

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Consent Item
April 19, 2005

SUBJECT: Amendment to Rule 6A-4.0021, Florida Teacher Certification Examination

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Approval

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Sections 1012.55(1), 1012.56, 1012.59, Florida Statutes

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Department develops and administers the Florida Teacher Certification Examination (FTCE) program consistent with the Board's goals of ensuring a skilled teacher workforce which will in turn directly impact student achievement. The Florida Teacher Certification Exam requirements include a test of general knowledge (subtests in Reading, Writing, English/Language Arts, and Mathematics), a test of Professional Education (pedagogy), and 57 subject areas exams. Accepted professional practice for assessment programs such as FTCE, requires the periodic review and revision of the competencies and skills assessed and, if needed, the revision of the tests. Incorporated by reference in the rule is the *Competencies and Skills Required for Teacher Certification in Florida* which provides this information to teacher preparation programs and examination candidates.

Recommendations have been made by advisory committees consisting of practicing teachers, university faculty members and school district administrators and include the adoption of the tenth edition of the *Competencies and Skills for Teacher Certification in Florida*, a modification of the weighting for the English 6-12 subject area examination in order to make the weighting of the essay portion of the exam consistent with other English exams, a change in the minimum score needed to pass the Professional Education and Exceptional Student Education examinations, clarification of the accommodations provided for reading, and clarification of the procedures for examinee reviews of scores.

Summary of Proposed Rule Changes

- Update competencies and skills for 10 tests (Art K-12, Preschool Birth-Age 4, Health K-12, Spanish K-12, German K-12, French K-12, Biology 6-12, Chemistry 6-12, Earth/Space Science 6-12, Physics 6-12).

- Increase the weighting for the essay portion of the English 6-12 examination.
- Raise the minimum score needed to pass the Professional Education Test and the Exceptional Student Education examination.
- Provide that accommodations not covered by the rule may be requested through and approved by the Department of Education.
- Specify that readers will not be provided as an accommodation for disabled applicants taking a reading examination.
- Require a processing fee for examinees who have failed an examination and wish to review their performance.
- Require a minimum period of 30 days before a failing examinee can retake an examination after reviewing the examination that was failed.

Supporting Documentation Included:

Proposed Rule 6A-4.0021, Florida Teacher Certification Examinations
Competencies and Skills Required for Teacher Certification in Florida, Tenth Edition

Facilitators/Presenters: John Winn, Commissioner