

### **6A-5.066 Approval of Educator Preparation Programs.**

The Florida Legislature and State Board of Education recognize multiple pathways for demonstrating the standards required to qualify for a Professional Florida Educator's Certificate. This rule sets forth the requirements and implementation of the approval process for each type of educator preparation program offered by a Florida postsecondary institution or public school district. Each institution offering any program prescribed in this section shall report to the Department annually the number of participants enrolled in each program and the number of program completers.

#### **(1) Initial Teacher Preparation Programs.**

(a) General Criteria. The Department of Education is authorized pursuant to Section 1004.04, F.S., to approve initial teacher preparation programs and to grant extensions of approvals in accordance with the provisions of this rule. Initial Teacher Preparation Programs include all programs that prepare instructional personnel and result in qualification for an initial Professional Florida Educator's Certificate in the program area(s). Each approval or extension shall be for the period of time determined by the Department of Education but shall not exceed seven (7) years.

1. An institution eligible to offer one or more approved programs shall be a Florida public or nonpublic institution that requests approval of an initial educator preparation program, has legal authority to grant appropriate baccalaureate or post-baccalaureate degrees for an area of certification specified in Chapter 6A-4, F.A.C., and meets accreditation requirements as prescribed in subsection 6A-4.003(1), F.A.C. A newly-created state institution that meets approval requirements described in Rule 6A-4.003, F.A.C., shall be considered as having met the accreditation requirement.

2. Each institution shall designate to a college, school, department, or division, the responsibility for coordinating the planning and administering of all initial teacher preparation programs offered by the institutions, shall provide for the endorsement of transcripts for candidates who complete the program, and shall be responsible for travel, food, and lodging expenses for members of the site visit evaluation team, as necessary.

(b) Uniform Core Curricula. A uniform core curriculum is established pursuant to Section 1004.04, F.S., which must be provided by each institution with an approved program and shall include:

1. The competencies contained in the Florida Educator Accomplished Practices at the preprofessional level as prescribed in Rule 6A-5.065, F.A.C.,

2. The Competencies and Skills for Teacher Certification as prescribed in Rule 6A-4.0021, F.A.C., and

3. Scientifically-based reading instructional methods appropriate to the candidate's subject area(s) as follows:

a. Candidates in pre-kindergarten-primary, elementary and exceptional student education shall be prepared in reading competencies one (1) through five (5) of the State Board approved reading endorsement, or

b. Candidates in middle grades, secondary, and K-12 special area certification programs shall be prepared in state-approved competencies (one) 1 and (two) 2 of the State Board approved reading endorsement;

4. Additional content and instructional practices listed in Sections 1004.04(2), (3), and (5), F.S.

(c) Initial State Program Approval. Each institution seeking initial approval of an initial teacher preparation program shall submit a request in writing from the chief executive officer to the Commissioner specifying the certification areas and levels for which approval is sought and providing evidence of all of the following:

1. The institution has adopted a program philosophy and objectives which directly respond to needs assessed and projected for educators both in the institution's local service area(s) and the state as a whole.

2. The institution has established a comprehensive program that meets the following requirements:

a. Admits only candidates who meet admission requirements described in Section 1004.04(4), F.S. Candidates in graduate level programs may demonstrate mastery of general knowledge for admission purposes by presenting a composite quantitative-verbal score of one thousand (1000) on the Graduate Record Exam (GRE);

b. Provides instruction in and assesses each candidate's performance in demonstrating the competencies of the Uniform Core Curricula described in paragraph (1)(b) of this rule, so that candidates will be prepared to teach students from diverse cultures and of varying exceptionalities and performance levels, all in a variety of settings, including high-need schools. The program description must include in which courses the Uniform Core Curricula competencies will be taught and assessed.

c. Prepares all candidates to continually assess student progress in a variety of ways and to base instructional practice on analysis of student data;

d. Provides for field experiences in K-12 classroom settings as described in Section 1004.04(6), F.S., throughout the program, including a culminating experience of no less than ten (10) weeks in duration;

e. Endorses as program completers only candidates who demonstrate the Educator Accomplished Practices at the preprofessional level through the required field experiences and earn passing scores on all portions of the Florida Teacher Certification Examination (FTCE) required in Section 1012.56, F.S.;

3. The institution has employed faculty who meet the requirements of Section 1004.04(6), F.S., and who document more than one (1) instance of onsite participation in one (1) or more K-12 school settings during the regular school year. Activities must be related to the preparation course(s) they teach.

