

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Consent Item
April 15, 2008

SUBJECT: Approval of Amendment to Proposed Rule 6A-4.0021, Florida Teacher Certification Examinations

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For Approval

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Section 1012.59, Florida Statutes

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Section 1012.56, Florida Statutes, requires teacher certification applicants to demonstrate mastery of general knowledge, subject area knowledge, and professional preparation and education competence by passing three separate examinations.

The fees for these examinations are established by the State Board of Education within the limits established by Section 1012.59, Florida Statutes, as follows: "Each fee shall be based on department estimates of the revenue required to implement the provisions of law with respect to certification of school personnel. The application fee shall be nonrefundable. Each examination fee shall be sufficient to cover the actual cost of developing and administering the examination, but shall not exceed \$100 for an examination."

Currently, teacher certification applicants pay a \$25 fee for each of the three required tests, for a total of \$75. The actual cost to develop and administer the certification program is approximately \$100 per exam.

The Office of Assessment is recommending increasing examination fees for four main reasons:

1. Maintain fees as low as possible for first-time examinees.
2. Maintain test validity.
3. Reduce the number of unprepared examinees.
4. Reduce the state's contribution toward the cost of the program.

The proposed rule amendments increase the fees to \$50 for first-time test takers, bringing the total cost for each of the three tests required to \$150. In addition, applicants will be charged \$100 for each retake test.

Supporting Documentation Included: Proposed Rule 6A-4.0021, Florida Teacher Certification Examinations

Facilitator: Dr. Cornelia S. Orr, Assistant Deputy Commissioner, Accountability, Research, and Measurement