

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

November 18, 2003

SUBJECT: Florida Teacher Certification Examination Rule Amendments: Revised Competencies and Skills and Passing Scores

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Approval of amendments to Rule 6A-4.0021

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

1012.56 (8), FS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The purpose of the rule amendment is to adopt revised competencies and skills that will be published in *Competencies and Skills Required for Teacher Certification in Florida, Ninth Edition*, and to establish standard passing scores for the three tests, the Exceptional Student Education K-12 and Kindergarten – Grade 6 subject area examinations, and the General Knowledge Test.

The competencies and skills are revised periodically to update the content of the teacher certification examinations. Statewide committees of teachers, university professors, and district-level personnel review and revise the content as necessary; their work is externally validated through a statewide survey conducted in all of the districts and the colleges of education. Competencies and skills for the following content area examinations have been revised: Computer Science K-12, Drama 6-12, English 6-12, Mathematics 6-12, Music K-12, Prekindergarten-Primary PK-3, Reading K-12, and Social Science 6-12. Examinations containing the revised content are scheduled to be administered for the first time in July 2004. The publication cited in the rule, *Competencies and Skills Required for Teacher Certification in Florida, Ninth Edition*, provides lists of the competencies and skills.

Standard passing scores are recommended for three new tests that were first administered in July 2002 (Exceptional Student Education K-12 and Kindergarten-Grade 6 subject area examinations, and the General Knowledge Test). As specified in rule 6A-4.0021, FAC, a transitional passing score was established based on the passing rate of examinees taking the predecessor tests for the first time in the testing year 2000-2001. For the Exceptional Student Education K-12 test, the preceding tests were Emotionally Handicapped K-12, Mentally Handicapped K-12, Physically Impaired K-12, Specific Learning Disabilities K-12, and Varying Exceptionalities K-12. The preceding test for Kindergarten – Grade 6 was Elementary Education 1-6, and the preceding test for the General Knowledge Test was the College-Level Academic Skills Test. Standard passing scores for the three new tests are now being recommended in accordance with rule 6A-4.0021.

As a first step in recommending standard passing scores, a statewide committee of subject area experts met, took the test, and reviewed performance data. Following several rounds of discussion, each committee recommended a passing score. Another committee composed of content area experts, testing experts, and district and Florida Department of Education personnel reviewed the tests, the recommendations of the previous committees, and the performance data. Using the committee's recommendations and an analysis of the impact data, the standard passing scores presented in the revised rule are recommended for approval. The standard passing scores will become effective with the January 2004 administration.

Attached are tables of summary data about each test for which a standard passing score is being recommended. Information is included for the each of the preceding tests, the transitional period tests, and the recommended passing score as follows:

- the number of items on the test,
- the percent of items needed to pass,
- the number of items needed to pass, and
- the percent of first time examinees who passed.

Supporting Documentation Included:

Amended Rule 6A-4.0021

Section 1012.56, Florida Statutes

Data pertaining to recommended standard passing scores

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