



Office of Professional Practices Services

**Timely and Efficient Reporting to the
Office of Professional Practices Services
and Background Screening Updates
November 6, 2025**

What to expect?

- Today will give you a better understanding of who and what should be reported to the Office of Professional Practices Services.
- Recent legislative and rule changes will be addressed.
- This session will also help you build awareness and be proactive about supporting your staff in understanding recent cases and how to make good choices.



Legislative and Rule Updates

Section (s.) 1012.799(2), Florida Statutes (F.S.)

- Effective July 1, 2025, s. 1012.799(2), F.S., was amended based on Senate Bill 1374 (2025).
- The self-reporting requirements for instructional personnel and administrative personnel were changed from arrests involving child abuse and drug offenses to include all offenses listed in s. 435.04(2), F.S.

Rule 6A-10.081, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.)

- On September 24, 2025, the State Board of Education adopted two amendments to the Principles of Professional Conduct for the Education Profession in Florida.

13. Shall self-report to a school district authority as determined by the superintendent, or other appropriate authority such as a charter school or university lab school administrator, the following:

Rule 6A-10.081, F.A.C. (Continued)

a. Any arrest for a felony or misdemeanor offense listed under s. 435.04(2), F.S. The report must be made within 48 hours of the arrest; and

b. Any conviction, finding of guilt, withholding of adjudication, commitment to a pretrial diversion program, or entering of a plea of guilty or nolo contendere for any criminal offense other than a minor traffic violation within 48 hours after the final judgment or commitment to a pretrial diversion program.

18. Shall, if in the position of a supervising administrator, cooperate with all investigations conducted by the Florida Department of Education.



Questions?



Timely and Efficient Reporting to the Office of Professional Practices Services

Section 1012.796, Florida Statutes, Complaints against teachers and administrators; procedure; penalties

- Requires the department to investigate legally sufficient complaints of educator misconduct.
- Requires each school district to file in writing all legally sufficient complaints on certified individuals within 30 days of knowledge.
- Requires each school district to provide unredacted documents to the department and all information known or collected by the district or school.
- Requires the complaint and all information obtained by the department to be exempt from public record until conclusion of the investigation.

Legally Sufficient

“...ultimate facts which show a violation occurred as provided in s. 1012.795 and defined by rule of the State Board of Education....”

Who and what to report to PPS?

1

- The person holds or has applied for:
 - temporary Florida educator certificate
 - professional Florida educator certificate
 - athletic coaching certificate

2

- The district or school's review substantiates all or part of the allegation is legally sufficient.

3

- The legally sufficient complaint supports a violation of s. 1012.795, F.S., or 6A-10.081, (F.A.C.).

Section 1012.795, F.S. – Common Violations

- (1)(a) - Obtained or attempted to obtain an educator certificate by fraudulent means.
- (1)(b) - Knowingly failed to report actual or suspected child abuse as required in s. 1006.061, F.S.
- (1)(f) - Has been convicted or found guilty of, has had adjudication withheld for, or has pled guilty or nolo contendere to a misdemeanor, felony, or any other criminal charge, other than a minor traffic violation.
- (1)(p) - Has violated test security as provided in s. 1008.24, F.S.

Rule 6A-10.081, F.A.C. – Common Violations

- (2)(a)1. - Shall make reasonable effort to protect the student from conditions harmful to learning and/or to the student's mental and/or physical health and/or safety.
- (2)(a)5. - Shall not intentionally expose a student to unnecessary embarrassment or disparagement.
- (2)(b)3 - Shall not use institutional privileges for personal gain or advantage.
- (2)(b)4. - Shall accept no gratuity, gift or favor that might influence professional judgment.

Rule 6A-10.081, F.A.C. – Common Violations (Continued)

- (2)(c)1. - Shall maintain honesty in all professional dealings.
- (2)(c)8. - Shall not submit fraudulent information on any document in connection with professional activities.

What to include in your reporting packet?

- Reporting Form
- Investigative Report
- Victim / Witness Statements
- Employment Action (if any)
- Class / Team / Field Trip Roster
- Evidence

Evidence

- Photographs / Videos
- Communications
 - Emails
 - Text Messages
 - Letters / Cards
- Financial Records / Audits
- Documents
- Testing Information
- Reasonable Suspicion Observation Forms



Questions?



Rule 6A-10.084, F.A.C., Disqualification List

Purpose of the Disqualification List

- The Disqualification List includes all educational support employees, instructional personnel and administrative personnel who have been convicted of a disqualifying offense or engaged in sexual misconduct with a student.
- The rule sets forth the criteria for placing a qualified individual on the Disqualification List and removal from the list, as well as the responsibilities of the employing entities that report persons for inclusion on the list.
- The rule went into effect on June 1, 2022.

Who will be included on the list?

- Employees who have engaged in sexual misconduct with a student;
- Employees who have a qualifying disposition for an offense listed in s. 435.04, F.S., as required by s. 1012.315, F.S.; or
- An individual whose authority to own or operate a private school in this state has been permanently denied or revoked by the Commissioner of Education.

Who will be included on the list? (Continued)

- An educator who has had their Florida Educator Certificate permanently revoked by the Education Practices Commission.
- An individual who has been permanently denied a Florida Educator Certificate by the Education Practices Commission.

Disqualification List Status

- As of October 1, 2025, there are 79 individuals on the Disqualification List.



Questions?



Background Screenings and Fingerprinting Updates

2023 Legislative Changes to Background Screenings and Fingerprints

- On April 7, 2025, the definition of “specified agency” in s. 435.02(7), F.S., was amended to include:
 - The Department of Education
 - Each District Unit under s. 1001.30, F.S.
 - Special District Units under s. 1011.24, F.S.
 - The Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind
 - The Florida Virtual School
 - Virtual instruction programs
 - Charter schools

2023 Legislative Changes to Background Screenings and Fingerprints (Continued 1)

- Hope operators
- Private schools that participate in scholarship programs
- Alternative schools under s. 1008.341, F.S.
- Regional workforce boards providing services
- Local licensing agencies approved pursuant to s. 402.307, F.S.

2023 Legislative Changes to Background Screenings and Fingerprints (Continued 2)

- Educational entities began using the Clearinghouse on April 7, 2025.
- Education staff will be phased into the Clearinghouse based on the “rescreening” schedule.
 - All education staff must be phased into the Clearinghouse by June 30, 2027.

2023 Legislative Changes to Background Screenings and Fingerprints (Continued 3)

- At this time:
 - Charter schools and alternative schools should be conducting their own fingerprinting and background screenings.
 - Background and employment screenings should be conducted by each employing entity.

2023 Legislative Changes to Background Screenings and Fingerprints (Continued 4)

- If you notice delayed fingerprint results being loaded into VERSA, please feel free to reach out to the Bureau of Educator Certification (BEC) and request a manual entry.



Questions?



Contact Information

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