

FACT SHEET
Educator Preparation Institutes (EPIs)
Updated January 3, 2008

- In light of approximately 200,000 new teachers needed in Florida over the next decade, Educator Preparation Institutes (EPIs) will play a vital role in building the future teacher workforce. EPIs will provide an alternate route to certification for mid-career professionals and college graduates who were not education majors.
- Legislation passed in 2004 allowed EPIs to be established at accredited postsecondary institutions with prior approval from DOE to provide any or all of the following instruction:
 - 1) professional development for teachers for classroom improvement and for recertification
 - 2) training for substitute teachers
 - 3) training for paraprofessionals
 - 4) competency-based instruction for baccalaureate degree holders leading to teacher certification.
- Section 1004.85 F.S. and Rule 6-A 5.066 F.A.C. require the following for EPIs:
 - Supervised Field Experiences
 - Faculty with an Appropriate Master's Degree and Teaching Experience
 - Certification Ombudsman
 - Annual Performance Data Reporting
 - Periodic Review for Continued Program Approval
- **EPI students must demonstrate the exact same competencies (Florida Educator Accomplished Practices) and pass the exact same tests (Florida Teacher Certification Exams) as the graduates of traditional teacher preparation programs from upper-division colleges and universities.**
- In 2004, there were no fully approved Educator Preparation Institutes. By 2005, all 28 Florida Community Colleges had fully approved Educator Preparation Institutes. Of these, 27 institutions were given approval to offer competency-based, teacher preparation for baccalaureate degree holders.
- Currently, 25 institutions are using the Collaborative Model for Community College Teacher Preparation (institutional credit), one institution has applied for DOE approval to add a competency-based teacher preparation component to their EPI using the collaborative model, and 2 institutions are using a college credit model.
- This program's rapid start-up and system-wide collaboration have resulted in receipt of a **Davis Productivity Award** for innovation and efficiency in state government and designation as a **Top 50 Government Innovation for 2006** by the Ash Institute at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.
- EPI student data reported to the **Florida Community College Student Data Base for 2005-06** includes the following: **Enrollments = 1151** and **Completers = 86**. **Student data reported for 2006-07** includes: **Enrollments = 3353** and **Completers = 733**. Approvals to operate EPIs were granted on a rolling basis throughout 2005-06; therefore, many programs were not at full capacity during this reporting year. Additionally, some programs did not begin operations until the Spring 2006 semester.
- Community college EPIs provided the following projections to the DOE in Fall 2007:

EPI Teacher Preparation Projected Enrollments, Performance, and Outcomes	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Projected Headcount	3588	4260	4574	4825
Projected EPI Certificates of Completion ¹	1452	2371	2599	2872
Projected Professional Teaching Certificates ²	1333	2012	2242	2497
Projected Placements Requiring a Teaching Certificate	1296	1832	2027	2280

¹EPI Certificate of Completion is awarded by the college after the student completes all competencies and passes the Professional Education portion of the Florida Teacher Certification Exam (FTCE). *Because student cohorts often span reporting years, the number of EPI Certificates of Completion awarded will be significantly less than the headcount for any given year.*

²Florida Professional Teaching Certificate requires the student to pass all 3 tests for the FTCE. *It should be noted that the certification process is separate from the EPI program and is often completed in a different reporting year.*