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We want to take a moment to review some important reminders.

- If you are currently on the call, but you are unable to view the presentation, please register for the webinar portion using the link provided in the invitation email. We will provide information on how to access the presentation at the end of the call.
- We have enabled presentation mode. However, we request that participants do not place us on hold. It will interfere with other participants' experience.
- We will take questions at the end of the presentation. We request that when asking a question or making a comment, please identify yourself and your organization for the record.

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The primary purpose for today's workshop is to address potential actions to Rule 6A-4.0012, Application Information codified in Chapter 6A-4 of the Florida Administrative Code to be considered for adoption through the formal rulemaking process by the State Board of Education.

Stakeholders will have the opportunity to ask clarifying questions and provide comments about the proposed rule revisions. You may submit comments at any time during the workshop via the chat window.

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Implementation of the new certification licensing system prompted revision of Rule 6A-4.0012.

Starting in 2010, the BEC initiated needs analysis activities to review the state of its current technology systems. As a result, the Department identified the need to modernize the core technology systems that support the business operations for the BEC. Though they presently function and perform reasonably well, the BEC systems are at high risk of catastrophic failure or security violation as they approach end of life expectancy. For the past 4 years, the Florida Legislature allocated budget authority to fund the Educator Certification Enterprise Licensing Project.

The two primary goals for the latest project approach have been to:

1. Stabilize the Peripheral Support applications from critical system failures and growing maintenance costs, and
2. Standardize the different components of the existing licensing system on a single technology.

Now, we are approaching the culmination of many years of hard work as the new licensing system is scheduled for statewide system release in November 2017. Since the Department selected a COTS approach, the BEC project team has adopted many core features of the Versa™ systems, adapted business processes to Versa™ workflow, and requested customization only for key automation functionality not yet available in Versa™.

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In the webinar window, we uploaded preliminary draft rule language for your review. Throughout the presentation, I will summarize the proposed changes that will have an impact on BEC staff, school districts, and teacher applicants.

The first proposed revision is to update the website links to online applications for educator certification. These applications include but are not limited to initial, addition of a subject or endorsement, and renewals.

Slide 6

Slide 6 displays the homepage for the new educator web-based access, Versa Online or VO. Since it will replace the current Flcertify site, both currently certified teachers and prospective educators will need to create accounts in order to submit applications, including those processed by employing school districts.

This page will also host the public search feature.

Slide 7

On slide 7 is a view of the introduction page of the Educator Certification Application. The left hand menu displays tabs that the educator will work through to complete the application. One improvement will allow applicants to upload attachments such as copies of out-of-state certificates, which will help facilitate the processing of applications. Currently, applicants either fax or mail these supporting documents.

All other online applications will have a similar format.

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Of about 70,000 applications annually, the BEC receives only about 5 to 6,000 paper applications, mostly when the transaction requested is not supported by the current Online Application.

Although most educators are expected to apply online, the second proposed revision is to incorporate by reference revised hard copy versions of the CG-10, Educator Certification Application, and the CG-10R, Renewal or Reinstatement Application. These applications will be submitted in person or via U.S. mail to the Bureau of Educator Certification.

Additionally, we propose inserting clarifying language for fee descriptions. Please note there are no proposed changes to current certification fees.

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The image on slide 9 is a preview of the new CG-10. One major change I would like to highlight is the list of transactions available for each license type. The new system categorizes certificates into 4 license types: Educator Certification (6001), Speech Language Impaired (6002), Athletic Coaching (6003) and Exchange Teacher (6004). Applicants will need to select the appropriate transaction for the license type they currently hold or the license type for which they are requesting an evaluation.

Slide 10

The image on slide 10 is a preview of the new CG-10R which will be used for renewal, late renewal, or reinstatement of a professional certificate. One proposed form change aligns with the new system that requires applicants requesting renewal of their professional certificate to identify which subjects they will be dropping or not renewing on their certificate.

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Additional proposed revisions relate to system access and application processing for Florida school districts.

Per 1012.585 and 1012.586, Florida Statutes, school districts have the statutory responsibility to process educator certification applications for renewals, additions, changes and duplicates. District certification personnel will transition to use the same site as BEC staff to process applications.

With the implementation of the new system, Florida will transition to requiring online applications for certificate transactions for employees of Florida school districts. We have inserted the specific names of those transactions in the proposed draft rule language.

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Slide 12 displays the home page for the new school district web-based access, Versa Regulation or VR, which will replace the current Bureau of Educator Certification Partnership Access and Services system known as BEC-PASS. The new system will be available via Stoneware, a site that allows for secure remote access.

School district staff will also have access to an additional site for employment verification and submission of forms.

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The final proposed revision clarifies the expectation for districts to retain records of all certificate actions performed for their employees. Since employees of Florida school districts will be submitting online applications, districts will be required to retain either a printed or electronic copy of the employee's completed application request form.

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As a reminder, current certification rule language codified in Chapter 6A-4 of the Florida Administrative Code, as well as notices of rule actions, may be retrieved from the Administrative Code site hosted by the Florida Department of State.

Once finalized, draft language proposed for rulemaking will be made available for review and public comment at the State Board Rules Under Review site.

Educator Certification will post all relevant materials to its Rule Development site.

The web links have been provided on this slide.

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That concludes our presentation for today's rule development workshop to address Educator Certification Rules in Chapter 6A-4 of the Florida Administrative Code.

Notes from Rule Development Workshop on Rule 6A-4.0012, F.A.C.
August 31, 2017

At this time, we invite your comments or questions regarding the rule revisions. If you choose to make a comment or ask a question, please identify yourself and the organization you represent.

Thank you for your participation.