4. The institution has a means for collecting performance data on admitted candidates and program completers as prescribed in Sections 1004.04(4) and (5), F.S.

5. The institution has developed a plan for providing additional support and/or remediation of program completers in their first two (2) years of teaching pursuant to Section 1004.04(5), F.S. Such plan must be primarily based upon the achievement data of the students that the program completer teaches. The individualized plan provided to the program completer in need of remediation must include instruction and mentoring at the school site where the completer is employed, and shall not include the same course or courses already completed by the teacher while she/he was a candidate in the program.

6. The institution publishes a document or documents that describe(s) the qualitative and quantitative requirements for initial educator preparation program completion, including the means and courses through which the Uniform Core Curricula competencies are assessed.

Based upon the recommendations of a review team, the Commissioner shall notify the institution in writing of the approval or denial of approval for each initial educator preparation program included in the request. A denial of approval shall include identification of specific areas of program weakness that must be corrected prior to reconsideration of approval. For programs receiving initial approval, the institution shall be appraised of the requirements for continued approval.

(d) Continued program approval.

1. Continued approval of each initial educator preparation program shall be based upon the Department's review of the institution's institutional program evaluation plan (IPEP), which is the institution's description of its continuous improvement of the program throughout the approval period as described in Section 1004.04(5), F.S. The IPEP shall be based upon an annual internal analysis of collected data and published annually for the general public. The IPEP shall include at a minimum data from each year of the program approval period collected by the teacher education unit for candidates in each approved program and across all programs approved at the institution. The IPEP data must include, but is not limited to:

a. Candidates' admission and FTCE pass rate data required in Section 1004.04, F.S.;

b. Candidates' demonstration of teaching competencies included in the Uniform Core Curricula described in paragraph (1)(b) of this rule and additional performance indicators specified in Section 1004.04(5), F.S.;

c. Program completers' impact on student learning and satisfaction with their preparedness for the first year of teaching in a Florida school based upon completing an approved program; and

d. The satisfaction level of employers of program completers with the level of preparedness for the first year of teaching, including the rehire rates of program completers.

2. During the final year of the program approval period, the Department shall examine the results of the institution's annual reviews for each year of the approval period and the findings of the institutional site visit team. The Department shall then recommend to the Commissioner continued approval or denial of approval for each initial educator preparation program. The institution shall be notified in writing of the continued approval decision. A denial of approval shall include identification of specific areas of program weakness.

(e) Relationship of initial educator preparation program approval and educator certification.

1. Programs may be approved only in areas and levels for which state certification coverage and endorsement are available.

2. Requirements and activities in an approved initial teacher preparation program may vary significantly from the descriptions contained in Chapter 6A-4, F.A.C.

3. A candidate who completes an approved initial teacher program shall be eligible for the appropriate educator certificate of the type and coverage for which the program has been approved, provided that the candidate meets other requirements for educator certification as specified in Section 1012.56, F.S., and Chapter 6A-4, F.A.C.

4. A candidate in a graduate level program who holds a valid Florida Educator's Professional Certificate at the time of graduation may satisfy the testing requirements for program completion by earning a passing score on only the subject area examination required in Section 1012.56, F.S. A candidate who completes an approved program only in an endorsement area must

demonstrate the competencies required for specialization in the endorsement.

(f) Reinstatement of Program Approval. The approval of a program may be reinstated by the Department at the request of the chief executive officer of the institution upon documentation of compliance with the requirements for initial approval of educator preparation programs, as provided in this rule.

(2) Professional Preparation Programs.

(a) General Criteria. Professional preparation programs are programs offered by Florida post-secondary institutions or public school districts through which candidates document mastery of professional preparation and education competence as provided for in Section 1012.56(5), F.S.

(b) School District Alternative Certification and Education Competency Programs.

1. The competency-based state model alternative certification program and approved district competency-based alternative certification programs developed pursuant to Section 1012.56(7), F.S., shall require documentation of the following for each program completer prior to exiting the program:

a. The competencies contained in the Educator Accomplished Practices at the pre-professional level described in Rule 6A-5.065, F.A.C.;

b. State-approved competency two (2) of the State Board approved reading endorsement; and

c. The additional instructional practices prescribed in Section 1012.56(7), F.S.

d. The Competencies and Skills for Teacher Certification-Professional Preparation as described in Rule 6A-4.003, F.A.C., as evidenced by a passing score on the Professional Education Test of the FTCE;

2. Verification of the candidate's successful completion of a district's approved alternative certification and education competence program shall be submitted to the Department by the district superintendent. Competencies listed in sub-subparagraphs (2)(b)1.a. through c. of this rule must be demonstrated as a K-12 classroom teacher while holding a valid temporary educator certificate.

