

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Action Item**  
May 16, 2018

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

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**PROPOSED BOARD ACTION**

For Approval

**AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION**

Section 1012.56(9), F.S.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Section 1012.56(9), F.S., requires the State Board of Education 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 of test administration requirements. These requirements describe rules and regulations for test administration and for maintaining test security.

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 (Art K-12 and Exceptional Student Education K-12) will become effective July 1, 2018, and will remain the passing scores for all succeeding test forms for these areas.

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

In an effort to increase test security, prospective teacher candidates and future examinees who take and pass any test, subtest, or section of the FTCE must wait at least three (3) years before retaking that particular test, subtest, or section, unless as specified in the rule.

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 Exceptional Student Education K-12 examination, it is recommended to set the minimum required number correct needed to 80 out of 120 items (67%). 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 64%. 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**

<b>FTCE Examination</b>	<b>Recommended Number Correct</b>	<b>Recommended Percentage Correct</b>	<b>Projected Passing Rates</b>
Art K-12	75/110	69%	55%
Exceptional Student Education K-12	80/120	67%	64%

**Note:** Projected passing rates (for the recommended cut scores) were calculated for first-time examinees taking the base forms in September–December 2017.

Rule amendments are requested to adopt new restrictions to test administrations for those examinees who pass any test, subtest, or section of the FTCE and to adopt new passing scores for two (2) subject area examinations which will become effective July 1, 2018.

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**Supporting Documentation Included:** Proposed Rule 6A-4.0021, F.A.C.; PowerPoint presentation; FTCE Art K-12 and FTCE ESE K-12 Members Invited and Attending Standard Setting Meetings (under separate cover)

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

**6A-4.0021 Florida Teacher Certification Examinations.**

(1) through (2) No change.

(3) Administration of the examinations.

(a) through (d) No change.

(e) An examinee may not retake a passed examination, subtest, or section unless:

1. At least three (3) years have elapsed since the previous administration of the passed examination, subtest, or section;

2. The State Board of Education has adopted new competencies and skills for the field; or

3. The examinee has applied for reinstatement of an expired professional certification, pursuant to 6A-4.0051

(7), FAC.

(4) No change.

(5) Admission. The test administration agency shall provide each applicant with electronic communication ~~an admission ticket~~ specifying the examination site, date, and the time of the examination. This communication will also stipulate ~~The admission ticket and other~~ identification ~~are~~ required for entrance into the examination site. ~~Additional identification shall be specified on the admission ticket.~~ An applicant who arrives after the examination has begun shall not be admitted. An applicant, who has registered for multiple examinations or subtests for the same day and arrives late, shall only be admitted at the start of the next examination or subtest.

(6) through (8) No change.

(9) Scoring of the subject area specialty examinations.

(a) through (z) No change.

(aa) Effective July 1, 2018, the passing score for the subject area specialty examinations listed below shall be a scaled score of at least two hundred (200). This scaled score shall be equivalent to the following raw scores on the test forms used for standard setting and administered between September and December 2017:

<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>SCORE</u>
<u>Art K-12</u>	<u>75 correct items</u>
<u>Exceptional Student Education K-12</u>	<u>80 correct items</u>

(bb) ~~(aa)~~ 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) No change.

(11) Review.

(a) No change.

(b) Score Verification Sessions. An examinee who fails one (1) or more examination(s) within ten (10) scale score points of the passing scale score (200) may review only those incorrect test items and/or performance component(s) contained within each examination meeting these criteria and bring to the Florida Department of Education's attention, via the test administration agency, any scoring errors. The procedures for test review are listed below:

1. The examinee shall register for a score verification session within thirty (30) days of the date the score report was released by the test administration agency. At least thirty (30) days shall have elapsed from the administration of the failed examination before an examinee may attend a score verification session.

2. A processing fee is required for each score verification session. The fee shall be that amount necessary for the test administration agency to perform the services as agreed in the contract between the agency and the Florida Department of Education.

3. The examinee shall be provided electronic communication ~~an admission ticket~~ that contains the location, date and time for the examinee's score verification session.

4. During the score verification session, the examinee shall file with the Florida Department of Education via the test administration agency a statement of specific scoring errors which may result in a scoring change ~~passing score~~.

5. through 7. No change.

(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, 7-26-16, 2-20-17, 8-20-17.*