

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Policy Issues for Concurrence
October 19, 2004

SUBJECT: Educator Preparation Institutes

The 2004 Legislature passed Senate Bill 2986 establishing section 1004.85, Florida Statutes, which provides the opportunity for postsecondary institutions to create Educator Preparation Institutes. These Institutes may only be created at accredited or approved postsecondary institutions as defined by rule, and any institution that chooses to offer an Educator Preparation Institute must receive approval from the Department of Education.

Educator Preparation Institutes may be created to provide any or all of the following:

- (a) Professional development opportunities to assist teachers in improving classroom instruction and in meeting certification requirements
- (b) Instruction to assist potential and existing substitute teachers in performing their duties
- (c) Instruction to assist paraprofessionals in meeting education and training requirements
- (d) Instruction for baccalaureate degree holders to become certified teachers through competency-based alternative certification programs specifically described in the law, in order to increase routes to the classroom for mid-career professionals who hold a baccalaureate degree and college graduates who were not education majors.

Through an Educator Preparation Institute's competency-based programs, Florida institutions are provided a unique opportunity for flexibility and creativity in the delivery of teacher training, and teachers are provided with another meaningful, quality option in teacher training in addition to state-approved degree programs and district-delivered competency-based programs currently offered. Educator Preparation Institutes will help to propel Florida forward in exceeding state and federal standards for high performing instructional staff, and participants in these programs have great potential to significantly increase student achievement in our state.

The attached document provides guidelines for completing an application for both an Educator Preparation Institute and an Institute's alternative certification program. Explanations are included of the new statute and any existing laws, rules, or documents referenced by it.

Supporting Documentation Included: Educator Preparation Institute Application Guidelines

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