

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Action Item
June 22, 2016

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

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For Approval

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Section 1012.56(9), Florida Statutes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Section 1012.56(9), F.S., requires the State Board of Education (SBE) to specify, by rule, the examination scores required for the issuance of a professional certificate and temporary certificate. Such rules must define examination competencies and establish uniform evaluation guidelines and passing scores for the Florida Teacher Certification Examinations (FTCE).

Rule 6A-4.0021, F.A.C., fulfills the above requirement by providing a description, by reference, of the competencies and skills to be assessed. These competencies and skills are included in the document "Competencies and Skills Required for Teacher Certification in Florida." As changes to general knowledge, professional education, and subject area competencies are made, a new edition of this document must be developed and incorporated, by reference, into the rule.

In addition, Rule 6A-4.0021, F.A.C., fulfills the above requirement by providing passing scores for each of the FTCE examinations. The passing scores listed within the rule provide examinees the minimum number of items that must be answered correctly to achieve a passing score. The new passing scores for two (2) subject area examinations (Business Education 6–12 and Spanish K–12) will become effective September 1, 2016, and will remain the passing scores for all succeeding test forms for these areas.

The "Competencies and Skills Required for Teacher Certification in Florida, Twenty-Third Edition," will update the competencies and skills for one (1) subject area examination: Exceptional Student Education K–12. The competencies and skills for Exceptional Student Education K–12 have been updated to reflect alignment with the Council for Exceptional Children Standards, as well as the Florida Educator Accomplished Practices.

A description of the processes used to make these updates follows.

- **Exceptional Student Education K–12.** Beginning in October 2015, committee members consisting of university/college professors, district curriculum coordinators, and teachers began to evaluate and revise the competencies and skills for this subject area examination as guided by Rule 6A-4.0021, F.A.C. The committees recommended changes to the competencies and skills to align to the Council for Exceptional Children Standards and the Florida Educator Accomplished Practices. Committee members represented all regions of the state, various school districts,

educator preparation programs, and instructional philosophies. Committee members were selected through a statewide recruiting effort and via recommendations from the Florida Department of Education's Division of Public Schools and the Bureau of Educator Recruitment, Development, and Retention.

A paperless memorandum, issued from the Commissioner of Education on April 1, 2016, notified school district superintendents, state college and university college of education deans, and deans of educator preparation programs of Florida of the revision of the competencies and skills and solicited committee member recommendations from superintendents, principals, and deans.

Additionally, the Department will publish the final Exceptional Student Education K–12 competencies and skills on the Department's website in late 2016, at <http://www.fldoe.org/accountability/assessments/postsecondary-assessment/index.stml>.

The publishing of these new competencies and skills is intended to provide Florida colleges of education and educator preparation institutes time to apply the changes needed to prepare students to meet the new expectations embodied in the revised examination, as well as to benefit potential examinees.

To recommend new passing scores, the Department convened representative statewide committees of public school teachers, university/college professors, and district curriculum coordinators with expertise in the affected areas. These committees used an established and widely accepted standard-setting methodology to recommend passing scores. The passing score changes are necessary to reflect expectations of examinee performance with respect to the alignment of the test with the updated SBE approved area competencies and skills, as well as new educator standards for effectiveness. The passing scores are reflective of the level of ability required for an individual to be considered a beginning effective teacher candidate. Based on the committee recommendations, the Department then analyzed the outcomes considering pass rates, test form difficulty, subgroup performance, and potential impacts on certification needs. By applying appropriate measurement and psychometric standards, the Department is recommending new passing scores for the indicated FTCE examinations. Table 1 shows the recommended passing scores (number correct), recommended percentage correct, and the projected pass rates for two (2) subject area examinations.

For example, for the Business Education 6–12 examination, it is recommended to set the minimum required number correct needed to 81 out of 120 items (68%). Based on the sample used to set these standards, it is projected that the first-time examinee passing rate for this subject area examination will be approximately 58%. The projected changes in passing rates are due to the increases in the required percentage correct and the increased difficulty of the examinations as a result of the increased rigor of the competencies and skills.

Table 1. Recommended Passing Scores and the Projected Pass Rates

FTCE Test	Recommended Number Correct	Recommended Percentage Correct	Projected Passing Rates
Business Education 6–12	81/120	68%	58%
Spanish K–12	93/130	72%	65%

Note 1: Projected passing rates (for the recommended cut scores) were calculated for first-time examinees taking the base forms in January–March 2016.

Note 2: Composite score for Spanish K-12 was calculated from the committee sectional recommendations of 58 out of 78, 8 out of 10 and 33 out of 48 with weightings of 60%, 15%, and 25% for multiple-choice, writing, and speaking respectively. The Spanish composite score range is 0 to 130 implementing the weightings and total sectional score points available.

Rule amendments are requested to adopt the 23rd edition of the document, “Competencies and Skills Required for Teacher Certification in Florida,” effective September 1, 2016, and the adoption of new passing scores for two (2) subject area examinations which will become effective September 1, 2016.

Supporting Documentation Included: Proposed Rule 6A-4.0021, F.A.C. and Rule 6A-4.0021 Presentation. Competencies and Skills Required for Teacher Certification in Florida, 23rd edition (under separate cover)

Facilitator/Presenter: Juan Copa, Deputy Commissioner, Accountability, Research, and Measurement

6A-4.0021 Florida Teacher Certification Examinations.