3. Initial District-developed Program Approval. Initial program approval for a program developed and submitted for approval by a school district of their own model for alternative certification shall be conducted by the Department of Education and shall ensure that each approved program provides an assessment system and instructional support for teachers to demonstrate the competencies outlined in this section and includes all program components prescribed in Section 1012.56(7), F.S.

4. Continued Program Review. The Department shall provide periodic review of all district programs offered pursuant to this section. The review cycle shall be based at a minimum upon the following:

a. Program completer data to include pass rates on the Professional Education Test of FTCE; evidence of participants' demonstration of the Educator Accomplished Practices; participants' satisfaction with the training and support received in the program, including their preparedness to teach upon completion; and program completers' impact on K-12 student learning;

b. Employer satisfaction data on participant's ability to demonstrate the Educator Accomplished Practices and rehire rates of program participants and completers.

(c) Programs Delivered through Educator Preparation Institutes.

1. The competency-based alternative certification programs developed and delivered through an Educator Preparation Institute pursuant to Section 1004.85, F.S., shall require documentation of the following for each program completer prior to exiting the program:

a. The competencies contained in the Educator Accomplished Practices at the pre-professional level described in Rule 6A-5.065, F.A.C.;

b. State-approved competency two (2) of the State Board approved reading endorsement; and

c. The additional instructional practices prescribed in Section 1004.85(3), F.S.;

d. The Competencies and Skills for Teacher Certification-Professional Preparation as described in Rule 6A-4.003, F.A.C., as evidenced by a passing score on the Professional Education Test of the FTCE;

2. Verification of the candidate's successful completion of the program shall be submitted to the Department by the approved institution. Competencies listed in sub-subparagraphs (2)(c)1.a. through c. of this rule must be demonstrated in a K-12 classroom setting either through preservice field experiences or as a K-12 classroom teacher while holding a valid temporary educator certificate.

3. Initial Program Approval. Initial program approval shall be conducted by the Department and shall ensure that each approved program provides an assessment system and instructional support for candidates to demonstrate the competencies outlined in this

section. Institutions must meet institutional and faculty requirements listed in Section 1004.85, F.S.

4. Continued Program Approval. Continued program approval shall be determined by the Department based upon at a minimum, the following:

a. Program completer data to include pass rates on the Florida Teacher Certification Examinations; evidence of participants' demonstration of the Educator Accomplished Practices; participants' satisfaction with the training and support received in the program, including their preparedness to teach upon completion; and program completers' impact on K-12 student learning;

b. Employer satisfaction data on participants' ability to demonstrate the Educator Accomplished Practices and rehire rates of program participants and completers.

(3) Professional Training Option for Content Majors.

(a) A postsecondary institution with an approved initial teacher preparation program pursuant to subsection (1) of this rule may offer a Professional Training Option for content majors attending its institution, which will satisfy professional preparation course work pursuant to subsection 6A-4.006(2), F.A.C. The institution may choose to offer this option as a minor, based upon established institutional protocol. The institution must provide an endorsement of transcripts for each individual who completes the Professional Training Option.

(b) Upon the completion of the Professional Training Option, the candidate will:

1. Have received pre-professional level training in the Educator Accomplished Practices and competency two (2) of the reading endorsement;

2. Have completed integrated school-based observation/participation experiences associated with all competencies covered in the Professional Training Option; and

3. Satisfy professional preparation course work as described in subsection 6A-4.006(2), F.A.C.

(c) The Department shall approve the Professional Training Option. To receive approval, the requesting institution must provide evidence of a series of courses that accomplish the required training and field experiences listed in subparagraphs (3)(b)1. and 2. of this rule. Upon receiving approval, an institution will not be required to resubmit its Professional Training Option for re-approval unless the competencies in subparagraphs (4)(b)1. of this rule are changed.

*Rulemaking Authority 1004.04, 1004.85, 1012.56 FS. Law Implemented 1004.04, 1004.85, 1012.56 FS. History--New 7-2-98, Amended 8-7-00, 3-19-06.*