

A photograph of a classroom with several students raising their hands. The background is a chalkboard with some faint writing. The text is overlaid on the image.

# **English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)**

## **Proposed Rule Revisions for Adoption**

**Presented by:  
Frances Haithcock, Chancellor  
Lori Rodriguez, Bureau Chief**

**Florida Department of Education  
Dr. Eric J. Smith,  
Commissioner**

# Purpose

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- Resolve outstanding rulemaking obligations regarding the ESOL program; 120.54(1)(a), F.S., Rulemaking is not a matter of agency discretion. Each agency statement defined as a rule....shall be adopted by the rulemaking procedure [of the Administrative Procedure Act.]

# Background

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- Process was initiated to address concerns of JAPC in 2007
- 2008 legislation proposed, process delayed until end of session, no legislation was passed
- Advisory group of national level and state level experts reviewed possibility of development of optional professional development program; significant changes were not made due to lack of consensus and age of standards
- Public workshops in 2007 and three in December of 2008 specific to these rules – 9 workshops all together
- We presently have started a process to move forward to comply with necessary updates and revisions of the ESOL standards

# Concerns

# DOE Response

**1. 6A-4.02451** Performance Standards, Skills, and Competencies for the Endorsement in English for Speakers of Other Languages

**Concern:**

Current standards have not recently been reviewed.

- DOE acknowledges these competencies need to be reviewed.
- Review process has been initiated and will determine if revisions are needed.

# Concerns

# DOE Response

•**6A-6.0907** (1) (a), (2) (a), and (3) (a) In-service Requirements for Personnel of Limited English Proficient Students.

Concern:

This rule will create an underprepared set of teachers. Reading endorsed teachers are able to become ESOL certified by passing the ESOL certification exam.

•In 2002 the legislature passed a bill providing certification in all areas by passing a certification exam.

•The 2003 modification to the Consent Decree requires teachers who obtain ESOL certification by passing the ESOL subject-area examination must also take 120 hours of ESOL in-service.

•In 2007 a team of experts in Reading and ESOL determined that content from the Reading and ESOL endorsements overlap and 120 hours from the reading endorsement could be credited as part of the 300 hours toward ESOL endorsement.

# ESOL K-12 Teachers

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## Data Collection for 7 years :

- **5,455 ESOL Certificate Holders**
- **4,255 ESOL Certified by Passing the FTCE Subject Area ESOL Test**
- **534 of these teachers have Reading / K-12 and or Reading / Endorsement on their Certificate**

## Concern

## DOE Response

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•**6A-6.0907** (5) In-service Requirements for School administrators and guidance counselors.

Concern:  
Administrators and Guidance Counselors should have special training in addition to the 60 hours they have had as a teacher.

•This rule is in compliance with the 2003 Modification to the Consent Decree.

# Monitoring

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•**6A-6.0907** In-service Requirements(7) (f)  
Each in-service program developed to meet the requirements of this rule shall be approved by the Florida Department of Education and shall be monitored at least once every three years to assure that the standards set forth herein are met.

Concern:  
Requesting heightened monitoring, especially on-site monitoring of district professional development programs.

- The monitoring of ESOL programs is consistent with monitoring in other areas.
- Additional on-site monitoring would require significant additional resources.

# Response to Public Input

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Feedback from Workshops Resulted in:

- Capstone Option Removed
- Agreement to Update Performance Standards
- Revisiting District ELL Plan to include Parent Consultation with Plans and to track language of Consent Decree
- Corrected language terminology

# Performance Standards Review Process

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*Standards will be modeled after “Next Generation Standards” Process as defined in Section 1003.41(3), F.S.*

## Framers

- Identification of National Experts in the field of ESOL
- Identification of State Experts
- Identification of State Stakeholders
- Framers convene in late spring
- Goal: complete framing and begin writing in summer

## Writers

- February, 2009 - invitations sent throughout State for writers’ nominations
- Convene writers in summer
- Once complete present to State Board of Education for approval, to have in effect within year

A photograph of a classroom where several students have their hands raised, indicating they want to ask a question or answer. The background is a chalkboard filled with mathematical equations and diagrams. The word "Questions?" is overlaid in the center in a large, dark blue font.

**Questions?**