(1) Scope. This rule governs the written examinations for teacher certification. Additional requirements for certification are specified in Chapter 6A-4, F.A.C.

(2) Description of the examinations and competencies to be demonstrated.

(a) The Florida Teacher Certification Examinations shall be developed by the Commissioner of Education.

(b) The written examinations shall include subtests of English language skills, reading, writing, mathematics, professional skills, and subject area specialty. These examinations may contain multiple-choice questions and questions requiring the examinee to write an answer or demonstrate a proficiency.

(c) The following competencies are to be demonstrated by means of the written examinations:

1. Before ~~September 1, 2017~~ ~~June 1, 2016~~, the general knowledge competencies and skills contained in the publication "Competencies and Skills Required for Teacher Certification in Florida, ~~Twenty-Second Edition~~ ~~Twenty-First~~ ~~Edition~~," (~~<http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-05515>~~~~<http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-04781>~~), which is incorporated by reference and made part of this rule effective ~~June 1, 2016~~ ~~October 2015~~. Beginning ~~September 1, 2017~~ ~~June 1, 2016~~, the general knowledge competencies and skills contained in the publication "Competencies and Skills Required for Teacher Certification in Florida, ~~Twenty-Third~~ ~~Twenty-Second~~ Edition," (~~<http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-05515>~~), which is incorporated by reference and made part of this rule effective ~~September 1, 2017~~ ~~June 2016~~. These publications may be obtained by contacting the Division of Accountability, Research and Measurement, Department of Education, 325 West Gaines Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400.

2. Before ~~September 1, 2017~~ ~~June 2016~~, the professional education competencies and skills contained in the publication "Competencies and Skills Required for Teacher Certification in Florida, ~~Twenty-Second Edition~~ ~~Twenty-First~~ ~~Edition~~," (~~<http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-05515>~~~~<http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-04781>~~), which is incorporated by reference and made part of this rule effective ~~June 1, 2016~~ ~~October 2015~~. Beginning ~~September 1, 2017~~ ~~June 2016~~, the professional education competencies and skills contained in the publication "Competencies and Skills Required for Teacher Certification in Florida, ~~Twenty-Third~~ ~~Twenty-Second~~ Edition," (~~<http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-05515>~~), which is incorporated by reference and made part

of this rule effective September 1, 2017 ~~June 2016~~. These publications may be obtained by contacting the Division of Accountability, Research and Measurement, Department of Education, 325 West Gaines Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400.

3. Before September 1, 2017 ~~June 2016~~, the subject area competencies and skills contained in the publication “Competencies and Skills Required for Teacher Certification in Florida, Twenty-Second Edition ~~Twenty-First Edition~~,” (<http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-05515> ~~<http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-04781>~~), which is incorporated by reference and made part of this rule effective June 1, 2016 ~~October 2015~~. Beginning September 1, 2017 ~~June 2016~~, the subject area competencies and skills contained in the publication “Competencies and Skills Required for Teacher Certification in Florida, Twenty-Third ~~Twenty-Second~~ Edition,” (<http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-05515>), which is incorporated by reference and made part of this rule effective September 1, 2017 ~~June 2016~~. These publications may be obtained by contacting the Division of Accountability, Research and Measurement, Department of Education, 325 West Gaines Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400.

(3) through (8) No change.

(9) Scoring of the subject area specialty examinations.

(a) through (w) No change.

(x) Effective September 1, 2016, the passing score for the subject area specialty examination listed below shall be a scaled score of at least two hundred (200). This scaled score shall be equivalent to the following raw score on the test forms used for standard setting and administered between January and March 2016:

<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>SCORE</u>
<u>Business Education 6-12</u>	<u>81 correct items</u>

(y) Effective September 1, 2016, the passing score for the subject area specialty examination listed below shall be a scaled score of at least two hundred (200). This scaled score shall be equivalent to the following composite score on the test forms used for standard setting and administered between January and March 2016:

<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>SCORE</u>
<u>Spanish K-12</u>	<u>93 on a scale that weights the multiple choice sixty (60) percent, the speaking section twenty-five (25) percent, and the writing section fifteen (15)</u>

	<u>percent.</u>
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(z) ~~(x)~~ The Commissioner of Education shall review the passing score for each of the General Knowledge Subtests, each of the subject area specialty examinations, and the professional education test not less than once every five (5) years and determine whether to recommend to the State Board of Education to maintain or change the existing passing scores.

(10) through (12) No change.

Rulemaking Authority 1012.55(1), 1012.56, 1012.59 FS. Law Implemented 1012.55, 1012.56, 1012.59 FS. History—New 8-27-80, Amended 1-11-82, 1-6-83, 5-3-83, 10-5-83, 10-15-84, Formerly 6A-4.021, Amended 12-25-86, 4-26-89, 4-16-90, 7-10-90, 4-22-91, 10-3-91, 8-10-92, 11-28-93, 4-12-95, 7-1-96, 9-30-96, 10-1-99, 7-17-00, 7-16-01, 3-24-02, 7-16-02, 3-24-03, 7-21-03, 12-23-03, 7-13-04, 5-24-05, 5-23-06, 5-21-07, 5-19-08, 7-21-08, 7-9-09, 6-22-10, 6-21-11, 11-22-11, 8-23-12, 5-21-13, 10-22-13, 2-25-14, 12-23-14, 7-28-15, 10-26-15.