

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Action Item

June 17, 2008

SUBJECT: Approval of Proposed Amendment to Rule 6A-4.00821, Florida Educational Leadership Examination

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For Approval

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Section 1012.55, Florida Statutes

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Section 1012.55, Florida Statutes, requires educational leaders to hold the certificate required by law and by rules of the State Board of Education (SBE). The implementing rule, SBE Rule 6A-4.0081, Florida School Leaders Certification, requires the successful demonstration of knowledge in each of the principal leadership standards through a comprehensive written examination administered under the direction of the Department. This exam is currently the Florida Educational Leadership Examination (FELE).

State Board of Education Rule 6A-4.00821, FAC., specifies the description, by reference, of the competencies and skills to be assessed by the FELE. These competencies and skills are included in the document *Competencies and Skills Required for Certification in Educational Leadership in Florida*. As changes to competencies are made, a new edition of this document must be developed and incorporated, by reference, into the rule. Also incorporated by reference is the examination registration form, which is updated periodically to reflect changes in the testing program. In addition, this rule provides the procedures for the review of failed examinations (manual scoring and score verification).

Beginning in June 2005, committee members consisting of university professors, school district and building administrators, and members of the Developing Educational Leaders for Tomorrow's Achievers (DELTA) organization were tasked with developing and refining the Florida Educational Leadership Exam (FELE) competencies and skills as guided by State Board of Education Rule 6A-5.080, FAC., Florida Principal Leadership Standards. Professors, principals, and other members of the educational leadership community were actively involved in every step of this process. FELE committee members represented all regions of the state, various school districts, and varying educational leadership philosophies.

These revision activities resulted in recommendations that significantly changed the content of the examination. Once the competencies and skills were finalized by FELE subject matter experts in 2006, 2,322 educational leadership professionals and faculty from around

the state were surveyed to provide input and feedback to the Department. The draft competencies and skills were placed on the Department's Web site in February 2007 at <http://www.fldoe.org/asp/fele/felecomp.asp>.

As test development activities progressed, the Department changed the first administration date of the new FELE from July 2008 to January 2009. This provision was intended to provide Florida colleges of education with more advanced planning time to implement the changes needed to prepare students for the revised FELE.

A new component of the examination, a written performance assessment, resulted from this revision process. A sample prompt representing the new written performance assessment was published on the Department's Web site in April 2008 at <http://www.fldoe.org/asp/fele/felecomp.asp#SamplePrompt>.

The Department has been in direct contact with the leadership of the Florida Association of Professors of Educational Leadership (FAPEL) regarding this assessment instrument; a teleconference between the Department and FAPEL leadership took place on January 9, 2008, and updates on the FELE development process were distributed to FAPEL officers in April 2008. Per the Department's request, FAPEL distributed this information statewide to its membership.

Final FELE form development and validation activities will take place in the summer of 2008. At this time, the Department will once again convene committees of FELE experts to assist with this process.

At this time, amendments are requested to adopt the third edition of the *Competencies and Skills* document, effective January 1, 2009, and the updated registration form, effective August 1, 2008. In addition, approval is requested for the specified changes to the procedures for reviewing failed examinations through manual scoring and score verification sessions.

Supporting Documentation Included: Proposed Rule 6A-4.00821, Florida Educational Leadership Examination, Form CG-20-04, *Competencies and Skills Required for Certification in Educational Leadership in Florida*, Comparison of Current Florida Educational Leadership Examination Competencies and Skills and the Proposed FELE Competencies and Skills, Committee Members Invited and Attending Development Activities, and Rule 6A-5.080, FAC.

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