section 2.

Amends s. 1012.2315, F.S., Assignment of teachers, to:

- Allow a school district to assign an individual that is newly hired as instructional personnel to a school that has earned a failing grade in the previous year or any combination of three consecutive grades of “D” or “F” in the three previous years if the following criteria have been met by the individual:
 - Received an effective or highly effective rating in the immediate prior year’s performance evaluation;
 - Successfully completed or is enrolled in a teacher preparation program specified in Florida Statute or State Board of Education rule, is provided with high quality mentoring during the first two years of employment, holds an educator certificate, and holds a probationary contract awarded by the employing district school board; or
 - Holds a probationary contract awarded by the employing district school board, holds an educator certificate, has successful teaching experience, and the school principal believes the students would benefit from having the individual placed with them.
- Clarify the term “mentoring” to indicate it includes the use of student achievement data combined with at least monthly observations to improve the educator’s effectiveness in improving student outcomes. The mentoring can be provided by a school district or a teacher preparation program specified in Florida Statute or State Board of Education (SBE) rule.

Section 3.

Amends s. 1012.56, F.S., Educator certification requirements, to:

- Eliminate the obsolete option of achieving a passing score on the College Level Academic Skills Test (CLAST) earned prior to July 1, 2002, to satisfy the general knowledge requirement.
- Update language to insert “full-time or part-time” in reference to satisfying the general knowledge requirement through successful college teaching experience.
- Insert a new option to satisfy the general knowledge requirement, effective July 1, 2015, that permits the State Board to approve passing scores on national or international examinations, such as the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), that test comparable content, relevant standards, and approximately the same level of rigor.
- Specifically require a Florida subject area examination, when developed, for subjects requiring only a bachelor’s degree to satisfy the subject area knowledge requirement.
- Permit SBE to approve a passing score on a standardized examination for a subject content area for which a Florida subject area examination has not been developed, such as examinations

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administered by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, to satisfy the subject area knowledge requirement.

- Specifically permit completion of subject area specialization requirements and district verification of attainment of subject matter competencies only for a subject content area for which a Florida subject area examination has not been developed or a standardized examination approved by the SBE to satisfy the subject area knowledge requirement.
- Require, for a subject requiring a master's or higher degree, completion of subject area specialization and achievement of a passing score on the Florida subject area examination or a standardized examination approved by the SBE to satisfy the requirement.
- Insert "full-time or part-time" in reference to successful college teaching experience and also require achievement of a passing score on the professional education competency examination to satisfy the professional preparation and education competence requirement.
- Insert language that requires adoption of administrative rules by December 31, 2014, to implement this section and to authorize the SBE to approve specific teacher preparation programs which may satisfy the requirements of this subsection.
- Require that the professional content knowledge of each participant in the professional development certification and education competency program includes scientifically based reading instruction.

Section 4.

Repeals s. 1012.56(17), F.S., Educator certification requirements, to:

- Eliminate the obsolete longitudinal study initiated in 2002-2003 to compare the performance of educators who achieve professional certification based on specified pathways.

Section 5.

Amends s. 1012.585, F.S., Process for renewal of professional certificates, to:

- Permit the use of a passing score on a Florida-developed subject area examination or a standardized examination approved by the state board as equivalent to college course or inservice credit for renewal of a professional certificate.
- Permit the use of excess credits earned in teaching students with disabilities toward renewal of the professional certificate during subsequent validity periods.
- Modify language for appropriate reference to "students of limited English proficiency."

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- Require a minimum of one college credit or the equivalent inservice points in the instruction for teaching students with disabilities for reinstatement of a professional certificate.
- Require a passing score on the Florida-developed subject area examination or a standardized examination approved by the state board for reinstatement of a professional certificate.

Section 6.

Amends s. 1012.98, F.S., School Community Professional Development Act, to:

- Allow a consortium of charter schools that meet the criteria outlined in the statute to develop a professional development system that includes a master inservice plan for inservice activities.

General Implementation Timeline:

July 1, 2014	The act becomes effective.
December 31, 2014	SBE shall adopt rules.